

# START

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 10  
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June 25, 1992

John H. Anttonen  
Assistant Manager  
For Tank Waste Disposal  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550 A5-10  
Richland, Washington 99352



Re: Grout Issue Meeting

EPA Region 10 is unable to send a RCRA representative to the June 25, 1992, meeting on Grout Issues, due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. David Einan, of my staff, has agreed to sit in on the meeting and to brief the appropriate EPA staff and managers on topics discussed and decisions made at the meeting. The majority of the Issue Paper deals with policy and RCRA concerns that should be discussed between DOE and Ecology and, therefore, EPA will not play a major role in these discussions.

However, EPA is concerned with one element identified in the Issue Paper. This pertains to the Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) requirement that Best Demonstrated Available Technology (BDAT) be achieved before landfilling of hazardous waste subject to LDR. This RCRA requirement is part of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 and has not yet been delegated to the State of Washington. Therefore, EPA maintains authority for regulation of LDR requirements in this state. Milestone M-26-00 of the Tri-Party Agreement sets requirements and allowances for storage of hazardous waste subject to LDR at Hanford, but does not allow the disposal of such wastes until all the LDR requirements are met.

As you are aware, EPA has issued a Federal Register notice that vitrification constitutes BDAT for high-level mixed waste. To date, EPA has not made a similar declaration regarding grouting of low-level mixed waste. Therefore, it is up to DOE to demonstrate that BDAT is met prior to disposal of hazardous waste to grout vaults. This may be done for the various wastes on a tank-by-tank basis. I have raised this issue in several meetings and am glad to see it now being addressed as a general issue pertaining to the grout program. EPA fully supports the Tri-Party Agreement schedules for grouting of mixed waste and we want to ensure that all necessary technical and administrative steps are being taken to maintain those schedules. We commit to act expeditiously on the LDR-BDAT issue once we receive the information from DOE.

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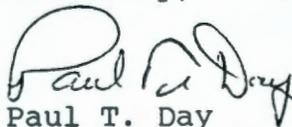


The Grout Issue Paper acknowledges the problem of analytical measurement of hazardous constituents (organics) in certain tanks and further states that grouting constitutes BDAT for heavy metals in these tank wastes. We agree that further discussion on the analytical problems is necessary. To date, we have not seen the documentation to substantiate DOE's position on BDAT for heavy metals. This does not mean that EPA disagrees with DOE's position; it simply means that we do not yet have a basis to agree or disagree with that position.

The primary people involved in the LDR-BDAT discussions for EPA are in our Seattle office. They are Ms. Carrie Sikorski, Chief, RCRA Permits Section (206-553-2851) and Ms. Betty Wiese, Chief, RCRA Compliance Section (206-553-0695). They are the appropriate managers to respond to specific issues and to make determinations related to compliance with LDR-BDAT.

If you have questions on the above, please contact me at (509) 376-6623.

Sincerely,



Paul T. Day  
Hanford Project Manager

cc: Dave Jansen, Ecology  
Dave Nylander, Ecology  
Steve Wisness, DOE  
George Sanders, DOE  
~~Tim Veneziano, WHC~~  
Carrie Sikorski/Dan Duncan, EPA  
Betty Wiese, EPA  
George Hofer, EPA  
Administrative Record - Grout Treatment Facility

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Subject: GROUT ISSUE MEETING

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