



## Department of Energy

9201740

Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

MAR 10 1992

Mr. David B. Jansen, P.E.  
Hanford Project Manager  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



Dear Mr. Jansen:

## REQUEST FOR SCHEDULE EXTENSION IN RESPONSE TO N SPRINGS INTERIM RESPONSE ACTION

- References:
1. WHC-SD-EN-EE-003, "Engineering Evaluation of Containment Alternatives for N-Springs Releases", Rev. 0, May 1991. ✓
  2. WHC-SD-ER-TA-001, "Numerical Simulation of the Strontium-90 Transport from the 100-N Area Liquid Waste Disposal Facility", Rev. 0, February 1991. 15034
  3. PNL-7646, "Evaluation of the Effects of the Columbia River on the Unconfined Aquifer Beneath the 100-N Area", May 1991. ✓
  4. Letter, S. H. Wisness, DOE-RL, to T. L. Nord, WDOE, "Expedited Response Action (ERA) at N-Springs," dated 12/02/91. 10252

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that a response to your February 10, 1992, letter concerning N Springs Remediation will be forthcoming by April 10, 1992, addressing the proposed time table for undertaking an Interim Response Measure (IRM) at N Springs in more detail.

Any response measures taken at N Springs should be consistent with and integrated with other regulatory milestones (e.g. TPA M-17-10, M-17-13, M-17-15-A,B,C,D; Liquid Effluent Consent Order, the 100-NR-1 and 100-NR-2 Operable Unit Work Plans) and the N Reactor Shutdown Program Plan.

N Reactor, unlike the other reactor sites at Hanford, is being transitioned into a stabilized state for an extended period of time leading to the eventual decontamination and decommissioning of the reactor. Responding to the radiological conditions existing at N Springs has been part of a continuing operations assessment program, pursuant to existing DOE Orders. The results of these assessments have been provided to you earlier. (References 1, 2, and 3)

David B. Jensen

-2-

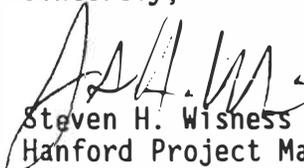
MAR 10 1992

A response action at N Springs should be integrated with the other regulatory driven milestones. This action can be in the form of a short term solution or long term fix, each with its own cost and benefits. This part of the decision making process is being addressed as part of the NEPA process in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA) (Reference 4). Circumventing the NEPA process and selecting one form of a response action over another at this time would be premature.

Based on the above information, DOE-RL cannot commit to the proposed interim response measure schedule for N Springs at this time. The background studies and the EA which is being prepared are considered to be a proactive means designed to yield a decision as to how to disposition N Springs until the operable unit is remediated.

Questions or comments regarding the correspondence may be directed to Mr. James E. Mecca, Director, Operations Division. He may be contacted on (509) 376-7471.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Wisness  
Hanford Project Manager

OPD:HRT

cc: P. T. Day, EPA  
T. B. Veneziano, WHC  
R. E. Lerch, WHC

## CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION COVERSHEET

Author	Addressee	Correspondence No.
S. H. Wisness, RL	D. B. Jansen, Ecology	Incoming 9201740

Subject: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULE EXTENSION IN RESPONSE TO N SPRINGS INTERIM  
RESPONSE ACTION

## INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

Approval	Date	Name	Location	w/att
		Correspondence Control	A3-01	
		M. R. Adams	H4-55	
		L. D. Arnold	B2-35	
		R. J. Bliss	B3-04	
		G. D. Carpenter	B2-16	
		H. L. Debban	X0-43	
		C. K. DiSibio	B3-03	
		W. L. Johnson	H4-55	
		A. D. Krug	H4-55	
		M. J. Lauterbach	H4-55	
		R. E. Lerch, Assignee	B2-35	
		P. J. Mackey	B3-15	
		H. E. McGuire, Level 1	B3-63	
		T. B. Veneziano	B2-35	
		D. J. Watson	X0-41	
		T. M. Wintczak	L4-92	
		R. D. Wojtasek	L4-92	
		EDMC	H4-22	

Xref: Incoming 9200566, 2/10/92, Goldstein to Goodenough 19200  
Reference Letter 4 is Incoming #9106054 18253

ldp, 6-7049