



U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

May 20, 2021

Mr. Tom Carpenter
Executive Director
Hanford Challenge
2719 E. Madison Street, Suite 304
Seattle, Washington 98118

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Thank you for your February 26, 2021, letter to Secretary Granholm regarding the Department of Energy's high-level radioactive waste (HLW) interpretation. I know we share a strong commitment for the safe, effective, and cost-efficient cleanup of the Hanford Site.

The Secretary is committed to implementing the Department's environmental cleanup programs in a manner that is consistent with the law and that makes evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data. The Department will review the HLW interpretation, in light of this commitment. This review will carefully consider your views, as well as those of other stakeholders and the scientific community.

The Department reaffirms its long-standing practice to consult with state and local government officials, Tribal Nations, regulators, and other stakeholders on matters relating to its environmental cleanup programs. In addition, the Department recognizes that the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 prohibits it from implementing the HLW interpretation in the state of Washington during this fiscal year. Therefore, the Department has no plans to implement the HLW interpretation at Hanford at this time.

The Department looks forward to continued engagement with you on this important topic. If you have any questions, please contact me, or you may contact Mr. Robert Cowin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Engagement, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, on (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Vance
Manager