



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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92-RPA-124

Mr. David B. Jansen, P.E.
Hanford Project Manager
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



Dear Mr. Jansen:

RAILROAD TANK CAR "81" MOVEMENT BACK TO T PLANT

This letter is to inform you that a mixed waste transfer at the 204-AR Waste Unloading Facility has been stopped due to an equipment malfunction. The railroad tank car carrying the waste is being returned to its point of origin, T Plant, for repair. The equipment malfunction resulted in this batch of mixed waste exceeding its 90-day clock.

Modifications were made to the "dropleg" inside the railroad tank car to help prevent vortex problems experienced during unloading. Unfortunately, these modifications have exacerbated solids blockage problems with the "dropleg," and we have been unable to unload the tank car. Some waste has been removed, but significant volumes of flush water have been generated by backflushing the "dropleg." Double-Shell Tank Farm (DST) space limitations and waste minimization concerns have resulted in a decision to cease attempts to empty the tank car in its present configuration. Removing the tank car out of the 204-AR Waste Unloading Facility will also allow waste transfers to be made from other locations onsite.

Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) will return the tank car to T Plant so the "dropleg" modifications can be reversed. We believe this will return the railroad tank car to a pumpable configuration. Following modification of the "dropleg," the railroad tank car will be hydrotested. The tank car will then be returned to the 204-AR Waste Unloading Facility to complete the waste transfer. Transfer to DSTs is expected to occur no later than April 30, 1992.

Questions or comments can be directed to me or Mr. A. E. Teimouri of my staff on (509) 376-6222.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Hoet
R. D. Izatt, Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy

EAP:AET

cc: R. E. Lerch, WHC

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Subject: RAILROAD TANK CAR "81" MOVEMENT BACK TO T PLANT

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