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Department of Energy

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

Mr. Roger F. Stanley, Director
Tri-Party Agreement Implementation
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Mr. George C. Hofer
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, HW-124
Seattle, Washington 98101



Dear Messrs. Stanley and Hofer:

TANK CHARACTERIZATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993

The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) interim milestone M-10-07 requires obtaining twenty-four core samples from twelve tanks by September 1993. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) hereby regretfully acknowledges that, due to previously described technical issues with the push mode core sampling system, the milestone cannot be met as written.

Over the past several months, multiple discussions with the unit managers have occurred regarding the technical issues surrounding this milestone. Weekly status reports had been provided to the unit managers on this issue until the involvement in on-going Tri-party Agreement negotiations precluded this level of documentation. The project managers were briefed on the technical issues causing the impacts to this milestone at the May 1993 Tri-Party Agreement Milestone Review Meeting for M-10-00.

RL has recently identified several options and alternatives which its representatives would like to present to the unit managers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Washington Department of Ecology. RL would like to solicit input from the regulators and jointly develop a mutually agreeable solution to this situation. As discussed with the respective unit managers, an advantageous time for this meeting is on Tuesday, July 27, 1993, in Yakima, Washington. This discussion would be in parallel with the scheduled negotiations taking place there.

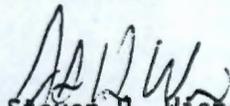


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Messrs. Stanley and Hofer -2-

It is RL's intent to work with the unit managers and develop a technically sound change package, and present that change package as soon as possible to the three project managers for approval at one of the upcoming Project Manager Meetings. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (509) 376-6798, or Mr. Paul Hernandez, RL Tank Waste Characterization Branch, at (509) 376-2209.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Wisness
Hanford Project Manager

cc:

B. Austin, WHC
D. Jansen, Ecology
D. Nylander, Ecology
D. Sherwood, EPA
S. McKinney, Ecology



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Subject: TANK CHARACTERIZATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993

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