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P. Knight, Hanford Watch

Correspondence No.

CH2M-0204486 R1

Date: November 26, 2002

Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT TO CLOSE TANKS BY 2006

DISTRIBUTION

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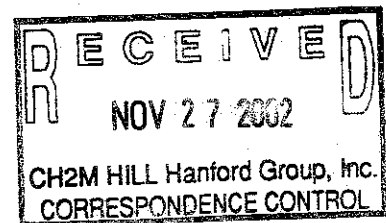
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CH2M HILL
Hanford Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 1500
Richland, WA 99352

November 26, 2002

CH2M-0204486 R1

Ms. Paige Knight, President
Hanford Watch
2285 S.E. Cypress
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Ms. Knight:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT TO CLOSE TANKS BY 2006

Thank you for your letter dated October 21, 2002, addressing new initiatives to accelerate Hanford tank cleanup.

The announcement of these initiatives on October 8, 2002, at the Hanford Advisory Board meeting and to the media were not intended to be a surprise, but rather the continuation of an active and productive discussion between the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP), CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. (CH2M HILL), the regulatory agencies, and Hanford stakeholders on how to proceed with accelerated tank cleanup.

These new initiatives are aggressive. They are aimed at reducing the risks to Hanford employees, the public, and the environment much sooner than previous plans. We recognize that we must begin retrieving waste and planning for tank closure now in order to meet the Tri-Party Agreement commitment of retrieving waste from all 149 of the single-shell tanks by 2018 and closing all of those tanks by 2024.

I agree that the quality of cleanup must remain high and protective of human health and the environment. I agree the cleanup must be compliant with regulatory commitments, including the Tri-Party Agreement, National Environmental Policy Act, and State Environmental Policy Act. CH2M HILL is accountable for safety and environmental protection.

We are working closely with ORP and the State of Washington Department of Ecology to plan the best way to accelerate tank cleanup and interim close the first Hanford tank. Together, we—ORP, CH2M HILL, and the regulatory agencies—will establish a technical basis and regulatory pathway for accomplishing these goals.

Throughout our dialogue on tank cleanup, CH2M HILL will continue to uphold its values of communicating openly, remaining committed to health, safety, and environmental protection, and demonstrating good stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Ms. Paige Knight
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I thank you and Hanford Watch for supporting the goal of accelerated risk reduction, and I look forward to working with you as we move forward in accomplishing Hanford tank cleanup and closure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. S. Aromi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

E. S. Aromi, President
and General Manager
CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc.

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