

1246657
(006794SH)

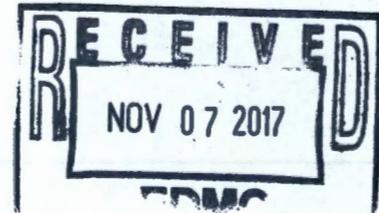
Carter, Duane B

From: Carter, Duane B
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:19 AM
To: 'Smith, Alex (ECY)'
Cc: Schleif, Stephanie (ECY); Farabee, Oliver A (AI); Franco, Joe R; Shoop, Doug S; Skinnarland, E R (Ron); Weese, Brigitte (ECY)
Subject: RE: Extension Request for 17-NWP-126

Ms. Smith,

Thank you for the requested extension. Current status on the expert panel is that they have completed a draft report for PUREX Storage Tunnel 2 and are finalizing the document. This report has not been released to Department of Energy – Richland Operations staff at this time. Mr. Jim Owendoff, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management, has scheduled a briefing with Ms. Miah Bellon, Director of Ecology for November 9, 2017 to discuss the recommendations in the draft report. Following that meeting, Department of Energy staff will brief the Nuclear Waste Program staff on the proposed path forward.

Duane Carter
(509) 376-8086



From: Smith, Alex (ECY) [mailto:ales461@ECY.WA.GOV]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 4:44 PM
To: Carter, Duane B <Duane.Carter@rl.doe.gov>
Cc: Schleif, Stephanie (ECY) <ssch461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Farabee, Oliver A (AI) <oliver.farabee@rl.doe.gov>; Franco, Joe R <Joe.Franco@rl.doe.gov>; Shoop, Doug S <doug.shoop@rl.doe.gov>; Skinnarland, E R (Ron) <rski461@ecy.wa.gov>; Weese, Brigitte (ECY) <bwee461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: FW: Extension Request for 17-NWP-126
Importance: High

Hi Duane:

Stephanie Schleif forwarded your message below, in which DOE-RL requests an extension until October 31, 2017 to provide Ecology with a schedule for the work of the expert panel DOE convened to identify corrective actions to stabilize PUREX Tunnel 2 and to ensure the safe storage of waste in it.

As you know, the State initially imposed a deadline of August 1, 2017 for DOE-RL to submit to Ecology its plans for how to stabilize Tunnel 2. Rather than provide that on August 1st, DOE-RL requested that the State wait to receive those plans until the expert panel concluded its work. While we appreciate the value the expert panel provides to these efforts, we are discouraged that we do not even have a rough schedule for the panel's work so we can be confident the panel will complete its work on a time frame that allows DOE-RL to meet the December 8, 2017 deadline to submit a draft permit modification that includes details on the corrective measures for Tunnel 2.

That said, as of today we understand the expert panel has finished meeting and is in the process of completing a written report. Once the report is finalized, DOE will be briefed on its contents. I have spoken with Doug Shoop, who has committed to briefing Ecology on the panel's report once DOE has been briefed.

We look forward to that briefing, and hope it will occur well in advance of the December 8, 2017 deadline. We also look forward to receiving a copy of the expert panel's report. If we have not been briefed on the expert panel's report by

October 31, 2017, we ask that you provide us with the schedule we requested in our September 14, 2017 letter (17-NWP-126) on or before October 31st.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Alex Smith

Nuclear Waste Program Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Road
Richland, WA 99352
e-mail: Alex.Smith@ecy.wa.gov
Desk: (509) 372-7905
Cell: (509) 521-0309

From: Carter, Duane B [<mailto:Duane.Carter@rl.doe.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:25 AM

To: Schleif, Stephanie (ECY) <ssch461@ECY.WA.GOV>

Cc: Skinnarland, Ron (ECY) <RSKI461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Farabee, Oliver A (AI) <oliver.farabee@rl.doe.gov>; Franco, Joe R <Joe.Franco@rl.doe.gov>

Subject: Extension Request for 17-NWP-126

Ms. Schleif,

DOE-RL is requesting an extension to the required information from letter 17-NWP-126, dated September 14, 2017, "Corrective Actions to Ensure Safe Storage of Waste in the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant (PUREX) Storage Tunnels 1 and 2." In this letter, Ecology requested the schedule of the panel of experts for the following be submitted by September 29, 2017:

1. Completing the initial analysis of options and identification of data needs.
2. Completing the detailed alternative analysis for Tunnel 2 and selecting an option to stabilize Tunnel 2 to make continued storage of waste in the tunnels safe.

These are dependent on the panel's efforts and progress which are being coordinated at DOE Headquarters. DOE-RL would like to extend the requested due date to October 31, 2017. Thank you.

Duane Carter
(509) 376-8086