



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office, 3190 • 160th Ave S.E. • Bellevue, Washington 98008-3452 • (206) 649-7000

February 5, 2002

Mr. Michael Feldman
Director, Aviation Facilities & Environmental Programs
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
P.O. Box 68727
Seattle, WA 98168

Dear Mr. Feldman:

**Re: Request for Administrative Order for Lagoon #3 Bypass,
Seattle-International Airport (NPDES Permit WA-002465-1)**

We have received and reviewed the above referred document. We appreciate the efforts by the Port of Seattle (the Port) for expansion and improvement of the Lagoon #3, which is an essential component of the Port's total environmental compliance. We understand the Port's request for the Administrative Order, which is based on the NPDES permit section S5.B (2), the anticipated Bypass.

Considering the potential impacts of this discharge to the receiving environment, it appears that environmental degradation is inevitable. Additionally, the Port apparently has not presented the cost-effectiveness alternatives and comparative resource damage assessments as sought by the NPDES permit, section S5.B (2). We believe the Port must utilize all available construction and non-construction options to prevent the overflow from this site to ensure total environmental compliance. However, in case of any overflow event, the Department of Ecology (the Department) will exercise its prosecutorial discretion prior to making any enforcement decisions. In this process, the Department will review the existing water quality and the receiving water quality data and will consider the Port's good faith efforts for minimizing the extent of the overflow and any potential damages as a result of it. It is, however, the Port's responsibility to properly and adequately collect samples of the overflow events and of the receiving water together with other relevant information to ensure compliance and that the overflow has not caused any water quality criteria exceedences.

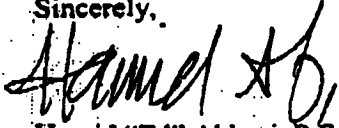
Therefore, considering these facts, the Department is unable to grant the Port with the request for the Administrative Order to bypass the industrial waste treatment system.

AR 027881

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Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. Please let me know if you have any questions about content of this letter. I can be reached at (425) 649-7227.

Sincerely,



Hamid "Ed" Abbasi, P.E.
Environmental Engineer

HEA:ct

cc: Kevin Fitzpatrick, NWRO, Water Quality Section Manager
John Drabek, NWRO, Water Quality Industrial Unit Supervisor
Ed Abbasi, Reading File
Central File, NPDES WA-002465-1, WQ Schema # (4.1)