



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 10, 1991

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

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

This last year has been a difficult one for cleanup issues at the Hanford site. A year during which Department of Energy and Westinghouse staff came face to face with implementing Tri-Party Agreement milestones, while at the same time, they began to realize more fully the complexities of waste management and remedial action needs. In response to these difficulties, you proposed, and we are now in the process of finalizing, a series of revisions which in effect extend compliance schedules for nearly all major projects under the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order.

As you can imagine, these revisions come hard for all of us, including the public. Nonetheless, I believe that for the present we have chosen the right course: to maintain the integrity of the Agreement, to adjust schedules where technical issues warrant revision, and to address and allow time for initial management difficulties to be resolved.

However, I remain concerned that similar requests for relief must be avoided. In short, the way to efficient cleanup and to the confidence of the public and the Congress is through strict project management and compliance.

I am consequently forwarding you this letter as a request for an initial meeting of the senior executive committee and select staff in order to review progress and USDOE's abilities to implement a (revised) Tri-Party Agreement. I suggest that the following agenda items be addressed:

o Milestone Status and Work in Progress

Areas of particular interest to the State include:

- a) A tabulation of scheduled work and a description of activities in progress to ensure initiation of continuous construction of the Hanford Waste Vitrification Plant in April, 1992;
- b) A tabulation and status of actions in progress to assess and support a December, 1991 tank waste pretreatment determination (see my May 16, 1991 letter to you);



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- c) A description of actions taken by USDOE and/or its contractors to ensure timely acceleration of tank waste characterization consistent with revised Tri-Party Agreement milestones; and
 - d) A compliance status report and certification covering Tri-Party Agreement milestones as requested in Dana Rasmussen's and my letter to you dated April 8, 1991.
- o Budget Status
 - Including a fiscal year and milestone specific breakout of funding (needed, in hand, and/or requested) for TPA activities. Funding necessary for other Hanford site initiatives should also be identified e.g., tank safety, expedited response actions.
 - o Management System Revisions
 - Including a description of actions being taken in order to improve management capabilities, e.g.,:
 - a) Revisions to tracking, reporting, and accountability systems as referenced within Dana Rasmussen's and my letter to you dated April 8, 1991, and your letter to us of May 16, 1991. Please note that I have asked Roger Stanley to participate as my representative during USDOE revised management system developmental activities; and
 - b) A description of recent actions taken by USDOE in preparation for acquisition of a Hanford site environmental restoration management (ERMAC) contract.

I believe that an initial meeting of the senior executive committee is both necessary and timely. It would also give me the distinct pleasure of introducing to you Ecology's new Assistant Director for Waste Management, Narda Pierce. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris

Christine O. Gregoire
Director

cc: Leo Duffy
Dana Rasmussen
Narda Pierce
Roger Stanley

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Subject: Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Revisions

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