



0082183

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
3100 Port of Benton Blvd • Richland, WA 99352 • (509) 372-7950

July 7, 2004

Mr. Mike Thompson  
Richland Operations Office  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A6-38  
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED  
JUL 20 2004

EDMC

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Re: *Evaluation of an Alternative Statistical Method for Analysis of RCRA  
Groundwater Monitoring Data at the Hanford Site, PNNL-14521*

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received the above document on June 25, 2004. Ecology is currently reviewing the document to evaluate the results and the recommendation of the alternative statistical analysis of groundwater monitoring data for the B-Pond and the 300 Area Process Trenches. The document will be evaluated on the basis of the defined criteria and guidance specified in Ecology's letter of May 7, 2001, as well as its applicability to these facilities and ability to determine an immediate release from the facility as required by Washington Administrative Code 173-303-645.

After our internal review, Ecology would like to have a detailed discussion and presentation of the results and recommendations from the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to make sure both parties understand what is presented in the document and identify any issues that might need to be addressed in the future. As you know, it took a considerable amount of background work/studies to reach this stage. Ecology might use an independent external reviewer, similar to the one used in the past, to make sure this new approach for the B-Pond and the 300 Area Process Trenches monitoring meets the intent and objectives of the regulations. Based on the results of this trial application, Ecology will decide whether to continue, modify, or abandon the proposed approach for these two facilities and may establish criteria for use at other facilities, as applicable. USDOE is therefore requested not to apply this alternative statistical analysis method at other facilities without Ecology's prior approval.

Mr. Mike Thompson  
July 7, 2004  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Singleton at (509) 372-7923 or me at (509) 372-7902.

Sincerely,



Dib Goswami, PhD  
Senior Program Hydrogeologist  
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: John Morse, USDOE  
Charissa Chou, PNL  
John Fruchter, PNL  
Stuart Luttrell, PNL  
Stuart Harris, CTUIR  
Pat Sobotta, NPT  
Russell Jim, YN  
Todd Martin, HAB  
Ken Niles, ODOE  
Administrative Record  
Environmental Portal