



Department of Energy
 Richland Operations Office
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99-EAP-509

SEP 24 1999

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
 Nuclear Waste Program
 State of Washington
 Department of Ecology
 P.O. Box 47600
 Olympia, Washington 98504



Dear Mr. Wilson:

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DISPUTE INITIATION ON PRIMARY DOCUMENT
 PROCESS FOR THE 1999 LAND DISPOSAL RESTRICTIONS (LDR) REPORT (TRI-
 PARTY AGREEMENT MILESTONE M-26-01I)**

This is in reference to the letter from Laura Ruud, State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), to George H. Sanders, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), dated September 17, 1999. In this letter, Ecology states that "Since Ecology and RL have major issues outstanding, the parties shall now enter the dispute resolution process per Tri-Party Agreement, Chapter 9." (Ecology's dispute about the content of the report is at the Project Management level.) RL agrees with Ecology that relative to the technical content of the 1999 LDR Report, the parties have entered the dispute resolution process under Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement). By this letter, RL hereby gives notice of its election to exercise its dispute resolution rights set forth in Tri-Party Agreement Article VIII regarding the technical content requirements for the LDR Report.

Previously, RL initiated the Tri-Party Agreement dispute regarding resolution of LDR deficiencies under the auspices of Tri-Party Agreement processes. That dispute is currently at the Interagency Management Integration Team (IAMIT) level pending resolution.

RL looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively and amicably with Ecology. If you have questions, please contact me on (509) 376-6888.

Sincerely,

George H. Sanders, Administrator
 Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

EAP:MFJ

cc: See page 2

SEP 24 1999

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