

# Hanford Cleanup U.S. DOE 5-Year Plan

*U.S. Department of Energy 5-Year Plan Comment Period*

**COMMENT DEADLINE: Monday, November 22, 2021**

**Send Comments by November 22, 2021 to: [5YearPlan@rl.gov](mailto:5YearPlan@rl.gov)**

**CC Hanford Regulators:**

- **WA State Dept. of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program:** [David.Bowen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:David.Bowen@ecy.wa.gov) and [John.Price@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:John.Price@ecy.wa.gov)
- **Environmental Protection Agency:** Dave Einan: [Einan.David@epa.gov](mailto:Einan.David@epa.gov)

## **Sample Public Comments Prepared by Hanford Challenge**

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 5-Year Plan for Hanford cleanup. I am writing because I care about efforts to protect human and environmental health. In addition to supporting specific cleanup activities, I'm also advocating for well-managed cleanup funding that allows cleanup work to proceed on schedule. Thank you for considering my comments:

### **PRIORITIZE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS:**

- **TANK WASTE VITRIFICATION:** Make glass safely. Prioritize work on Direct Feed Low Activity Waste to immobilize tank waste in glass.
- **324 BUILDING CLEANUP:** Accelerate cleanup of B-cell contamination and make sure waste is characterized appropriately to keep long-lived radionuclides out of Hanford's onsite landfill, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.
- **WESF CAPSULES TO DRY STORAGE SOONER:** Prioritize activities that safely get the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF) strontium and cesium capsules to dry storage. Ensure testing is performed to analyze the degradation of concrete storage pools following removal of capsules to allow this data to increase safety everywhere that concrete and radiation are interacting.
- **HANFORD WASTE TREATED ONSITE:** Restore onsite capacity for treating Hanford waste that is currently sent to Perma-Fix Northwest.
- **PRIORITIZE WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY:** Ensure that workers are provided supplied air respiratory protection while working in the tank farms to protect workers from both immediate and chronic health effects and illnesses.
- **DELAY TANK CLOSURE:** Don't spend resources on closure of Hanford tank farms.
- **REQUEST A COMPLIANT CLEANUP BUDGET:** Don't make cuts before they are made for you. Make the case to Congress that more money is needed to avoid delaying critical cleanup projects. Spend more now, to spend less later.

- **INCREASE TRANSPARENCY:** Increase the level of detail provided in public involvement materials related to the 5-Year Plan and future vision documents. Be completely transparent and forthright with the public about the cleanup work outlined in the 5-Year Plan. Use plain language wherever possible to explain cleanup work.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]