



Department of Energy

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

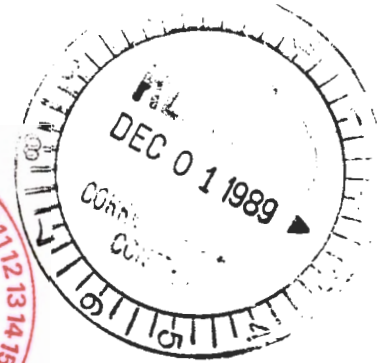
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89-RB-203

NOV 29 1989

Mr. Roger F. Stanley
Hanford Project Manager
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504-8711



Dear Mr. Stanley:

SINGLE-SHELL TANK CORE SAMPLING AGREEMENT MILESTONE M-10-03

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) of the potential delay in completing the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Agreement) milestone M-10-03. Milestone M-10-03 reads as follows: "Obtain 15 core samples from two tanks (reference sampling tanks); Date Due: December 1989." The potential delay arises primarily from causes or conditions beyond our control, specifically, unanticipated equipment failure and adverse weather conditions.

Single-shell tank (SST) core sampling was initiated on August 1, 1989. Based upon previous operational experience, the U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) anticipated and planned for the core sampling truck (CST) to be operated at 60 percent efficiency to achieve the schedule completion date of December 31, 1989. To date, the CST has operated at approximately 50 percent efficiency.

As of November 22, 1989, 10 of the 15 core samples had been taken. The attachment contains a summary of causes for delay. Equipment failure and adverse weather conditions represent 260 hours or 76 percent of the causes for delay.

The main cause for delay is equipment failure. Until the unanticipated equipment failure on September 21, 1989, (failure of the cable used in the sampler hoist), the core sampling effort averaged about 3 percent behind schedule. This single failure, which is unprecedented in the 4-year history of use of this CST, is the main cause for the delay. While spare parts are available for critical components of the CST, operating time is lost while repairs are being made. Preventive maintenance can only reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of such major equipment failures. For this reason supplemental funds were requested in May 1989, for the procurement of a second CST as part of the funds needed to support the Agreement. These funds were provided and the second CST is currently planned to be available by July 1991.

The second most common cause for delay is adverse weather conditions, specifically wind. Sampling operations must be stopped during periods of high winds due to the potential for radioactive contamination spread in the tank farms. The FY 1990 planning identified this as a problem, and funds were allocated for procurement of a portable wind screen. Under the normal procurement cycle, delivery of the wind screen is expected to be April 1990. Negotiations are in progress between WHC Procurement and the supplier for an expedited delivery date.

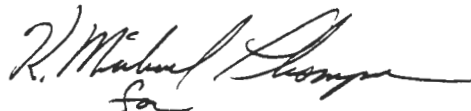
The DOE-RL is not asking for an extension of this milestone at this time. A recovery plan has been developed which, if successful, should result in meeting this milestone. The recovery plan includes maximum safe overtime (up to 4 double shifts per week), working non-holiday weekends (if the wind permits), special daily reports, and significantly increased management attention.

Be assured DOE-RL is using all the resources at its disposal to meet this milestone. If, however, any additional event(s) arising from causes beyond DOE-RL's control should occur, this milestone date will be missed. If this should occur, it is anticipated that no more than four additional weeks would be required to successfully complete this milestone. A four week impact to this milestone will not impact subsequent interim sampling milestones.

The above core sampling activity enhancement efforts, including implementation of the second CST and use of wind screens, should prevent similar schedule delays in the future, resulting in completion of future SST core sampling milestones on schedule.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. M. J. Anthony of my staff on 376-8375.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Freeberg
Hanford Project Manager

ERD:MJA

Attachment

cc w/att:
P. T. Day, EPA
R. E. Lerch, WHC

CAUSES FOR DELAYS

<u>HOURS</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>
188	Equipment Failure
72	Wind
40	Lack of Trained Operators
16	Safety Concerns
16	Unavailable Parts
4	Holding Time Delays
<u>4</u>	Training
340	Total Hours

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Author R. D. Freeberg, DOE-RL	Addressee R. F. Stanley	Correspondence No. Incoming 8905000
Subject SINGLE-SHELL TANK CORE SAMPLING MILESTONE M-10-03		

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		**The attachment to this letter is the same as the attachment to letter #8956824		

