



**Department of Energy**  
 Richland Operations Office  
 P.O. Box 550  
 Richland, Washington 99352

01-AMI-018

JUN 18 2001

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager  
 Nuclear Waste Program  
 State of Washington  
 Department of Ecology  
 1315 W. Fourth Avenue  
 Kennewick, Washington 99336

**RECEIVED**  
 JUN 20 2001  
**EDMC**

Dear Mr. Wilson:

**NINETY-DAY SUSPENSION OF THE DECISION TO PERMANENTLY DEACTIVATE THE FAST FLUX TEST FACILITY (FFTF) AS INDICATED IN THE RECORD OF DECISION FOR "THE FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ACCOMPLISHING EXPANDED CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ISOTOPE PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES"**

This responds to your request for more information on the April 26, 2001, letter from Clifford E. Clark, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), to you, "Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Change Package M-81-01-01." On April 25, 2001, Secretary Abraham suspended prior Secretary Richardson's decision in the Record of Decision regarding the permanent deactivation of the FFTF. Because of Secretary Abraham's decision and direction from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, RL also suspended all further activities related to deactivation of the FFTF, including suspension of FFTF-related negotiations associated with the Tri-Party Agreement milestones. Copies of Secretary Abraham's April 25, 2001, letter to Congressman Doc Hastings informing him of the decision to suspend the prior Secretary's decision on FFTF and the April 26, 2001, memorandum from William D. Magwood to Keith A. Klein providing FY 2001 Program Guidance for the FFTF, and the direction noted above, are enclosed. 54901

FFTF is a nuclear facility with nationally unique capabilities. Before any final decision and implementation of such a final decision regarding the future of FFTF is made, Secretary Abraham, as the DOE primary responsible federal official, has determined to thoroughly review and ensure that all relevant factors that might impact its future are fully considered. After the Secretary's final decision, RL will provide any Tri-Party Agreement deliverables that are required by that Agreement.

If, in the future, a decision is made to begin the permanent deactivation, we anticipate that the schedule for the deactivation activities would be reasonably consistent with the original Tri-Party Agreement interim and target milestones displaced in time by the period in which the milestones would have been in abeyance. Thus, defining "T<sub>0</sub>" as the point at which a Tri-Party Agreement

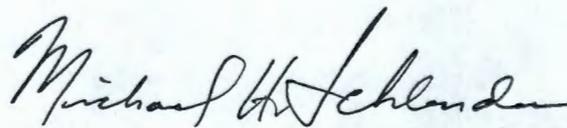
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change request implementing a deactivation decision might be approved, the following schedule of activities and timeframes is envisioned:

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Time increment from T<sub>0</sub></u>
1. Submit sodium disposition evaluation report	3 years 6 months
2. Submit FFTF end-point criteria document	3 years 8 months
3. Complete reactor and heat transport system sodium drain	4 years 1 months
4. Submit sodium storage facility and sodium reaction facility closure plan	4 years 8 months
5. Complete FFTF sodium drain (excluding the interim decay storage vessel)	4 years 11 months
6. Submit the FFTF surveillance and maintenance plan	6 years 2 months
7. Complete PCB transformer disposal	6 years 5 months
8. Complete transfer of special fuel to an appropriate storage area	6 years 6 months
9. Complete transfer of irradiated fuel to dry cask storage	6 years 6 months
10. Complete transfer of unirradiated fuel to storage area	6 years 6 months
11. Complete fuel storage facility vessel sodium drain	6 years 9 month
12. Complete auxiliary systems deactivation	7 years 4 months
13. Complete FFTF facility transition and initiate the surveillance and maintenance phase	7 years 4 months

Should you have any questions, you may call me or your staff may call W. Wade Ballard, Assistant Manager for Planning and Integration, on (509) 376-6657, or O. A. Farabee, Director, Fast Flux Test Facility Project Office, on (509) 376-6314.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Schlender, Deputy Manager  
for Site Transition

AMI:WWB

Enclosures:

1. DOE's April 25, 2001, letter to Congressman Hastings
2. DOE's April 26, 2001, memo to Keith A. Klein

cc w/encls:

J. E. Rhoderick, EM-43  
C. L. Huntoon, EM-1  
E. A. Livingston, S  
W. D. Magwood, NE-1  
J. M. Roberson, DNFSB  
M. D. Holland, CH

T. C. Fitzsimmons, Ecology  
T. M. Martin, HAB  
R. F. Stanley, Ecology  
D. R. Sherwood, EPA  
**Administrative Record**