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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

05-AMCP-0143

JAN 28 2005

Mr. John B. Price, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED
FEB 07 2005

EDMC

Dear Mr. Price:

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS) WORK PLAN SUBMITTED TO COMPLY WITH HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ORDER (HFFACO) MAJOR MILESTONE M-13-000

In response to your letter dated January 13, 2005, the DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) and Fluor Hanford, Inc. have evaluated the State of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) comments on the RI/FS work plan. RL maintains that the work plan complies with the substantive requirements for a CERCLA action for an operable unit at this point in the remedial process. However, RL concurs with Ecology that there are substantial differences between Ecology and RL as to the required scope of a RI/FS work plan.

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RL is willing to participate in the collaborative workshops suggested by Ecology as follows:

1. RL agrees on the selection of the facilitator.
2. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is invited to participate in the process and participation is limited to DOE, Fluor Hanford, Inc, Ecology and EPA.
3. The timeline specified in Section 9.2 of the Tri-Party Agreement and illustrated in Figure 9-1 be suspended for this document pending completion of this process.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Klein
Manager

AMCP:SLB

cc: See Page 2

Mr. John B. Price
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cc: D. B. Bartus, EPA
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