

April 28, 1992

Project M-32

Mr. Thomas Rowland, Director  
West Valley Project Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Idaho Operations  
P. O. Box 191  
West Valley, New York 14171

Dear Mr. Rowland:

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL SPLIT SAMPLES FROM THE INTEGRATED RADWASTE TREATMENT SYSTEM SUBSEQUENT TO STARTUP

During the closeout of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's visit of April 2-4, 1991, the NRC requested that the Department of Energy (DOE) provide split samples of an upcoming evaporator acid flush and of operational samples taken from the Integrated Radwaste Treatment System (IRTS) subsequent to startup. We received and analyzed the evaporator acid flush samples and closed out the evaporator issue on February 13, 1992.

During the closing, the NRC and DOE agreed that the location and frequency of split samples subsequent to IRTS startup would be determined at a later date. Because IRTS will start slowly using an interim-certified cement recipe, we request that a decision on this issue be further delayed until the IRTS is in full operation using a cement recipe that will include the bulk of the remaining sludge wash liquid. Once equilibrium using the fully-certified cement recipe is achieved, we will select locations and frequencies of any required split samples. We feel that this delay will allow for a more meaningful analysis of the split samples.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to call me at (301) 540-2667.

Sincerely,

/s/

Gary C. Comfort, Jr.  
West Valley Project Manager  
Advanced Fuel and Special  
Facilities Section  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

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[WV ISOTOPIIC ANALYSIS DELAY]

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