



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 7, 2013

13-NWP-045

Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Advice #263 "Double-Shell Tank Integrity"

Dear Mr. Hudson:

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) advice on the integrity of Hanford's double-shell tanks (DSTs). The Department of Ecology (Ecology) shares the Board's concern regarding the discovery of a leak in DST AY-102.

While the majority of your advice is directed to the United States Department of Energy (DOE), we would like to highlight the state's position and some of our key focus areas as we continue to work with DOE to address this issue.

As Governor Inslee stated earlier this year, the state believes additional DST space will be required to support continued retrievals from the single-shell tanks, for preparations for feeding the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP), and for emergency retrieval space.

Ecology agrees that AY-102 is no longer an option for feeding WTP. We understand that DOE will be reviewing new options as part of the next System Plan, if not sooner. We look forward to understanding those options.

Ecology also identified the need to revise the *Double-Shell Tank Emergency Pumping Guide* (HNF-3484). As we worked with DOE on options for addressing AY-102, it became clear that this guide needs to be improved. We will be working with DOE in the near future to address some gaps in the current document, which will become part of the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit, Rev 9.

Ecology was encouraged that DOE's inspections of six other DSTs indicate that these tanks remain compliant with state regulations. We will continue to work with DOE and their contractor to monitor the integrity of the other DSTs.

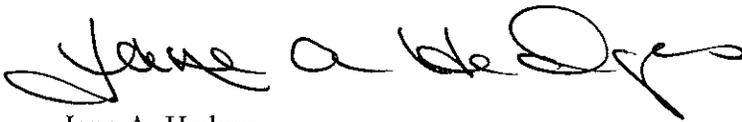
Mr. Steve Hudson
May 7, 2013
Page 2

13-NWP-045

Ecology appreciates the Board's input and thoughtful deliberations on this issue. We look forward to continuing discussions with you as we work to address concerns and identify the best path forward for this tank.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Whalen at (509) 372-7972 or cheryl.whalen@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: Matt McCormick, USDOE-RL
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Mr. Steve Hudson
May 7, 2013

13-NWP-045

bcc electronic:

Dieter Bohrmann, Ecology
Jeff Lyon, Ecology
John Price, Ecology

bcc: NWP Central Files
NWP Reader Files