



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

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P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

JUN 02 2006

06-TPD-040

Ms. Jane Hedges, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, Washington 99354

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EDMC

Dear Ms. Hedges:

SINGLE-SHELL TANK (SST) RETRIEVAL SELECTION AND SEQUENCE, RPP-21216,
REVISION 1-B, HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER
(HFFACO) MILESTONE M-45-02M

68959

Reference: Ecology letter from J. J. Lyon to R. J. Schepens, ORP, "Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Milestone M-45-02M, 'Update SST Retrieval Sequence Document,'" dated May 25, 2006. ✓

The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP) acknowledges the Notice of Deficiency for RPP-21216 contained in the Reference. Based on discussions with you and your staff, it is our understanding that the Reference does not denote that we have missed the M-45-02-M Milestone and thus does not require a notice of dispute regarding this Milestone. Furthermore, given the M-45 Milestone negotiations expected to begin in July 2006, it is our view that pursuing the dispute process would be redundant and adversely affect the negotiation. Unless we are advised to the contrary, we will not initiate dispute resolution on the M-45-02M Milestone.

The information on estimated retrieval schedules you requested in item 1 of the Reference should become available in the July/August 2006 time frame, and ORP will provide it to the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) in the context of the M-45 Milestone negotiations expected to be initiated at that time. Regarding the information you requested in items 2 through 4, we believe this information is already included in RPP-21216 and are willing to meet with your staff to explore these items further. At the conclusion of the M-45 negotiations, ORP is also willing to update RPP-21216 as necessary and resubmit it to Ecology for approval. In accordance with provisions in Section 9 of the HFFACO, ORP requests an extension for submitting an updated document to August 31, 2006.

Regarding your request for the results of Hanford Tank Waste Operations Simulator (HTWOS) modeling runs, the three cases cited in the Reference were last run and provided to Ecology in 2003. While there are no plans to rerun these cases, we are currently working on a HTWOS run to update the ORP mission baseline and expect to have the results available in August 2006.

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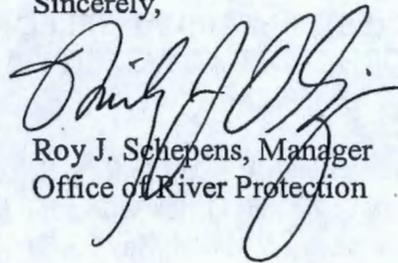
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ORP will provide these results to Ecology when they become available, also in the context of the M-45 Milestone negotiations. We will start sharing with you various retrieval options at the June 12, 2006 meeting between Ecology, ORP, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, and will continue similar discussions with your staff afterwards.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter and look forward to continued collaboration in the future as we develop an overall realistic strategy to accomplish our mutual goals.

If you have any questions, you may contact me, or your staff may contact Roger Quintero, Tank Farms Programs and Projects Division, (509) 373-0421.

Sincerely,


Roy J. Schepens, Manager
Office of River Protection

TPD:RAQ

cc: M. N. Jaraysi, CH2M HILL
J. A. Voogd, CH2M HILL
CH2M HILL Correspondence
J. Cox, CTUIR
S. Harris, CTUIR
L. J. Cusack, Ecology
S. L. Dahl-Crumpler, Ecology
J. J. Lyon, Ecology
R. D. Morrison, FHI
G. Bohnee, NPT
K. Niles, ODOE
R. Jim, YN
Administrative Record