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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 4, 1996

Ms. Elizabeth M. Bowers  
Liquid Effluents Program  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: S7-55  
Richland, WA 99352-0550



Dear Ms. Bowers:

Re: Tritium Treatment Technology

Milestone M-26-05 of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order requires the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (USDOE) to submit an evaluation every two years of the development status of tritium technologies pertinent to the cleanup and management of tritiated waste water. The next report on tritium technologies is due in August 1997.

On November 5, 1996, a meeting took place between the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Mr. Bob Cook representing the Yakama Tribe. Mr. Cook brought to our attention a tritium treatment technology currently being used in Switzerland. The technology was developed by Sulzer Brothers Ltd. and uses a vacuum distillation system to remove tritium from light water at nuclear power plants. Mr. Cook believes it is feasible to scale-up this technology to treat tritiated water from sources such as N Basin. Subsequent to that meeting, Mr. Cook presented information to Ecology on other tritium treatment technologies.

Ecology proposes a meeting be held with the Yakama Tribe, Ecology, and USDOE to discuss these technologies. Ecology would like this meeting held this month to allow time for serious consideration of these technologies before the next tritium report is submitted.

Please contact me at (509) 736-3011 to discuss setting up a tentative meeting date.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Skurla, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

SS:sl

cc: Jim Rasmussen, USDOE  
Greg Sinton, USDOE  
Doug Sherwood, EPA  
Bill Adair, FDH  
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