

5) Arjun Makhijani, Michele Boyd, and Brice Smith of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research have devoted a great deal of time and energy examining the DOE HLW tank closure plans and writing articles pertaining to these plans. On October 20, 2005 when asked once again for his opinion on the DOE plan to close tanks 18 and 19, Arjun Makhijani responded via e-mail "Joe IEER is on record as opposing DOE closure plans for tanks. These tanks should not be grouted. Arjun"

In conclusion, the Department of Energy should postpone the closure of tanks 18 and 19 until better techniques for the removal of the remaining high level waste can be developed and implemented.

Sincerely,

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