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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 4, 1995

Mr. Ron D. Izatt
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Ron
Dear Mr. Izatt:

Staff from Ecology and EPA have brought to our attention a serious concern that is stopping progress in technology development at the Hanford site. It is our understanding that the funding for the testing and monitoring of the Hanford Prototype Barrier at the 200-BP-1 is in jeopardy.

As you are aware, construction of this state-of-the-art barrier is complete, at a cost of \$3.5 million. This barrier is designed and includes extensive testing and monitoring equipment, strategically placed within the barrier during construction, so the barrier performance could be evaluated over the three year test period. We have been told that the testing and monitoring funding for this barrier is cut so significantly that the performance of this barrier may not be evaluated. The programmatic end users of this type of barrier, including Environmental Restoration, Solid Waste, Tank Farms, and landfill development, will not be receiving the necessary data for site closure if barrier performance is not evaluated.

We do not agree with the decision to terminate funding for the full evaluation of the barrier. The funding for this project must be directed to start and complete the necessary testing and monitoring. In addition, the Yakama Indian Nation, as well as the public and interest groups, have made the stipulation that no barriers will be allowed on the Hanford site if testing, monitoring, and their evaluation is not satisfactory. The Yakama Indian Nation and the public have repeatedly stated the need for additional information and testing if the barrier program is to proceed at Hanford.

We would appreciate communication with you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Dru Butler

Dru Butler, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

Doug Sherwood

Doug Sherwood, Project Manager
Environmental Protection Agency

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DB:NU

- cc: William Schutte, USDOE
- Deborah E. Trader, USDOE
- Mary E. Peterson, PNL
- Glendon W. Gee, PNL
- N. Richard Wing, IT
- Paul Beaver, EPA
- Jack Donnelly
- Fenggang Ma
- Nancy Uziemblo



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Richland Operations Office

