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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

September 11, 2002

Mr. Clifford E. Clark
Richland Operations Office
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550; MSIN: A5-15
Richland, Washington 99352

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Mr. Richard M. Gurske
Duratek Federal Services of Hanford, Inc.
P.O. Box 700; MSIN: H8-73
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Messrs. Clark and Gurske:

Re: Investigation of Abandoned Metal Structure at Waste Information Data System
Site 600-146

Thank you for the assistance of the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and Fluor Hanford Inc. (FH) personnel during the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) recent investigation of the metal structure at Waste Information Data System (WIDS) Site 600-146. The structure was observed during a routine site tour and appeared to be out of place with the surrounding setting. Its construction makes it appear that it was used for chemical processing of some kind. On May 7, 2002, Ecology began an investigation into the structure to determine if hazardous waste was still contained in the numerous stainless steel pipes running throughout the interior of the structure's framework.

Ecology's investigation has determined that the structure has been identified as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Past Practice Unit in the WIDS, site code 600-146. However, the WIDS entry contains no information on the history of the structure or how it came to be abandoned in a remote area of the Hanford site. Ecology has been informed that no further information on the structure could be uncovered. However, as a result of a radiological survey that was conducted in February, 2001; an explosives survey conducted in June, 2002; and the site inspection, Ecology believes that the structure does not pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, Ecology will not require any further action at the site at this time.

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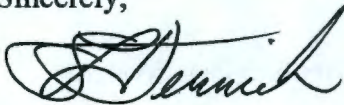
No violations of dangerous waste regulations are cited at this time. However, Ecology has the following concerns:

1. A large metal structure was abandoned in a remote area of the Hanford site and the USDOE has no documentation as to how it came to be there.
2. The USDOE apparently has no documentation as to the purpose or history of the structure.
3. The USDOE cannot determine through records if the structure contained hazardous substances.

In order to close out this inspection, Ecology requests that within sixty (60) days the WIDS entry for site 600-146 be updated to include a description of the explosives survey conducted in June 2002 and a reference to Ecology's May 7, 2002, inspection specifically listing the concerns listed above. Please verify by letter to me when this has been accomplished.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, you may call me at (509) 736-5703.

Sincerely,



Sterling L. Derrick
Compliance Inspector
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: Brian Dixon, FH
Steve Szendre, FH
Administrative Record