



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 30, 2000

Mr. Clifford E. Clark, Action Program Manager
Office of Regulatory Liaison
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Clark:

Re: Hanford Federal Facility Compliance Agreement and Consent Order Milestone M-46-01G "Concurrence on Additional Tank Acquisition" Due 11/30/2000

Reference: Letter, Clifford E. Clark to Michael A. Wilson, "Transmittal of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP) Operational Waste Volume Project (OWVP) Case Study 1 to the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)," dated November 29, 2000.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the referenced letter report provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Office of River Protection (ORP). The report was prepared in response to Ecology's request for additional analysis that resulted from a review of the *Operational Waste Volume Projection Report* (OWVP) (HNF-SD-WM-ER-029 Rev. 26). ORP transmitted the OWVP to satisfy *Hanford Federal Facility Compliance Agreement and Consent Order* (Tri-Party Agreement [TPA]) Milestone M-46-00G on September 28, 2000. The referenced report addressed a special case for retrieval of three high-risk single shell tanks (SSTs) that Ecology requested on October 6, 2000, (Letter, Melinda J. Brown to Clifford E. Clark). That special case required ORP to evaluate the need to construct new tanks based upon the retrieval of three high-risk SSTs (241-S-102, 241-S-112, and 241-C-104) between 2000 and 2006, and then the retrieval per the existing M-45 schedule from 2007 through 2018. In the report, ORP identified the need for four new double shell tanks (DSTs) by early fiscal year (FY) 2007, and a total of 76 new DSTs by 2017.

In the Introduction of the report, ORP stated that it could not meet TPA Milestone M-45-05-T05 through T15 target milestones. Specifically, ORP stated that target milestones to initiate SST retrieval and complete retrieval by September 30, 2018, could not be supported by the current treatment schedule and capacity and current DST capacity. Several potential actions were listed as required to meet 2018, including an increase in tank waste treatment plant capacity and construction of new DSTs. ORP asserted that construction of new DSTs would divert resources from treatment of tank wastes and increase the number of SSTs requiring closure. They also

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asserted that sufficient treatment and immobilization capacity to handle the mass of retrieved SST waste by 2018 was not technically or financially feasible.

Ecology is deeply concerned about the results of special case 1 provided to us. If SST retrieval is conducted according to the M-45 milestones, no tank space will be available in FY 2007. Construction of even four new tanks by 2007 cannot be accomplished, given a seven-year schedule required to acquire funds, design, and construct them. Ecology is not satisfied that sufficient analyses have been completed to support a final determination on the need for new tanks; therefore, we shall await receipt of two other case studies due to Ecology by March 16, 2001, before taking any action.

The report indicated that ORP will consider several space-saving options, including concentration of retrieved liquids, consolidation of insoluble solids and placement in fewer tanks, evaluation of segregation rules, and concentration of retrieved solids. Ecology encourages ORP to explore those options and request that we be informed as the options are developed.

Knowing that ORP is obliged to comply with the amendment to Consent Decree No. CT-99-5076-EFS to award a contract to a tank waste treatment contractor by January 15, 2001, Ecology will not require that actions be taken to procure funding for new DSTs during this fiscal year. This position is contingent upon meeting the following criteria:

- Continued interim stabilization of the SSTs listed in Consent Decree No. CT-99-5076-EFS, per the schedule shown therein.
- Award of a Waste Treatment Contract by January 15, 2001.
- Continued efforts to identify new DST space and implementation of space optimization measures.
- Continued support for SST retrieval per the schedule in the proposed revision of TPA Milestone M-45 and the existing milestone.
- Fulfillment of Administrative Order No. 00NWPKW-1250 and -1251 provisions that require DST tank integrity assessments.

Ecology also urges ORP to accelerate the completion of TPA Milestone M-45-12-T01 that addresses DST space options; without that evaluation, we cannot support delay in new DST construction.

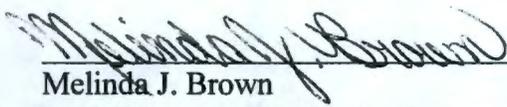
In addition, Ecology requests that ORP establish workshops after March 31, 2001, in which Ecology, ORP, and its operations contractor will address the assumptions to be used to generate future OWVP reports. Our reviews of the SST retrieval sequence report, the pumpable liquid volume report, and the OWVP revealed differing assumptions that affect all estimates of available DST space. Ecology is not convinced that tank volume estimates used for DST options are fully integrated; therefore, we are not able to use sound technical judgment to evaluate options. These discrepancies have further eroded Ecology's confidence in the data presented.

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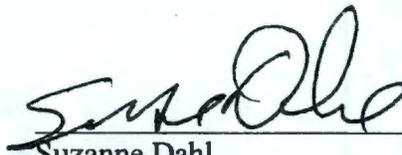
Ecology requests separate meetings to discuss the discrepancies in reference documents with cognizant ORP and contractor staff.

If you have questions concerning our determinations, please feel free to contact either of us as follows: Melinda J. Brown at (509) 736-3027 or Suzanne Dahl at (509) 736-5705.

Sincerely,



Melinda J. Brown
Tank Waste Storage Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program



Suzanne Dahl
Tank Waste Disposal Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

MJB:SD:sb

cc: Harry Boston, ORP
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