

101.4

108/JWB/85/09/10

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SEP 16 1985

Mr. Russell Jim, Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
Confederated Tribes and Bands
Yakima Indian Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

Dear Mr. Jim:

Thank you for forwarding comments of your contractors regarding the NRC solubility technical position.

Your contractors correctly state that it is difficult to determine pH accurately in buffered hydrothermal solutions. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff did not wish to suggest that the true pH could be determined from these experiments, only that the buffers could control solution pH and, thus, permit reasonably precise estimates of the solution pH. The staff is continuing to support efforts to reduce the uncertainties in pH determinations since radionuclide solubilities can be highly dependent on pH.

Again, we appreciate your comments and look forward to your continued interest in and support of NRC technical efforts.

Sincerely,

Malcolm R. Knapp, Chief
Geotechnical Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

WM Re File

101.4

WM Project 10

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