



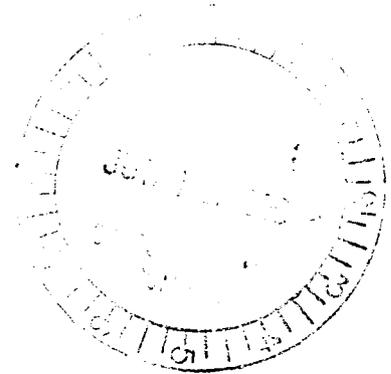
Department of Energy

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

9002537

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JUN 08 1990



Mr. Timothy Nord  
Hanford Project Manager  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Mail Stop PV-11  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Mr. Nord:

HANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT

This letter and attachment provide written documentation of a hazardous material release to the environment outside of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) facility in the 200 West Area. Verbal notification was provided to your office on June 1, 1990.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. R. A. Geiger of my staff at (509) 376-6856.

Sincerely,

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

SED:RAG

Attachment

cc w/att: Paul Day, EPA  
John Sainsbury, EPA  
George Carpenter, WHC

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## ATTACHMENT

On May 31, 1990, at 11:00 a.m., approximately one pint of scintillation fluid leaked to the ground at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) after an instrument technician accidentally dropped and cracked a used Special Nuclear Material detector. The technician was transferring the used detector for disposal when the spill occurred. Approximately one pint of scintillation fluid leaked onto the ground. The PFP Waste Handling crew promptly cleaned up the spilled area and the contaminated soil was drummed and will be managed as hazardous waste. The fluid was initially thought to be light mineral oil, but a review of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on June 1, 1990, indicated that the detector contained scintillation fluid.

The MSDS showed the spilled fluid to be pseudocumene (1, 2, 4 - trimethyl benzene) which is designated as a Dangerous Waste (Waste Code Number WT02) under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC 173-303).

The United States Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) notified Ecology of the spill by telephone on the afternoon of June 1, 1990. The spill is not reportable under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act regulations. Due to the small volume of hazardous material in the release, RL's position is that this release did not result in a detrimental impact to the public health or to the environment.

**CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION COVERSHEET**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Addressee</b>	<b>Correspondence No.</b>
M. W. Tiernan DOE-RL	Timothy L. Nord Department of Ecology	Incoming: 9002537
<b>Subject:</b> HANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT		

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