



**U.S. Department of Energy
Hanford Site**

21-PFD-000981

April 8, 2021

Mr. David Bowen, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, Washington 99354

Dear Mr. Bowen:

**TRENCH 31/34 WELL LOCATION WORK PLANNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH
IDENTIFIED LOCATIONS IN THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
LETTER 17-NWP-167**

This letter is in response to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) letter 17-NWP-167, "New, Downgradient Groundwater Monitoring Well Locations at Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31 and 34," dated November 15, 2017. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is proceeding with the work planning process for the placement of Trench 31/34 groundwater monitoring wells in accordance with risk-based priorities and available funding. The planning process will include a revised hazards analysis and update to the nuclear safety basis. If RL discovers an unacceptable risk that would pose a threat to the workers, environment, or facility, it will notify Ecology and provide a suggested alternate location for the wells.

RL has discussed this with Kelly Elsethagen of your staff.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Mark French, of my staff, on (509) 373-9863.

Sincerely,

**William F.
Hamel**

William F. Hamel, Assistant Manager
for the River and Plateau
Richland Operations Office

Digitally signed by William F.
Hamel
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cc: See page2

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