



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

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 [0071022H]

17-AMRP-0180

MAY 3 1 2017

Ms. Alexandra K. Smith, Program Manager
 Nuclear Waste Program
 Washington State Department of Ecology
 3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
 Richland, Washington 99354

Dear Ms. Smith:

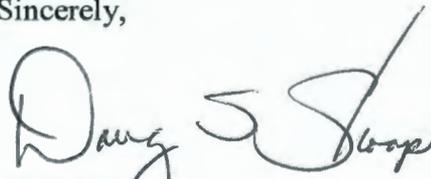
CONTINUED RESPONSE ACTIONS TO PARTIAL COLLAPSE OF PUREX TUNNEL 1

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) of the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (RL) continued response actions at PUREX Tunnel 1. Because the exact cause of the structural failure in Tunnel 1 cannot be determined, a significant threat of further failure of the PUREX Tunnel 1 remains. RL intends to address this threat by void filling Tunnel 1 with low-density fill (e.g., engineered concrete/grout), as part of continuing response actions consistent with Section 4.5 of the Hanford Sitewide Dangerous Waste Permit's contingency plan. Use of low-density fill will improve tunnel stability, provide additional radiological protection, and increase durability while not precluding any future remedial or final closure actions. This response provides interim stabilization to PUREX Tunnel 1, and mitigates threats to human health and the environment. RL anticipates that this action will be initiated immediately and completed by the end of the year.

RL will continue to develop and complete the corrective actions required by the Administrative Order (AO) issued by Ecology. RL is fully committed to addressing risk to workers, the public, and the environment, and will continue to work closely with Ecology during the planning and implementation of these actions at PUREX Tunnel 1.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Joe Franco, Assistant Manager for the River and Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,


 Doug S. Shoop
 Manager

AMRP:OAF

cc: L. T. Blackford, CHPRC
 D. A. Faulk, EPA
 M. N. Jaraysi, CHPRC
 K. Niles, ODOE

cc: S. N. Schleif, Ecology
 Administrative Record (PUREX)
 Environmental Portal TS-2-6

