



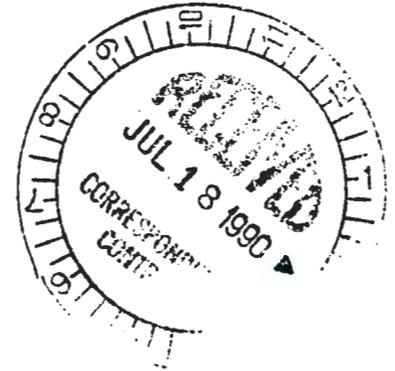
Department of Energy

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

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9003112

JUL 05 1990



Mr. Jamie Sikorski
Water Compliance Section, WD-135
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Sikorski:

HANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT (NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NPDES PERMIT LIMIT)

This letter and attachment provide written documentation of an exceedance of a NPDES permit at the 183-N water filtration plant. Verbal notification was provided to your office on June 22, 1990.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. R. D. Hildebrand of my staff at (509) 376-7287.

Sincerely,

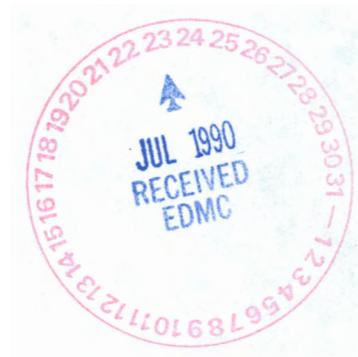
M. W. Tiernan

M. W. Tiernan, Acting Director
Safety and Environment Division

SED:RDH

Attachment

cc w/att: Paul Day, EPA
John Sainsbury, EPA
~~George Carpenter, WHC~~
Timothy Nord, WDOE



ATTACHMENT

The Hanford NPDES permit specifies a pH limit of no less than 6.0 for discharge 009. On June 20, 1990, an aluminum sulfate (alum) spill in the 183-N water filtration plant resulted in an exceedance of the pH limit with sample values from the outfall structure of 2.5 and 3.9. The following is a description of the events resulting in this exceedance.

During the afternoon of June 20, 1990, day shift plant personnel were transferring alum from the main tank to the day tank. At the completion of the operation the operator failed to close all the isolation valves. This allowed the day tank to continue to be gravity fed from the main tank causing it to overflow. About 200 gallons of alum was released.

Swing shift personnel discovered the day tank overflowing to a floor drain shortly after 5:00 p.m. The leak was immediately isolated. The floor drain had previously been temporarily plugged but the plug was not sized correctly for the drain, resulting in the release of the alum to discharge 009. Grab samples were obtained from the 009 outfall structure on June 20 after discovery of the release and showed pH values of 2.5 and 3.9. Subsequent sampling on June 21, 1990, revealed the pH of the discharge was 7.7, which is within permit limits.

The alum transfer was completed near the end of day shift at about 3:00 pm. The overflowing day tank was discovered during a routine facility inspection by swing shift personnel about 5:00 pm. Duration of the spill is estimated to be approximately 2 hours.

The NPDES permit conditions and requirements will be reviewed with operating personnel to avoid recurrence. The temporary plug in 183-N water filtration plant will be replaced with a permanent, correctly sized plug as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION COVERSHEET

Author	Addressee	Correspondence No.
M. W. Tiernan DOE-RL	Jamie Sikorski EPA	Incoming: 9003112
Subject: HANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT (NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NPDES PERMIT LIMIT)		

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