



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

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[0071844H]  
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JAN 12 2001

01-GWVZ-009

Ms. Laura J. Cusack  
Project Management Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
1315 W. Fourth Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

RECEIVED  
JAN 17 2001  
BY DIS

Dear Ms. Cusack:

**GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM AT THE LIQUID EFFLUENT RETENTION FACILITY (LERF)**

On January 2, 2001, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), determined that monitoring well 299-E35-2 is no longer capable of providing a representative sample for groundwater monitoring purposes. The well is not able to produce enough water to meet quality requirements for the monitoring program. This development is consistent with observed declines in the general groundwater levels in, and east of, the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site resulting from cessation of most wastewater discharges.

Well 299-E35-2 is part of the groundwater-monitoring network for LERF. Monitoring will continue at the two remaining wells at LERF.

RL will draft a path forward for dealing with the situation by March 16, 2001. Two workshops will be conducted with the State of Washington Department of Ecology prior to March 16, 2001, to determine the precise objectives of continued monitoring, and the best technical and regulatory alternatives to meet those goals.

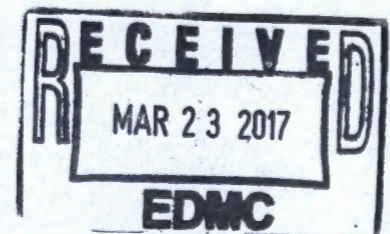
If you want to discuss this matter further or require additional information, please contact Marvin J. Furman at (509) 373-9630.

Sincerely,

*John G. Morse*  
John G. Morse, Program Manager  
Groundwater/Vadose Zone Project

GWVZ:MJF

cc: See page 2





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-2-

cc: M. J. Graham, BHI  
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