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Tri-Party Agreement

Mr. Gabriel Bohnee, Interim Director  
Environmental Restoration &  
Waste Management  
Nez Perce Indian Reservation  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, Idaho 83540-0365

RECEIVED  
MAR 24 2005

MAR 10 2005

EDMC

Dear Mr. Bohnee:

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGES TO TANK WASTE  
RETRIEVAL NEGOTIATIONS

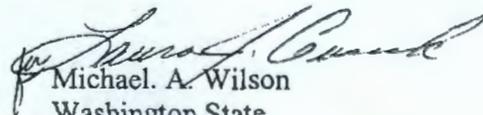
Reference: Nez Perce letter from G. Gohnee to L. Cusack, Ecology, "Schedule Changes to Tank  
Waste Retrieval Negotiations [M-45-00C, M-62-08, M-62-11]," dated January 12, 2005.

The U.S. Department of Energy, State of Washington Department of Ecology, and the U.S.  
Environmental Protection Agency (Tri Party Agencies) would like to thank you and your staff for  
taking the time and effort to provide input on the proposed schedule changes to Tank Waste  
Retrieval Negotiations (M-45-00C).

We agree that treatment and disposal issues are exceedingly complex and that schedules can be  
difficult to predict, thus the need to extend the milestone date. Other commenters expressed concern  
that retrieval or sequencing information will not be available to support M-45-00C negotiations prior  
to 2006. Based on that premise, the Tri Party Agencies will revise the milestone language. M-45-  
00C negotiations will still start on September 30, 2006, and conclude within four months to support  
newly negotiated Single Shell Tank Waste Retrieval and Closure Activities for the period February  
2007 through August 2008.

The Tri Party Agencies would be happy to meet with you to discuss our response to your comments  
further. If you have any questions please contact Laura Cusack, Ecology, (509) 372-789.

  
Roy J. Schepens  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of River Protection

  
Michael A. Wilson  
Washington State  
Department of Ecology

  
Nicholas Ceto  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

ORP:TEO