



U.S. Department of Energy

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**Office of River Protection**

P.O. Box 450  
Richland, Washington 99352

JUL 31 2002

02-EMD-124

Mr. Tom C. Fitzsimmons, Director  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Mr. L. John Iani, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 07 2002  
**EDMC**

Dear Addressees:

**EXTENSION REQUEST FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION OF M-45-00C**

Enclosed is a two week extension request for the M-45 Change Request package.

The purpose of this request is to enable the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP) to assess our ability to successfully meet the milestones as proposed in the DRAFT M-45 Change Request package dated July 31, 2002.

Over the past several months, staff from the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the ORP have worked several initiatives in parallel to successfully resolve the M-45-00C dispute. The initiatives included the M-45-00C negotiations themselves, the Cleanup Constraints and Challenges Team (C3T), and development of the "Performance Management Plan" for accelerated cleanup of the Hanford Site. Through these activities, our staff has developed proposed Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order commitments that include identification of an initial set of Single-Shell Tanks (SST), schedules for retrieval, and propose commitments for demonstration projects to accelerate closure of SSTs.

We want to evaluate the number of milestones in the draft Change Request. One of the initiatives within the C3T process is to streamline our ability to do work and accelerate cleanup progress. The current draft change request addresses numerous *interim* milestones for each SST that can reduce our operational flexibility and result in slowing of the overall process to retrieve and close the SSTs.

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Addressees  
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Please advise at your earliest convenience, if you have any questions, please contact me, or James E. Rasmussen, of my staff, (509) 376-2247.

Sincerely,

  
Roy J. Schepens  
Manager

EMD:JER

Attachment

cc: W.T. Dixon, CHG  
R.A. Dodd, CHG  
T.L. Sams, CHG  
F.R. Miera, CHG  
S.B. Fowler, CHG  
R. Gay, CTUIR  
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S. Dahl, Ecology  
M.A. Wilson, Ecology  
D.B. Bartus, EPA c/o Ecology  
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P. Sobotta, NPT  
K. Niles, Oregon Department of Energy  
K. A. Klein, RL  
E.M. Mattlin, RL  
R. Jim, YN  
TPA Administrative Record