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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 12, 1997

Richard A. Holten  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Holten:

This is in reponse to your letter dated October 7, 1996 regarding the *Hanford Site Background: Part 2, Soil Background for Radionuclides, (DOE/RL-96-12) Rev. 0*. The Washington State Department of Ecology has previously provided comments on an earlier draft of this document. These comments were discussed with your staff at a meeting on August 14, 1996 and the major comments were resolved. Although we believe that the discussion of risk does not necessarily belong in this particular document, it is the U.S. Department of Energy's prerogative to include that section.

This document adequately describes the concentration of radionuclides in the soil on and adjacent to the Hanford Site. This document can be used to define and describe Hanford radionuclide background concentrations as needed for remediation and screening purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (509) 736-3091.

Sincerely,

E.R. Skinnarland, 200 Area Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

RS:JY:rb

cc: Debra McBaugh, DOH  
Richard Jaquish, DOH  
Randy F. Brich, USDOE  
Scott Petersen, CH<sub>2</sub>M-Hill

**RECEIVED**

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Dr R  
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