7/88 LTR. TO M. LAWRE

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PDR

JUL 11 1988

Michael J. Lawrence, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

As you are aware, NRC and DOE staffs met on June 9, 1988 to discuss DOE's plans to dispose of double-shell tank wastes and NRC concerns with respect to the classification of waste in these tanks. I have enclosed the signed meeting minutes for your information.

As a result of this meeting, NRC gained a better understanding of the classification of wastes in the twenty-eight double-shell tanks. First, DOE and NRC staff agreed that the phosphate-sulfate waste (PSW), presently stored in two tanks at Hanford, is clearly low-level waste since it does not arise from reprocessing of spent fuel. Second, it was established that two double-shell tanks contain neutralized current acid waste (NCAW) from reprocessing, and these wastes are high-level waste. Third, it was agreed that additional meetings would be necessary to reach a consensus on the classification of wastes in the remaining twenty-four double-shell tanks.

I think it may be difficult to proceed without NRC and DOE agreement on the definition for high-level waste. As you know, the NRC position is that the definition in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix F is the applicable definition for determining whether or not a particular waste stream is high-level waste. I believe DOE and NRC consensus on this point is necessary to provide an adequate foundation for future discussion on this matter. Recently, I akso had the opportunity to discuss my concerns with Tom Hindman, Director of DOE's Defense Programs.

I have instructed my staff to arrange for a second meeting with your staff and DOE Headquarters staff in order to resolve the outstanding issues relating to the disposal of radioactive wastes at Hanford. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

OFC	:HLW*	:HLW*	:TEDITOR*
NAME	:JWolf	:RBrowning	:EKraus

cc: T. Hindman, DOE

DATE : / /88 : / /88 : / /88 *SEE PREVIOUS

101
WM-10
NH01

OFC	:LLRB*	:LLRB*	:LLRB*	:LLWM*	:LLWM*	:NMSS*	:NMSS
NAME	:CGlenn/ec	:RBoyle	:MBell	:JGreeves	:MKnapp	:RBernero	:HThompson
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PDR WASTE
WM-10 PDC

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cc: T. Hindman
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As stated

OFC	:HLW*	:HLW*	:TEDITOR*
NAME	:JWolf	:RBrowning	:EKraus
DATE	: / /88	: / /88	:7/11/88

*SEE PREVIOUS

OFC	:LLRB*	:LLRB*	:LLRB*	:LLWM*	:LLWM*	:NMSS*	:NMSS
NAME	:CGlenn/ec	:RBoyle	:MBell	:JGreeves	:MKnapp	:RBernero	:HThompson
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Enclosure:
As stated

OFC	:HLW *	:HLW RS	:TEDITOR *
NAME	:JWolf	:RBrowning	:EKraus
DATE	: / /88	: 6/29/88	: / /88

*SEE PREVIOUS

OFC	:LLRB*	:LLRB*	:LLRB*	:LLWM*	:LLWM MK	:NMSS	:NMSS
NAME	:CGlenn/ec	:RBoyle	:MBell	:JGreeves	:MKnapp	:RBernero	:HThompson
DATE	: / /88	: / /88	: / /88	: / /88	: 7/1 /88	: 7/6 /88	: / /88

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DATE	:6/29/88	: / /88	:6/29/88

OFC	:LLRB	:LLRB	:LLRB	:LLWM	:LLWM	:NMSS	:NMSS
NAME	:CGlenn/ec	:RBoyle	:MBell	:JGreeves	:MKnapp	:RBernero	:HThompson
DATE	:6/28/88	:6/28/88	:6/28/88	:6/28/88	: / /88	: / /88	: / /88 :