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

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APR 09 1996

Mr. Moses N. Jaraysi
200 Area Unit Supervisor
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 West Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Mr. Joseph J. Witczak
Unit Supervisor Regulatory and Technical Support
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



Dear Messrs. Jaraysi and Witczak:

GROUNDWATER MONITORING AT 183-H SOLAR EVAPORATION BASINS

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is notifying the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) of an issue involving compliance with the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins (183-H) portion (Part V, Chapter I) of the Hanford Site Dangerous Waste Permit (Permit). Currently, the 183-H closure plan referenced in Part V contains an interim status groundwater monitoring plan. On September 28, 1995, Westinghouse Hanford Company published a final status groundwater monitoring plan for 183-H (WHC-SD-EN-AP-180, Rev. 0). The plan was implemented upon its publication.

The purpose of the new final status groundwater monitoring system is to define groundwater contamination attributable to 183-H by statistically comparing site-specific constituent concentrations within the system. A final status groundwater monitoring system is a requirement of Washington Administrative Code 173-303 and Permit Condition II.F. for final status units incorporated into Part V of the Permit. Condition II.F. conflicts with the requirement in Part V for an interim status groundwater monitoring system. A modification to the Permit is required to eliminate this conflict.

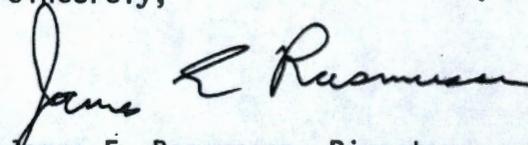
Messrs. Jaraysi and Witczak

-2-

APR 08 1996

RL is currently evaluating options for achieving compliance with 183-H Permit Conditions. We will apprise you of our recommended course of action in the near future. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call Mr. Jeffrey M. Bruggeman on (509) 376-7121.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Assurance, Permits,
and Policy Division

DDP:JMB

cc: J. W. Badden, BHI
R. E. Cordts, Ecology
M. T. Janaskie, EM-442
L. R. Miller, BHI
W. W. Soper, Ecology