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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

99-SFD-143

JUL 6 1999

Mr. R. D. Hanson, President
Fluor Daniel Hanford, Inc.
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Mr. Hanson:

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC06-96RL13200 – SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL (SNF)
SLUDGE TREATMENT PATH FORWARD RECOMMENDATION

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), is in receipt of the Fluor Daniel Hanford, Inc. (FDH) letter to J. M. Augustenborg, RL, from N. H. Williams, "Spent Nuclear Fuel Sludge Treatment Path Forward Recommendation," (FDH-9953935), dated June 10, 1999. This letter advocates a new path forward for the management of the K Basins canister and floor sludge. The Spent Nuclear Fuels Project Division (SFD) has reviewed the FDH submission and concurs with this recommendation. Furthermore, SFD's analysis of the recommendation is the new management strategy represents a valuable opportunity to accelerate some aspects of the existing work schedules and more importantly, to identify and optimize actions that could result in substantial savings to this component of the SNF Project.

This letter approves the SNF sludge treatment path forward recommendation documented in the FDH letter referenced above. Additionally, FDH is directed to immediately proceed with the preparation of a detailed plan of work to be accomplished during the remainder of this fiscal year, which implements this new path forward. FDH is also instructed to prepare a Baseline Change Request (BCR) for the aforementioned planned work and submit it to RL for approval. It is SFD's expectation that this new BCR will contain detailed technical data, including resource loaded schedules and proposed levels of effort in the Basis of Estimates, which maintain constancy with or potentially accelerate existing sludge removal commitments set forth in the current Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Baseline Schedule.

In conjunction with the new proposed plan, SFD would make the following suggestions regarding certain aspects of the proposal. SFD believes it would be prudent to further investigate the projected timeline for the interface to transfer and accept knockout pot fine metal particles at T Plant or another acceptable interim storage facilities. Also, SFD believes as an element of the planning effort, provisions should be negotiated with the interim storage facility to begin accepting sludge and fuel wash materials in particular as early as May 2000. This could be conducted in conjunction with any proposed SNF Project early hot testing program.

Mr. R. D. Hanson
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If any direction is provided by a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) which your company believes exceeds the COR's authority, you are to immediately notify the Contracting Officer and request clarification before complying with the direction.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me, or you may contact Robert G. Holt of my staff on (509) 376-9989.

Sincerely,



P. G. Loscoe, Acting Director
Spent Nuclear Fuels Project Division

SFD:RGH

cc: C. B. Aycock, DESH
J. W. Foster, DESH
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