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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 21, 2003

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Mr. James E. Rasmussen  
Office of River Protection  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

- Re: 1. Letter to James E. Rasmussen, United States Department of Energy – Office of River Protection (ORP), from Jeff Lyon and Suzanne Dahl, Washington State Department of Ecology, dated March 15, 2002 56587
2. Letter to James E. Rasmussen, United State Department of Energy, “Ninety Day (90) Extension of Interim Milestone M-46-011,” from Jeff Lyon, Washington State Department of Ecology, dated November 15, 2002
3. Combined report on “Single-Shell Tank Retrieval Sequence and Double Shell Tank Space Evaluation,” RPP-8554, Revision 1 58132

Thank you for submitting the combination report on “Single-Shell Tank Retrieval Sequence and Double-Shell Tank Space Evaluation,” RPP-8554, Revision 1, September 2002.

The *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* Milestone M-45-05 requires retrieving all waste from the Single-Shell Tanks (SSTs) by September 30, 2018. In addition, milestone M-46-00 requires an annual report to evaluate the Double-Shell Tank (DST) space needed to support the SST retrievals.

In the United States Department of Energy’s (USDOE) report (Re: 3), the DST space evaluation case 3b provides the necessary DST volume to support SST retrieval compliant with the M-45-05 milestone date (2018). Case 3b requires 17 additional DSTs to be built starting in 2008.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) finds case 3b to be acceptable and agrees with the USDOE’s conclusion that new DSTs will be needed in the future to support the Single-Shell Tanks (SST) interim retrieval goals.



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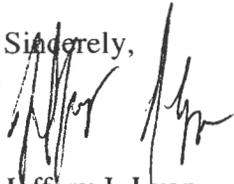
While it is becoming more apparent that new tank space is necessary, Ecology is not currently proposing new milestones for acquisition of additional DSTs. Instead, Ecology, still believing that the USDOE can affect the need for new tanks by fully implementing all available space-saving measures and exploring alternatives to new DSTs, will review the following information:

- Double-Shell Tank Space Evaluation Report due September 2003
- Additional information on the Waste Treatment Plant configuration and performance projections

Ecology also requests that the USDOE provide a plan by May 23, 2003, stating the recommended space-saving options to meet Milestone M-46-21, any others that will be implemented, as well as the USDOE's plan for construction of additional DST containment facilities.

Ecology will consider the above additional information in determining the need for new DSTs necessary to support compliant SST retrieval, in hopes that the USDOE will make substantial progress toward eliminating the need for new DSTs. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact me at (509) 736-3098.

Sincerely,



Jeffery J. Lyon  
 Tank Waste Storage Project Manager  
 Nuclear Waste Program

BJ:lkd

cc: Frank Anderson, ORP  
 Mary Burandt, ORP  
 Diane Clark, ORP  
 Robert Lober, ORP  
 Delmar Noyes, ORP  
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