



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

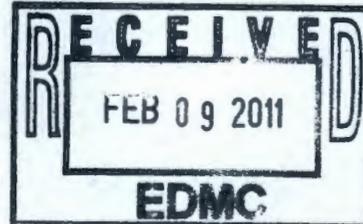
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P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

11-ESQ-024

FEB 03 2011

Ms. Jane A. Hedges, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
Washington State
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, Washington 99354



Dear Ms. Hedges:

RESPONSE TO HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (HFFACO) MILESTONE M-62-30, NOTIFICATION OF WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY (ECOLOGY) OPINION THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) ACTIONS JEOPARDIZE MILESTONE COMPLETION

Reference: Ecology letter from D. McDonald to S. L. Charboneau, ORP, and D. L. Noyes, ORP, "Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (HFFACO) Milestone M-62-30, Notification of Department of Ecology (Ecology) Opinion that the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) Actions Jeopardize Milestone Completion," dated January 13, 2011.

This letter responds to your agency's January 13, 2011, letter (Reference received January 14, 2011) stating that in Ecology's opinion "USDOE Actions Jeopardize Completion of HFFACO Milestone M-62-30." DOE Office of River Protection is submitting this response to fulfill DOE's obligation to respond in writing within 15 days upon receipt as described in Section 4.1 of the HFFACO Action Plan.

DOE is in full agreement with Ecology's desire to start Milestone M-62-30 negotiations as soon as possible and to complete them in a timely manner. DOE appreciates Ecology's support in our efforts to quickly and efficiently resolve issues related to Supplemental Treatment (preparation of Low-Activity Waste [LAW] feed), and Supplemental Immobilization.

DOE does not believe that completion of Milestone M-62-30 is in jeopardy. Informal discussions began in December 2010 to lay the groundwork for the imminent negotiations. DOE has no intent to unilaterally select approaches and technologies for the immobilization of Hanford LAW. DOE looks forward to Ecology's full participation in these efforts. In order to focus the M-62-30 negotiations, and as was discussed in the January 19, 2011, bi-weekly meeting between our staffs, DOE will provide Ecology a draft Agreement In Principle by March 31, 2011. In this interim period until new milestones are developed, DOE is pushing forward with the necessary technology development and project management to enhance the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant tank waste treatment and advance the evaluation of treatment and immobilization options.

S.2.4
M-062-30

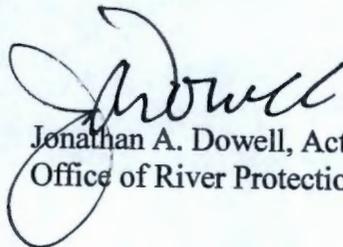
Ms. Jane A. Hedges
11-ESQ-024

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If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Woody Russell,
(509) 373-5227.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Dowell, Acting Manager
Office of River Protection

ESQ:RWR

cc: S. Harris, CTUIR
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Administrative Record
Environmental Portal, LMSI
TPA Administrative Record (S-2-4)
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