



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 10, 1997

George H. Sanders  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Sanders:

Re: M-44-10 Change Request (M-44-97-04)

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Change Request M-44-97-04 for modification to Milestone M-44-10, that was submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) on June 27, 1997. Ecology has modified and then signed the Change request.

The modification Ecology made to the Change Request was to remove the "to be determined" due date for the milestone change and determine the new due date now. As Ecology has stated with previous Change Requests and with this one, Ecology prefers actual dates to be put into the Change Requests submitted by USDOE. As Ecology has already discussed with USDOE, Ecology was only willing to sign the Change Request after an actual due date was agreed to. Ecology has therefore included an actual date (November 14, 1997) as the new due date for Milestone M-44-10. USDOE will now need to initial the modifications on the Change Request to confirm agreement with the modifications.

Ecology is disappointed in the way USDOE handled this Change Request. In USDOE's transmittal letter for the Change Request, USDOE refers to the successful partnering efforts that have been undertaken to resolve the dispute over the M-44 Milestone series. Yet, with this Change Request and other early ones that dealt with interim M-44 Milestones, the Change Requests were sent to Ecology without any prior discussion with Ecology. In fact this is the third such Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) Change Request submitted to Ecology without prior discussion in the last two months. This is not successful partnering. If USDOE would informally discuss issues with Ecology first, then more agreeable Change Requests can be produced which would reduce the paper work exchanges between USDOE and Ecology and reduce the potential of either side entering into the dispute resolution process. USDOE should

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realize that Ecology will not sign Change Requests that USDOE submits without any prior discussion with Ecology.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Dougherty at (509) 736-3047.

Sincerely,



Ron Skinnarland, 200 Area Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

RS:DD:rb  
Enclosure

cc: Carolyn Haass, USDOE  
Maureen Hunemuller, USDOE  
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James Poppiti, USDOE  
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Douglas Sherwood, EPA  
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Administrative Record: Tri-Party Agreement