

Department of Energy Public Comment Period B-Plant Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis (B-Plant EE/CA)

COMMENT DEADLINE: October 14, 2020

Comment Period Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is gathering your comments on its evaluation of three options to reduce the cost of maintenance on B-Plant, until a Record of Decision is made for final cleanup in 2032.

B-Plant is where irradiated fuel rods were dissolved in toxic chemicals to remove plutonium. High-level radioactive tank waste was also treated here to remove strontium and cesium. The removed strontium and cesium is now in capsules stored underwater at the [Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility](#), which is next to B-Plant.

Of most concern to Hanford Challenge is the plan to grout the HEPA filter vaults that are part of the 291-B Ventilation system which contain an estimated 227,000 curies of radioactive Strontium-90 and Cesium-137.

Email Comments by midnight PST October 14, 2020 to: BPlantEECA@rl.gov

Sample Comments Prepared by Hanford Challenge

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the B-Plant EE/CA. I am writing because I care about protecting future generations and the environment from Hanford's contamination. I care about worker, public, and environmental safety.

Thank you for considering my comments:

- **Don't grout the sites and walk away.** I want to ensure that the highly contaminated HEPA filters at B-Plant are characterized and removed, treated, and disposed.
- **Gather more information through a Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** which would include more analysis and deliberation.
- **Look at other options to stabilize these specific sites** before filling them with grout, especially options that would make removal of the contamination easier and safer.

Additional Resources

- [Hanford Challenge comments on the B-Plant EE/CA](#)
- [Oregon Department of Energy comments on the B-Plant EE/CA](#)
- [Department of Energy B-Plant EE/CA Fact Sheet](#)
- [B-Plant Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis](#)