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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 22, 1993

Mr. Steven H. Wisness
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Ken Bracken
Acting Deputy Program Manager
Tank Waste Remediation System: R3-73
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Messrs. Wisness and Bracken:

Re: Ramp Down of Hanford Waste Vitrification Plant, and Canister Storage Building Projects

This letter follows our September 30, 1993, completion of negotiations regarding modification of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement or TPA). As you know, these negotiations resulted in a draft agreement (now open for public review and comment) which included a series of new Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) initiatives. I am writing you today in order to discuss two specific tank waste projects under M-03-00: Initiate Hanford Waste Vitrification Plant (HWVP) Operations.

New (revised) work schedules for management of Hanford's high level tank wastes will not officially become "binding" until completion of public comment, incorporation of necessary modifications based on comments received, and signature by each of our agency principals. However, in light of comment received to date, and extensive discussions with members of the Tank Waste Task Force, Ecology does not believe it would be appropriate to continue the expenditure of HWVP and Canister Storage Building (CSB) funds at current levels during this interim period. At the same time, HWVP and CSB projects must be maintained in a viable condition (though without significant expenditure of first quarter fiscal Year 1994 funds). I am consequently hereby requesting a reduction of effort in these two M-03-00 projects as follows:

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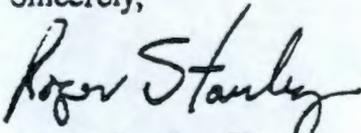
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- M-03-03: Ramp down of HWVP design media to a condition sufficient (only) to maintain the capability to reactivate, staff-up, and initiate construction rapidly (e.g., reduce staffing level of the Architect/Engineer (A/E) to approximately 50 personnel).
- M-03-04: Terminate all construction and procurement activities associated with the Canister Storage Building.

These requests are made recognizing that current TPA modification processes are in lieu of dispute resolution (see our AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE dated March 31, 1993), and consistent with Article VIII, paragraph 29(F)(Resolution of Disputes) of the TPA. They are intended to allow subject Fiscal Year 1994 funds to be applied to other agreed to TPA projects including transition activities consistent with new TWRS (draft) work schedules. It is important to note that ramp down actions must maintain the capabilities of USDOE's general construction contractor and the HWVP A/E such that, if a decision is made to proceed with HWVP and/or the CSB, personnel can be quickly mobilized, and construction can proceed. It is also my understanding that when new (revised) work schedules are approved, general construction and A/E contractor capabilities may be applied to the implementation of these new schedules.

If you have technical questions regarding the above, please call Mr. John Grantham, at (206) 407-7140.

Sincerely,



Roger Stanley, Director
Tri-Party Agreement Implementation
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program

RS:jr

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA-RL
Administrative Record

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Subject: RAMP DOWN OF HANFORD WASTE VITRIFICATION PLANT AND CANISTER STORAGE BUILDING PROJECTS

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