



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 25, 2014

Ron Skinnarland
Waste Management Section
Nuclear Waste Program
Washington Department of Ecology

Re: Second Tier Petition by the U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Mr. Skinnarland:

The Washington State Department of Ecology's Air Quality Program (Ecology) has completed our review of health risks associated with dimethyl mercury (DMM) emissions from proposed operation of up to two platform-mounted core sampling systems in high purge gas flow mode as necessary to obtain samples from waste storage tanks at the Hanford Site in Benton County, Washington.

Ecology's review indicates that exposures resulting from the project's emissions will be miniscule, and that the possibility of any adverse effect as a consequence of this exposure is extremely low. Ecology may permit such trivial emissions under Second Tier toxics review.

The project's emissions will add to existing DMM in the environment. The resultant increase in exposure is not likely to appreciably add to health risk in the vicinity of the Hanford site.

Based on the review of the Second Tier petition for the project submitted to Ecology by U.S. Department of Energy and tank operations contract manager Washington River Protection Solutions, LLC, Ecology recommends approval of the proposed project because project-related health risks are permissible under WAC 173-460-090, and the project has satisfied all requirements of a second tier analysis.

The Ecology Nuclear Waste Program can incorporate our findings as part of the ambient air impacts analysis and begin the public comment period when appropriate.

If you would like to discuss this project further, please contact or Matt Kadlec at (360) 407-6817 or matthew.kadlec@ecy.wa.gov.

Mr. Ron Skinnarland

November 25, 2014

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "N".

Jeff Johnston, Ph.D.
Science and Engineering Section Manager
Air Quality Program

jj/te

Enclosure

cc: Dennis Bowser, ORP USDOE
Phil Gent, Ecology
Matt Kadlec, Ecology
Brian Rumburg, Washington River Protection Solutions