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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 11, 1995

Mr. James E. Rasmussen
Acting Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, WA 99352-0550



Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: Engineering Report Approval and State Waste Discharge Permit Number ST 4505
for the 400 Area Septic System

The *Project Management Plan for Project L-234, 400 Area Sanitary Sewer System Replacement* (KH-SD-L234-ER-001, Rev. 0) and the *400 Area Septic System State Waste Discharge Permit Application* (DOE-RL-94-28) have been received and reviewed for completeness by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Richland Operations Office, has elected to replace the existing unlined basin by constructing a totally evaporative, lined lagoon near the 400 Area. Ecology supports this decision. Appendix A of the Project Management Plan, when combined with the *400 Area Sanitary Waste Engineering Study* by Bovey Northwest Inc., provide sufficient detail to satisfy the requirements of an engineering report. Pursuant to Chapter 173-240-030 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), approval is granted for the engineering report for Project L-234, the 400 Area sanitary sewer system replacement.

Ecology will issue an abbreviated state waste discharge permit under WAC 173-216 for the new treatment/disposal facility. A permit is required because the lagoon system has the potential to impact groundwater if a leak occurs in the lagoon liner.

The permit application is sufficiently complete for Ecology to begin preparing a draft permit for an evaporative lagoon. The public notice will be made in May 1995 (exact dates are not known at this time) in various Sunday newspapers.

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Before the draft permit can be completed and a final permit issued, additional information is needed. Please provide me with the information as soon as possible, to prevent any delay in the permitting process. Please provide the following data:

- Detailed plans and specifications, as required by WAC 173-240.
- The detailed schedule for construction.
- A completed State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist.
- A sludge management plan, before the start of operations, as required by WAC 173-240.
- The operations and maintenance manual, or equivalent, before the completion of construction, as required by WAC 173-240.

As the permitting process continues, I will notify you if additional data is needed. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (509) 736-3011.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Skurla
Nuclear Waste Program

SS:skr

cc: Randy Krekel, USDOE
Hector Rodriguez, USDOE
Bill White, USDOE
Doug Sherwood, EPA
Larry Bast, ICF-KH
Debbie Herman, ICF-KH
Jeff Luke, WHC
Janice Williams, WHC
Administrative Records: Liquid Effluents Consent Order ✓