



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 18, 2019

19-NWP-062

Brian T Vance, Manager  
Office of River Protection  
United States Department of Energy  
PO Box 450, MSIN: H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Need for Department of Ecology's Approval of Pending Notice of Construction Application for the 241-A and 241-AX Tank Farm Exhausters

Reference: Reissued Letter 19-TF-0015, dated March 4, 2019, "Transmittal of Letter Regarding Need for State of Washington Department of Ecology's Approval of Pending Notice of Construction Application"

Dear Brian T. Vance:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is responding to your letter (reference) related to the Notice of Construction (NOC) application that United States Department of Energy (USDOE) submitted for the 241-A and 241-AX Tank Farm exhausters in February 2016.

Due to then-pending litigation related to Hanford tank farm vapors, Ecology placed a temporary hold on processing the permit application. When a settlement agreement was reached in September 2018, Ecology lifted the temporary permitting hold and initiated review of the NOC application. As requested in a letter dated January 28, 2019, (referenced in your March 4, 2019, letter), we are now taking action on your NOC application by issuing a Notice of Incompleteness.

Our organizations have collectively put considerable time and effort into working to resolve disputes outside the limitations of a Notice of Incompleteness on this application. But as we have discussed, USDOE has not demonstrated how existing site boundaries prevent public access as required in the applicable regulations. Therefore, the permit application does not adequately demonstrate that emissions are sufficiently low to protect human health and safety.

Because progress is no longer being made to provide Ecology with the information necessary to demonstrate how emissions from the 241-A and 241-AX exhausters will not pose risks to human health, we will send USDOE a Notice of Incompleteness.

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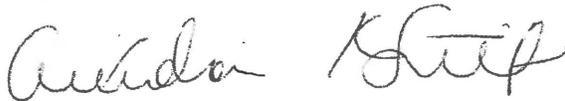
Brian T. Vance  
April 18, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

19-NWP-062

Ecology appreciates USDOE's concerns about meeting Consent Decree milestones B-2 and B-3, which require the completion of retrievals of tank wastes from two of the specified A/AX tanks by June 30, 2021, and the remaining eight A/AX tanks by September 30, 2026. To that end, Ecology has provided USDOE with a number of regulatory options that would enable us to process the NOC application within USDOE's preferred timeframe. Ecology stands ready to work with USDOE's technical and management staff on what information is acceptable for permitting the exhausters.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact me at [Alex.Smith@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Alex.Smith@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 372-7905, or, Lilyann Murphy at [Lilyann.Murphy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Lilyann.Murphy@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 372-7951.

Sincerely,



Alexandra K. Smith  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

lm:so

cc electronic:

David Einan, EPA  
Ken Niles, ODOE  
Jon Perry, MSA  
John Eschenberg, WRPS  
ERWM Staff, YN  
Theresa Howell, Ecology  
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cc: Matt Johnson, CTUIR  
Jack Bell, NPT  
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Susan Leckband, HAB  
Hanford Administrative Record  
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