



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 4, 2018

Mr. John R. Tappert
Director, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium
Recovery and Waste Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Tappert:

Under the Department of Energy (DOE) Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management, and DOE Manual 435.1-1, Radioactive Waste Management Manual, DOE may determine that certain radioactive waste resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel is not high-level radioactive waste, based on an evaluation showing that the criteria in DOE Manual 435.1-1 are met. The enclosed *Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Evaluation for Closure of the Waste Management Area C at the Hanford Site* (Draft WIR Evaluation) demonstrates that those criteria are satisfied. The Draft WIR Evaluation is being provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review and consultation. Please conduct your consultative review in accordance with the Interagency Agreement between DOE and NRC. The Office of River Protection will post electronic copies of the Draft WIR Evaluation and all supporting reference documents for members of your staff to access.

The Department looks forward to participating in an open public review process and receiving your agency's perspective on the technical basis for DOE's Draft WIR Evaluation. DOE is also making the Draft WIR Evaluation available for review and comment by States, Tribal Nations and the public. This Draft WIR Evaluation will be finalized after consultation with NRC, carefully considering comments received, and performing any necessary revisions of analyses and technical documents. The final WIR Evaluation may support a determination in the future by DOE that the tanks, ancillary structures and their residuals at closure of Waste Management Area C are not high-level radioactive waste, and may be managed as low-level radioactive waste.



If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Sherri Ross, Office of Regulatory Compliance, at (301) 903-2192. Members of your staff may also contact Mr. Jan Bovier, Office of River Protection, at (509) 376-9630.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gilbertson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Gilbertson
Associate Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs

Enclosure

cc: Maria Arribas-Colon, NRC
Marie Stelone, NRC
Christopher McKenney, NRC
Maurice Heath, NRC
Lloyd Desotell, NRC
Kathleen Martin, GC
Brian Vance, ORP
Glyn Trenchard, ORP
Ben Harp, ORP
Jan Bovier, ORP
Gary Pyles, ORP
Chris Kemp, ORP
Dae Chung, EM-3 (Acting)
Ken Picha, EM-3
Linda Suttora, EM-3
Mark Senderling, EM-4.2
Doug Tonkay, EM-4.22
Betsy Connell, EM-4.3
Rob Seifert, EM-4.31
Sherri Ross, EM-4.31