



June 15, 2005

Mr. Keith A. Klein, Manager  
Richland Operations Office  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A7-50  
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Roy J. Schepens, Manager  
Office of River Protection  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED  
JUL 1 1 2005  
EDMC

Dear Mr. Klein and Mr. Schepens:

Re: Well Decommissioning at the Hanford Site

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) request that the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) develop a well decommissioning plan with yearly targets and the associated implementation schedules. The plan should catalog all wells to be decommissioned on the Hanford Site, rank them by risk, and set priorities for decommissioning wells, beginning with the wells that present the highest risk. We request that you submit the draft plan by August 1, 2005.

Although some progress has been made on decommissioning wells, EPA and Ecology believe having a decommissioning plan in place will help ensure this critical work is accomplished. The need for well decommissioning is shared by the public, tribal nations, and the USDOE Office of the Inspector General. The importance of well decommissioning was agreed to by the Tri-Parties and identified in the Hanford Site Groundwater Strategy of 2004 (DOE/RL-2002-59). The proper decommissioning of unused, abandoned, or high-risk wells is also a requirement under the Hanford Site Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit (Condition (II.F.2 and Appendix 6), which specifies that those wells be decommissioned by 2012.

Mr. Klein and Mr. Schepens  
June 15, 2005  
Page 2

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Dib Goswami, with Ecology, at (509) 372-7902 or Dennis Faulk, with EPA, at (509) 376-8631.

Sincerely,



Jane Hedges  
Cleanup Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology



Nicholas Ceto, Program Manager  
Hanford Project Office  
Region 10  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

DG:DF:lkd

cc: Briant Charboneau, USDOE  
Bob Lober, USDOE  
John Morse, USDOE  
Mike Thomspson, USDOE  
Ro Vinson, PAC  
Stuart Harris, CTUIR  
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT  
Russell Jim, YN  
Todd Martin, HAB  
Ken Niles, ODOE  
Mike Wilson, Ecology  
Administrative Record: Well Decommissioning  
Environmental Portal