



Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the
U.S. Department of Energy

September 29, 2000

Mr. Keith A. Klein
Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, K8-50
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Klein:

APPLICATION FOR DOE VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Pacific Northwest) continually strives for scientific and operational excellence. As a result, Pacific Northwest has achieved outstanding performance as demonstrated by our self-assessment results, recent U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) performance evaluations, and independent verification of our Integrated Safety Management Program.

DOE has established the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) to recognize excellent worker safety and health programs. PNNL is seeking the highest recognition for an operating site under the DOE-VPP: "Star" status. Pacific Northwest has evaluated its worker safety and health programs with respect to DOE-VPP criteria, and we believe Pacific Northwest qualifies for recognition as a DOE-VPP "Star" site.

The benefits that Pacific Northwest expects from participation in DOE-VPP include

- continuous improvement of worker safety and health programs
- enhanced worker involvement leading to greater worker ownership in the safety and health program
- improved worker motivation to work safely, leading to better quality of work and productivity
- worker trust in management and cooperation with continuous improvement of the worker safety and health program
- improved labor/management relations
- lower accident rates, leading to reduced worker compensation and other costs related to occupational injuries and illnesses

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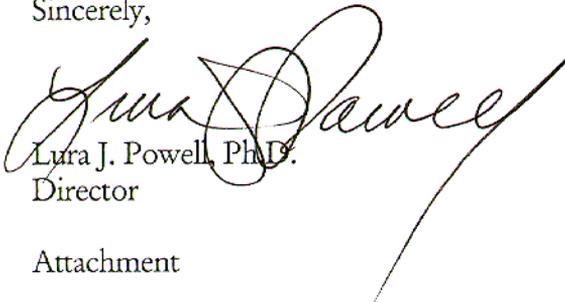
- increased partnering with DOE, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration related to worker safety and health issues
- positive national and community recognition and interactions.

Pacific Northwest has taken an innovative approach to demonstrate how we meet DOE-VPP criteria by developing a web-based, hypertext linked DOE-VPP application. A "hard copy" summary of the application is attached, and approved individuals may review the full application (including backup materials and examples) by accessing the Pacific Northwest DOE-VPP Website at http://www.wi/vpp_app/index.htm. We have already granted website access to key DOE staff to support your review of our application. To obtain approval for others to access the website or for help using it, please contact Mr. Patrick Wright at (509) 372-6201.

Please accept Pacific Northwest's DOE-VPP application and transmit it to the appropriate authorities within DOE for review and approval. We are proud of our worker safety and health program and we look forward to DOE's review and approval of our application for "Star" status under the DOE-VPP.

If you have questions or comments about our application, please contact Mr. Roby Enge at (509) 376-1187.

Sincerely,



Lura J. Powell, Ph.D.
Director

Attachment

RDE:PWV;jlw