

Hanford Cleanup Budget Priorities

U.S. Department of Energy Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Submittal Comment Period

COMMENT DEADLINE: Friday, April 15, 2022

Send Comments by April 15, 2022 to: CleanupPriorities@rl.gov

CC Hanford Regulators:

- **WA State Dept. of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program:** David.Bowen@ecy.wa.gov and John.Price@ecy.wa.gov
- **Environmental Protection Agency:** Dave Einan: 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 fiscal year 2024 Hanford field office budget submittal. I am writing because I care about efforts to protect human and environmental health. As a taxpayer, I support fully-funding Hanford cleanup. Thank you for considering my comments:

REQUEST A COMPLIANT CLEANUP BUDGET: Don't make cuts before they are made for you. Ask for the amount of money needed to fully fund cleanup. Requesting insufficient funding delays cleanup. Make the case for a fully funded cleanup that meets legally mandated deadlines and ensures human and environmental protection. Request funding levels based on projections in the 2022 Lifecycle Scope, Schedule and Cost Report and use the report as leverage to advocate for the funding needed to stay on track. Prioritize funding for:

- **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:** Safely get the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF) strontium and cesium capsules to dry storage. Ensure funding for testing 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.
- **Worker Health and Safety:** Ensure worker training and personal protective gear, including supplied air for protection of toxic chemical vapors in Hanford's tank farms.
- **New Tanks:** Start the process for building new tanks and increase readiness and quick-to-implement infrastructure for emergency pumping of leaking tanks.

P.O. Box 28989, Seattle, WA 98118 • info@hanfordchallenge.org • 206-292-2850
www.hanfordchallenge.org

- **Leak Response Plan:** Develop a comprehensive long-term plan to address Single-Shell Tank leak detection, characterization, mitigation, cleanup, and communication.

DELAY TANK CLOSURE: Don't spend resources on closure of Hanford tank farms.

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY: Open the field office budget submittal process and share field office budget planning details. These numbers provide the context needed to write meaningful comments.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]