

START



0035669

Incoming 9402909

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

April 7, 1994

Mr. Steve Wisness, Acting Program Manager  
Office of Environmental Assurance,  
Permits and Policy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Wisness:

Re: 242-A Evaporator Restart

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is increasingly concerned about the inability of the 242-A Evaporator to begin operation. At the last Unit Manager's meeting for the 242-A Evaporator, a restart date of March 23, 1994, was provided as the latest in a long list of expected startup dates. Since that time, conversations between the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) representatives have indicated that the March 23 date was not realized, and a new date of April 15, 1994, was offered. Ecology finds the continued delay of the 242-A Evaporator restart to be both unwarranted and inappropriate.

The Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-17-29A states that restart of the 242-A Evaporator was to occur "in Fiscal Year 1992." The necessity of providing adequate tank space required startup of the evaporator at this early date, and was used as justification for the construction and use of the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF). In addition, TPA Milestones M-26-03 and M-26-04, which address the termination of use and cleanout of LERF, are nearing their completion dates (December 1994 and June 1995, respectively). It will be impossible to justify any change in these dates if the LERF basins have not been utilized as originally intended.

The failure of the 242-A Evaporator to restart is also having a profound effect upon activities being planned for other treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities throughout the Hanford reservation. The necessity of both obtaining additional space within the current storage tank capacity, and decreasing dependence upon single-shelled tanks requires immediate and continued use of the 242-A Evaporator.

943207-0014



START

Mr. Steve Wisness  
April 7, 1994  
Page 2

Therefore, Ecology requires that USDOE provide a detailed explanation for the current schedule delay. In addition, a formal record needs to be provided for all the scheduled startup dates which have been planned over the last two years, and the reasons why these dates could not be met. Ecology will review this information and determine if sound reasons exist for the continue delay, or if management of the facility has been lacking.

Ecology realizes that many of the delays which have occurred may have been the result of deadlines which have been missed or allowed to slip by USDOE (Headquarters). The 242-A Evaporator, however, plays an integral part in most of the remediation projects planned throughout the Hanford site, and continued delay presents a major hurdle to the efficient and cost effective cleanup of the Hanford site.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (509) 736-3018.

Sincerely,



Alex Stone, 242-A Evaporator Unit Manager  
Nuclear & Mixed Waste Management Program

AS:sr

- cc: Paul Carter, USDOE
- Becky Austin, WHC
- Joe Coenberg, WHC
- Sue Price, WHC
- Dan Duncan, EPA
- Doug Sherwood, EPA
- Administrative Record

9413207.0015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION COVERSHEET

Author: A. Stone, Ecology      Addressee: S. Wisness, RL      Correspondence No.: Incoming 9402909

Subject: 242-A EVAPORATOR RESTART

## INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

Approval	Date	Name	Location	w/att
		Correspondence Control	A3-01	
		President's Office	B3-01	
		W. T. Alumkal, Level 1	R2-52	
		L. D. Arnold	B2-35	
		B. A. Austin	B2-35	
		M. W. Bowman	R2-86	
		R. C. Bowman	H6-24	
		G. D. Carpenter	H6-30	
		D. J. Carrell	H6-22	
		M. W. Cline	H6-24	
		J. G. Coenenberg	H6-24	
		A. J. Diliberto	R3-45	
		W. T. Dixon	H6-21	
		D. L. Flyckt	R3-45	
		L. A. Garner	R2-86	
		J. E. Geary	S5-14	
		C. J. Geier	R2-54	
		S. D. Godfrey	B2-35	
		R. D. Gustavson	R1-51	
		J. L. Lee, Assignee	R2-35	
		P. J. Mackey	B3-06	
		H. E. McGuire	B3-63	
		R. J. Nicklas	R1-43	
		S. M. Price	H6-23	
		W. E. Ross	S5-07	
		F. A. Ruck, III	H6-23	
		M. W. Stevenson	B2-35	
		T. B. Veneziano	H6-32	
		B. H. Von Bargaen	R1-43	
		J. D. Williams	H6-28	
		EPIC	H6-08	
		RCRA File/CHL	H6-23	

9403207.0016