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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 29, 1996

Mr. Jackson Kinzer, Assistant Manager  
Tank Waste Remedial System  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550 - T4-07  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Kinzer:

RE: Future Funding for TSIP Support of the DST Integrity Assessments

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has been informed that the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) does not intend to fund the Tank Structural Integrity Panel (TSIP) for any future work associated with the DST Integrity Assessments. This decision is in direct conflict with past agreements between the two agencies. Ecology formally requests that the USDOE provide funding to the TSIP for the following three critical elements;

- Review of the visual examinations of the AW and AP tank farms;
- Recommend alternative path forward to complete the DST integrity assessments, and;
- Evaluate the results of Ultrasonic testing and make recommendations as to the need for additional testing.

Ecology has already notified USDOE of their requirement to submit a recovery schedule for the DST Integrity Assessments by June 28, 1996, and encourages USDOE to continue on the streamlined technical path already established. By eliminating funding for the TSIP, USDOE will force Ecology to revert back to the more conservative and costly option of performing ultrasonic testing on all 28 tanks.

I request that you formally respond to me on this funding issue by June 15, 1996, and I look forward to your positive response on this matter.

Sincerely,

Toby M. Michelena  
Nuclear Waste Program

TMM:djb

cc: Steve Cowan, USDOE-HQ  
Ron Izatt, USDOE  
Roger Bacon, WHC  
Dale Jackson, USDOE  
Casey Ruud, USDOE  
Lucinda Borneman, WHC  
✓ Administrative Record, H6-08

