



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

0055399

P.O. Box 450
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01-SHD-082

AUG 21 2001

Mr. Douglas R. Sherwood
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 W. Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336

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Addressees:

COMPLETION OF HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) MILESTONE M-40-00, "MITIGATE/RESOLVE TANK SAFETY ISSUES FOR HIGH PRIORITY WATCH LIST TANKS"

- References:
1. HQ memorandum from J. H. Roberson to H. L. Boston, ORP, "Approval to Close the Flammable Gas Safety Issue and Remove 24 Tanks from the Flammable Gas Watch List," dated August 13, 2001.
 2. ORP letter from J. E. Rasmussen to D. R. Sherwood, EPA and M. A. Wilson, Ecology, "Partial Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Milestone M-40-00, 'Mitigate/Resolve Tank Safety Issues for High Priority Watch List Tanks'," 01-SHD-038, dated April 18, 2001.
 3. ORP letter from G. H. Sanders to M. A. Wilson, Ecology and D. R. Sherwood, EPA, "Partial Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Milestone M-40-00, 'Mitigate/Resolve Tank Safety Issues for High Priority Watchlist Tanks'," 99-TSD-132, dated January 3, 2000.
 4. RL letter from G. H. Sanders to M. A. Wilson, Ecology and D. R. Sherwood, EPA, "Partial Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Milestone M-40-00, 'Mitigate/Resolve Tank Safety Issues for High Priority Watchlist Tanks'," 99-SCD-005, dated January 5, 1998 (issued with wrong date; should be January 5, 1999).

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5. RL letter from G. H. Sanders to M. A. Wilson, Ecology, "Partial Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Milestone M-40-00, 'Resolve Waste Tank Safety Issues'," 97-WSD-044, dated March 3, 1997.

This letter provides notification of closure of the Flammable Gas Safety Issue and completion of Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-40-00, "Mitigate/Resolve Tank Safety Issues for High Priority Watchlist Tanks."

Closure of the Flammable Gas Safety Issue and removal of the last 24 remaining tanks on the Watch List was approved in Reference 1 (Attachment 1). The basis for the closure is provided by "Flammable Gas Safety Issue Resolution," RPP-7771, Revision 0A, dated August 2001, which is attached for your information (Attachment 2).

The Watch List was created as a response to the November 1990 Wyden Amendment (Public Law 101-510, Section 3137). This law required identification of Hanford Site tanks that may have a serious potential for release of high-level waste due to uncontrolled increases in temperature or pressure.

The following 24 tanks were placed on the Flammable Gas Watch List because they were identified as having a serious potential for the release of high-level waste due to increase in temperature or pressure (note: the "241" designation has been omitted from each tank): A-101, AN-103, AN-104, AN-105, AW-101, AX-101, AX-103, S-102, S-111, S-112, SX-101, SX-102, SX-103, SX-104, SX-105, SX-106, SX-109, SY-103, T-110, U-103, U-105, U-107, U-108, and U-109. These are the 24 tanks affected by Reference 1.

Through sampling of waste, analysis of tank behavior, monitoring tank conditions and obtaining an understanding of gas generation, retention, and release, ORP has concluded that tank behavior is such that conditions for reaching tank failure due to flammable gas is not plausible in the above listed single-shell and double-shell tanks. Therefore, these tanks do not have a serious potential for the release of waste due to an uncontrolled increase in temperature or pressure.

The other tank safety issues associated with Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-40-00 were previously reported completed in References 2 through 5. They refer to the Flammable Gas Safety Issue in Tank 241-SY-101, the High Heat Safety Issue, the Organic Complexant Safety Issue, and the Ferrocyanide Safety Issue, respectively. With the closure of the Flammable Gas Safety Issue, ORP has completed all actions required by the Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-40-00.

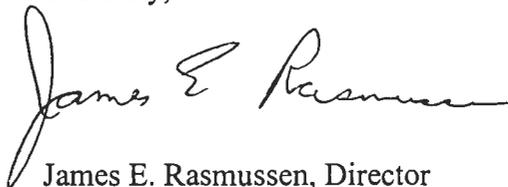
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If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Craig A. Groendyke, Safety and Health Division, (509) 376-9811.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Management Division

SHD:CAG

Attachments (2):

1. HQ Letter
2. RPP-7771

cc w/o attaches:

J. H. Richards, CTUIR
P. Sobotta, NPT
R. Jim, YN
S. J. Bensussen, CHG
W. T. Dixon, CHG
C. C. Haass, CHG
G. D. Johnson, CHG
A. J. Knepp, CHG
C. Defigh-Price, CHG
F. R. Miera, CHG
M. J. Riess, CHG
M. Brown, Ecology
S. L. Dahl, Ecology
R. F. Stanley, Ecology
J. S. Hertzell, FHI
O. S. Kramer, FHI
T. M. Martin, HAB
M. L. Blazek, Oregon Energy
J. B. Hebdon, RL
E. M. Mattlin, RL
Administrative Record