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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

August 23, 1996

Mr. John D. Wagoner, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

RE: Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order / Initiation of Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) stabilization negotiations.

Major milestone M-83-00 of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri Party Agreement or TPA) requires that the parties initiate PFP stabilization negotiations within two months of issuance of the PFP stabilization Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (i.e., by August 26, 1996).

In an effort to meet this commitment our respective staffs have been working together over the last few weeks identifying information necessary to support these negotiations (e.g., disposition determinations covering each PFP residue to be either retained for potential reclamation or managed as waste). As a result of working group deliberations, our staff have jointly reached the conclusion that additional time is necessary to identify informational needs, and have consequently proposed that we each agree to temporarily suspend initiation of negotiations under TPA milestone M-83-00.

I believe suspension is warranted, and ask that you indicate Department of Energy (DOE) approval with your signature below.¹ I also believe that DOE and Ecology executive management level attention should be brought to bear on PFP issues and suggest that we schedule a meeting between key staff in the near future.

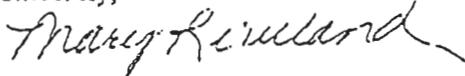
It is noted that the required completion date for these negotiations, February 26, 1997, is not being modified, and remains in effect.



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To that end, I have asked Mike Wilson, Manager of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program to work with your staff in arranging such a meeting.

Sincerely,



Mary Riveland
Director

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA RL
Lloyd Piper, DOE RL
Pete Knollmeyer, DOE RL
George Sanders DOE RI.
Mary Lou Blazek, ODOE

Concurrence:



John D. Wagoner
Manager, DOE RL

8/26/96
Date