



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
 Richland, Washington 99352

MAR 16 2009

09-TPD-015

Ms. Patrice M. Bubar, Deputy Director
 Environmental Protection
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 Division of Waste Management
 and Environmental Protection
 Office of Federal and State Materials
 and Environmental Management Programs
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 11555 Rockville, Pike
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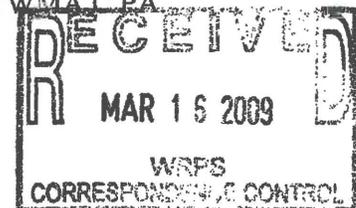
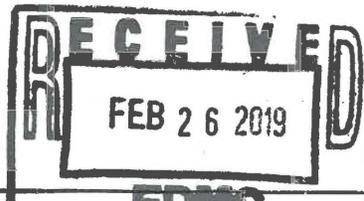
Dear Ms. Bubar:

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UPDATE TO THE BASIS FOR
 EXCEPTION TO THE HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT
 ORDER (HFFACO) RETRIEVAL CRITERIA FOR SINGLE-SHELL TANK (SST) 241-C-106

Reference: NRC letter from P. M. Bubar to S. J. Olinger, ORP, "Request for Additional
 Information on Update to the Basis for Exception to the Hanford Federal Facility
 Agreement and Consent Order Retrieval Criteria for Single-Shell Tank 241-C-
 106, Request for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Review," dated
 January 30, 2009.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) received and reviewed the Referenced letter related to the SST 241-C-106 Appendix H, retrieval exemption request. ORP appreciates the significant effort that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff put into its review as is evident from the Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) submitted with the letter. While ORP understands the nature of the information that the NRC is seeking through those RAIs, we are unfortunately unable to adequately respond using currently available information associated with the SST Performance Assessment (PA). ORP believes that the new PA that will be developed for Waste Management Area (WMA) C will provide a suitable basis for addressing the RAIs.

It is our intent to conduct a series of workshops to help us prepare to develop that PA. In those workshops, we plan to draw upon insights from subject matter experts from the NRC, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and DOE to help ensure that the WMA C PA's scope, data, scenarios, and analytical approaches will be appropriate for informing future DOE decisions related to residual waste determinations and component closure actions. It is our intent that the questions and issues raised in the NRC RAIs will be addressed in those workshops and during the development of the WMA C PA.



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Therefore, DOE proposes that we not provide technical responses to the Referenced letter and RAIs at this time, and that your staff defer further related action on the Tank 241-C-106 Appendix H consultation until the WMA C PA is available for staff review.

The first of the PA workshops were held on February 24-25, 2009, in Richland, Washington, with the NRC participating. We estimate that the actual WMA C PA will be developed over the next two years at which time it will be made available for review.

Mr. Chris Kemp, of my staff, has reviewed our proposed approach within this letter with Mr. Mike Fuller of your staff. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Mr. Kemp, (509) 373-0649.

Sincerely,



Stacy Charboneau, Assistant Manager
for Tank Farms Project

TPD:CJK

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