



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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August 25, 2020

20-NWP-139

Brian T. Vance, Manager  
Richland Operations Office  
United States Department of Energy  
PO Box 550, MSIN: H5-30  
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Request to Extend the Date for Beginning Closure for T Plant Complex Dangerous Waste Management Unit (DWMU), 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R)

References: See page 2

Dear Brian T. Vance:

Thank you for your timely submittal of letter 20-ESQ-0046. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) expresses gratitude to the United States Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office for their recent inquiry into the status of this request. As a result of Washington State's Stay Home-Stay Healthy initiative, letter 20-ESQ-0046 was overlooked.

Ecology has reviewed the request (Reference 1) for an extension in the date of expected closure for the 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R) Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs) located within the T-Plant Complex. Ecology has determined waste was last received on September 26, 2005. Additionally, on April 30, 2019 (Reference 2), Ecology approved a delay in the start of closure for the 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R) June 1, 2020.

As documented in this request, the 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R) have capacity to receive additional waste and are needed to support future Hanford Site waste management activities. The request also provided information demonstrating the facility has taken, and will continue to take, all steps to prevent threats to human health and the environment, including compliance with all applicable permit requirements.

**Retroactive to June 1, 2020, Ecology grants an extension to June 1, 2021 for beginning closure for the 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R) DWMUs.**

If you have questions, please contact Kelly Elsethagen, Waste Management Project Manager, at [kelly.elsethagen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kelly.elsethagen@ecy.wa.gov) or (509)372-7923 or Deirdra Hahn, Solid Waste Operations Complex Project Coordinator, at [deirdra.hahn@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:deirdra.hahn@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 972-0555.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Wend,  
Christopher F. (ECY)  
Date: 2020.08.25 10:00:49  
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Chris Wend, PhD, PE  
Waste Management Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

mkb/jlg

References:

1. Letter 20-ESQ-0046, dated March 24, 2020, "Closure Extension Request for T Plant Complex Dangerous Waste Management Unit, 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R)"
2. Letter 19-NWP-077, dated April 30, 2019, "Department of Ecology (Ecology) Response to Request to Extend the Date for Beginning Closure for 221-T Cells (7L, 13R, 16R, and 17R), 2404-WC Building and Central Waste Complex (CWC) Shipping and Receiving Area Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMU)"

cc electronic:

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