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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 18, 1999

Mr. James E. Rasmussen  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550 MSIN: A5-15  
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Your *1999 Evaluation of Tritium Removal and Mitigation Technologies for Wastewater Treatment* (DOE/RL-99-42, Rev. 0) was received by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) as required by Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Milestone M-26-05F. Ecology accepts this document as fulfilling the requirements of Milestone M-26-05F.

Ecology was encouraged by the content and tone of this document. Often the early reports on tritium treatment failed to seriously consider the possibility of this technology ever coming to Hanford. The reports have become increasingly more thorough, and now the 1999 report seems to indicate that some form of tritium removal technology, that may be useful at Hanford, may be on the horizon.

It is good news that tritium treatment research is still being conducted elsewhere. At this time, the plan to discharge tritium contaminated wastewater from the Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) at the State Approved Land Disposal Site (SALDS) and allowing the tritium to decay before it reaches the Columbia River, seems to be working. But, with ETF hopefully having a long future treating tritium contaminated wastewater generated by the anticipated tank waste vitrification plant, tritium treatment is still something Hanford should be seriously looking at and considering demonstrating.



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Ecology is interested in and would like to be kept informed about the results of the Tritium Resin Separation demonstration that was conducted on ETF water at Clemson University and that was mentioned in this report.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (509) 736-3047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Dougherty". The signature is written over a circular pink stamp that contains the text "Clemson University" and "Nuclear Waste Program".

David S. Dougherty, P.E.  
Nuclear Waste Program

DD:ld

cc: Greg Sinton, USDOE  
Alex Teimouri, USDOE  
William Adair, FDH  
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Administrative Records: TPA M-26-05F