



Department of Energy

Richland Field Office

P.O. Box 550

Richland, Washington 99352

DEC 03 1992

93-RPB-043

Mr. Ken Mosbaugh
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
4660 151st St. S.E.
Bellevue, Washington 98006

Dear Mr. Mosbaugh:

U.S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION - 300 AREA 315/384 FILTER BACKWASH/ASH SLUICE COMBINED DISCHARGE, NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

In the teleconference of October 9, 1992, you asked that further information be provided with regard to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit application for the 300 Area 315/384 Filter Backwash/Ash Sluice combined discharge. Responses are provided for each of your questions as reiterated in the following:

1. Is BOILER FIRESIDE CLEANING (de-scaling of the fire side of boiler tubes, perhaps with high-pressure water) used and, if so, how is the wastewater disposed of?

RESPONSE: Cleaning the fire side of the boilers has not been necessary to date, and it is not certain that it will ever be necessary. Should it be necessary to clean the fire side of the boilers with water in the future, the water would be routed to the process sewer and treated in the 300 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility (TEDF) for discharge to the Columbia River. If a de-scaling agent were to be used, it would probably be one of the Dearborn commercial products such as "Ferrosol".

2. How is BOILER BLOWDOWN accomplished and what, if any, cleaning agents are used? Also, provide a statement of how the wastewater is disposed of.

RESPONSE: Boiler blowdown is done once per shift when the boilers are in operation, and the water is routed to the process sewer. The process sewer currently discharges to the 300 Area Process Trench but will be rerouted to the 300 Area TEDF for treatment and discharge to the Columbia River. The following chemicals are used to control boiler chemistry: Dearborn POLLYQUEST 683 for pH control and Dearborn D-66 Sodium Sulphite for oxygen control.



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3. Is AIR PREHEATER CLEANING (perhaps with high-pressure water) done? Also, provide a statement of how the wastewater, if any, is disposed of.

RESPONSE: High-pressure water-wheel cleaning is being done in only one of the oil-fired boilers. The resulting wastewater is routed to the process sewer as explained in Item 2, above. The other boilers have Economizers in which soot and scale is removed by blowing it up the stack with steam injected through a lance.

4. Is FEEDWATER HEATER CLEANING done, and, if water is used, how is it disposed of?

RESPONSE: Boiler feedwater is heated in a low-pressure de-aerator, which does not require cleaning.

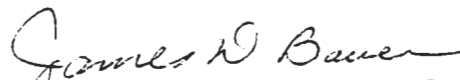
5. What is the function of the HYDROVACTOR in the boiler ash handling system (is this the ash de-watering process)?

RESPONSE: The HYDROVACTOR is an inductor that creates a vacuum for removing coal dust on or around boiler components. This is done to reduce the potential for coal dust explosion.

In summary, the ash sluice water is the only 384 Powerhouse wastewater stream that will be discharged to the 300 Area treatment ponds.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. S. D. Stites of my staff on (509) 376-8566.

Sincerely,



James D. Bauer, Acting Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy

EAP:SDS

cc: T. N. Draper, WHC
G. W. Jackson, WHC
D. B. Jansen, Ecology
R. W. Oldham, WHC

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Author	Addressee	Correspondence No.
J. D. Bauer, RL (J. E. Turnbaugh, WHC)	Ken Mosbaugh, EPA	Incoming:9207223 XRef:9257920D
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