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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7601 W. Clearwater, Suite 102 • Kennewick, Washington 99336 • (509) 546-2990

January 11, 1994

Mr. Randall Krekel
U.S. Department Of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Mr. Krekel:

Re: Simulated High-Liquid Level Slurry Closure

This letter is to provide the chronology of activity relating to the Simulated High Level Waste Slurry Treatment and Storage closure (SHLWS) and the appearance of work being halted on this project. I ask that we as a unit actively resume work pertaining to this closure.

On September 29, 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (USDOE) and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL) submitted its first closure plan for the SHLWS Unit (1234 Yard) in the 3000 Area of the Hanford Site. The purpose of the plan was to provide information regarding the schedule for the pending treatment and disposal of this material and cleanup of the work site.

Mike Gordon, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), was assigned as Unit Manager for this project when the closure plan was received by Ecology. All Notice of Deficiency (NOD) comments issued during this time were handled by Mike Gordon. Ecology received revision 4 of this closure plan/sampling and analyses plan (SAP) in September 1989. Mike Gordon ceased working on the 1234 yard closure in 1990. Due to limited staff, this project was not worked on and remained unassigned until when I was assigned the task of completing this project.

On May 14, 1993, new Unit Managers met for the first time since Mike Gordon's departure. On June 11, 1993, USDOE sent acknowledgement of my assignment as Unit Manager for this closure. During this meeting, I was given a current copy of the SHLWS closure and a copy of the Lokken document for review. I also committed to presenting an informal list of concerns with the current revision of the closure plan at the next scheduled meeting.

On June 29, 1993, our second Unit Managers meeting was held. As agreed, I presented the list of informal concerns. The 1234 yard Unit Managers group decided on an informal list of comments because of the time lapse (two years) between the actions performed by Mike Gordon and myself. This decision is documented in the Unit Managers meeting minutes along with a copy of the unofficial list of concerns.

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On August 10, 1993, the Unit Managers met for the third time. During this meeting, the group went over each concern listed on the unofficial list. USDOE and PNL addressed how they planned to adequately complete and fulfill each concern. On August 12, 1993, I met with Wayne Slater, PNL, and reviewed the log book of work activity performed on the SHLWS site.

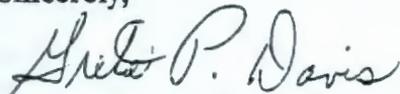
Our fourth meeting was scheduled for September 7, 1993. On September 1, 1993, Brian Day, PNL, telephoned me and cancelled the Unit Managers meeting pending their in-house draft and peer review. I agreed to contact him on September 22, 1993, and set up a new date and time for the next Unit Managers meeting. Due to a PNL office move, I was unable to contact him. On October 6, 1993, Brian Day contacted me. He wanted the Ecology fax number so that he could send a copy of the meeting minutes from our last Unit Managers meeting. He told me that no new Unit Managers meeting would be scheduled until November, as they were still reviewing their revision of the revision 4 SAP portion of the closure, and no progress could be made until this process was completed.

On October 14, 1993, you informed me that there had been a problem during the review process at USDOE that would cause a delay in issuance of the SAP re-write. On November 11, 1993, I contacted you and left a message asking about the progress on the review of the 1234 Yard's SAP re-write. You returned my call on November 22, 1993. You informed me that the status was wrapped up and being sent to PNL for finalization. You estimated that future issuance would be in mid December.

Since that time, I have not been in contact with you or anyone else in the Unit Managers group. It is now January 11, 1994, and I have yet to hear from you. We are fast approaching four months since our last group contact. I am inquiring as to the status of the document in review, and ask that you provide me with a date that it will be issued. I would also like to set up the next Unit Managers meeting for the week of January 24, 1994.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (509) 736-3025.

Sincerely,



Greta P. Davis
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program

GD:sr

cc: Wayne Slater, PNL
Brian Day, PNL
Daniel Duncan, EPA