9400530

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7601 W. Clearwater, Suite 102 • Kennewick, Washington 99336 • (509) 546-2990

January 12, 1994

9400530

Mr. James D. Bauer
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Bauer:

Re: 242-A Evaporator Restart

Moses Jaraysi, Washington State Department of Ecology, (Ecology) has communicated to me that you require some clarification concerning Ecology's position toward both the start-up of the 242-A Evaporator and acceptance of data from previous sampling efforts. It is Ecology's position that the problem of data acceptability, which has yet to be resolved, is not an issue which would prevent the start-up of the 242-A Evaporator. Ecology is willing to accept the information with the understanding of its limitations and is willing to discuss, at some future date, the problems associated with radioactive samples fulfilling all requirements of SW-846.

This position was stated in a letter from Ecology's 242-A Unit Manager, Mr. Gary Anderson, on November 16, 1993:

> "If the comprehensive revision of the 242-A Evaporator sampling and analysis plan in order to meet the data quality objective program and the ALARA revisions to the EPA SW-846 procedures continues in good faith, **no objection will be raised to the scheduled restart.**"

The above statement is in agreement with a letter from Mr. Ronald E. Gerton of the U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE) on November 4, 1993, which states that USDOE and Ecology will:

> "Continue our discussion to an agreement on issues concerning SW-846 sampling and analysis methodology."

Therefore, the 242-A Evaporator can begin operation with the understanding that data validation issues need to be addressed at some point in the future. Ecology's willingness to accept past data does not imply acceptance of data from future sampling events without thoroughly investigating the problems faced, and determining that all reasonable attempts have been made to meet the SW-846 requirements.

If you have any questions, please call me at (509) 736-3018.

Sincerely,

Alex Stone, 242-A Evaporator Unit Manager
Nuclear & Mixed Waste Management Program

AS:sr

cc: Paul Carter, USDOE
Becky Austin, WHC
Joe Coenenberg, WHC
Bob Gustavson, WHC
Sue Price, WHC
Dan Duncan, EPA
Doug Sherwood, EPA
Administrative Record

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