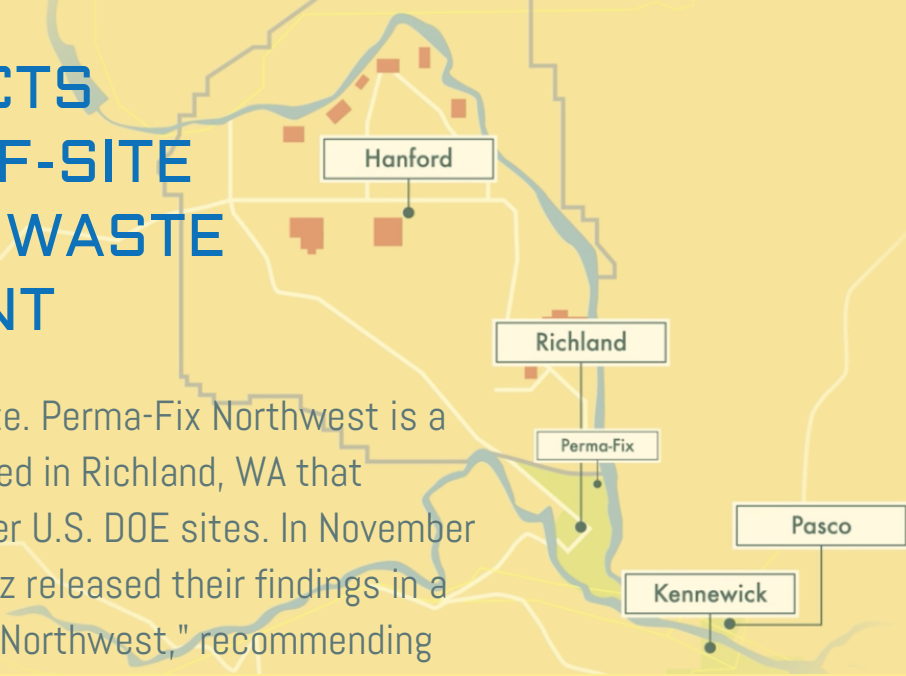


10

QUICK FACTS ABOUT OFF-SITE HANFORD WASTE TREATMENT



Not all of Hanford's waste is treated on-site. Perma-Fix Northwest is a commercial waste treatment facility located in Richland, WA that mostly treats waste from Hanford and other U.S. DOE sites. In November 2020, Hanford Challenge and Robert Alvarez released their findings in a report titled "Risky Business at Perma-Fix Northwest," recommending that it would be safer to treat Hanford's waste at the Hanford Site instead of sending it to Perma-Fix Northwest for treatment. Read on to learn the troubling facts about off-site Hanford waste treatment.

1.



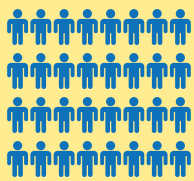
Perma-Fix NW has a checkered and worrisome history of environmental non-compliance, including making the EPA's "Significant Non-Complier" list in 2019.

2.



Perma-Fix NW had **two fires** in 2019, both unreported in the press. One was deemed "a near catastrophe" by a state inspector, as fire alarms were inoperable at the time.

3.



Over **32,000 people** live within 5 miles of Perma-Fix NW and a daycare center is less than a mile away.

4.



Most of the waste Perma-Fix NW treats comes from **Hanford and other U.S. DOE sites**.

5.



Between 2011 and 2019, Perma-Fix Northwest processed at least 11,000 grams of **plutonium-239**, more than enough for two nuclear weapons. Plutonium is deadly in microscopic quantities.

6.



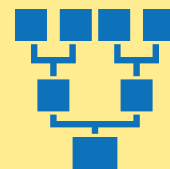
Past **serious worker over-exposures** to radiation could have been prevented with better training, safety systems, and protective equipment.

7.



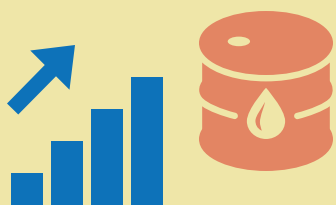
The annual occupational exposure limit of 50 rem/year was **grossly exceeded in two accidents**. In 2006, three workers exceeded this exposure limit with doses of 442 Rem, 313 Rem, and 68 Rem. In 2009, a worker received a dose of 120 Rem.

8.



Perma-Fix NW is regulated by WA State Dept. of Ecology, WA State Dept. of Health, and U.S. DOE. These agencies work independently, which has led to **problems slipping through the cracks**. A more unified approach to regulating Perma-Fix NW could ensure better oversight.

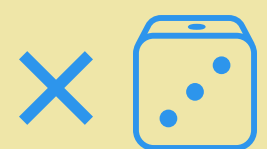
9.



There is a proposal to send **500,000 gallons** of treated **Hanford tank waste** for grouting at Perma-Fix NW and also send waste from around the country (over 2 million cubic feet) to Perma-Fix NW over the next 30 years.

10.

Pu-239



In 2021, Perma-Fix NW informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that it wants an exemption to its special nuclear materials license that would triple the amount of plutonium it could process on-site.

Hanford waste should be treated on the Hanford Site, not off-site at Perma-Fix NW. This would lower the risk to the community; eliminate transportation risks; and increase transparency, accountability, and safety.