

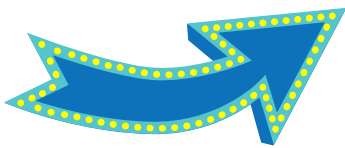


# Hanford Cleanup Budget

U.S. Dept. of Energy Fiscal Year 2022  
Budget Request Comment Period

*COMMENT DEADLINE: WED JULY 15, 2020*

## WHAT?



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is gathering your comments on its Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request. DOE is required to submit a compliant budget that keeps cleanup on track, but the budget changes as it goes up the chain of command to the President. Your comments can help put a spotlight on why it is important that the cleanup is fully funded.

## BACKGROUND

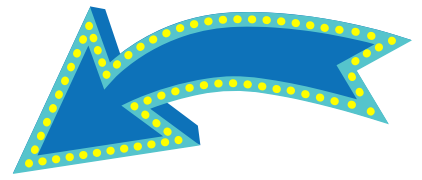
The Hanford Site budget process is complicated. There are always three years of budget in play at one time. The current year, the following year, and the year after that. So this year, 2020, the Hanford site local managers for the U.S. Department of Energy, that run the Richland Operations and Office of River Protection cleanup are working on their budget requests for Fiscal Year 2022. Hanford's fiscal year goes from Oct. 1st to Sept. 30th.

Certain parts of the budget process are hidden from public view. Since 2013 more and more of the budget numbers have been embargoed so that you can't see them. This makes it really hard to provide meaningful comments on what the U.S. DOE local field office is planning to request. The lack of information also means you can't see how the field offices are prioritizing cleanup to know what would "fall off the cleanup plate" if the cleanup was not fully funded.

*Read on to see Hanford Challenge's concerns and sample comments.*



# HANFORD CHALLENGE CONCERNS



In the past, the public, stakeholders, and regulators had a collaborative relationship with the U.S. Dept. of Energy field offices when it came time for budget submittals. It was well-known that for federal employees "the President's budget is our budget" even if they didn't like cuts that were made from their original submittal.

The WA State Dept. of Ecology, EPA, and public were seen as allies in the work of advocating for a fully-funded cleanup that protected human and environmental health. **THIS COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT IS GONE.** U.S. Dept of Energy conversations about the budget have turned defensive and closed with no effort to share preliminary budget submittal numbers - all under the excuse that this information is embargoed until the President releases his budget request to Congress.

While we are disheartened with this lack of transparency, administrations and management change. Future leadership could turn us back to an era of collaboration to ensure that the case is made, loud and clear, from all fronts, that the cleanup must be fully funded in order to succeed. Until then, we will work towards this future.

## SAMPLE COMMENTS

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY: Open the field office budget submittal process at Hanford to allow us to see field office budget planning details. These numbers provide the context needed to write meaningful comments.

REQUEST A COMPLIANT CLEANUP BUDGET: Don't make cuts before they are made for you. Make the case for a fully-funded cleanup that meets legally mandated deadlines and ensures human and environmental protection.

DELAY TANK CLOSURE: Don't close any tank farms until a safe and effective treatment is available to immobilize tank waste in glass.

**Email comments to the U.S. Department of Energy Field Offices at**

*BudgetPriorities@rl.gov*

This Say What? Guide is funded through a Public Participation Grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. The content was reviewed for grant consistency, but is not necessarily endorsed by the agency.

# REFERENCE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION



## Hanford Cleanup Budget

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### Department of Energy Documents

- [Presentation about the Hanford Budget](#) from the June 17th Virtual Public Meeting
- [U.S. Dept. of Energy Webpage](#) for this comment period

### Public Interest and Stakeholder Resources

- [Hanford Challenge Sample Comments](#)
- [Hanford Challenge Public Comments](#)
- [Oregon Department of Energy Budget Comments](#)
- [Hanford Advisory Board Budget Priority Advice #304 Feb 6, 2020](#)
- [Hanford Advisory Board Public Involvement in Budget Development Advice #302 Sept. 2019](#)

CC the regulators, Ecology and EPA when you email your comments:  
[See Sample Comments for CC list](#)

Contact U.S. DOE at  
yvonne.levardi@rl.doe.gov

Contact Ecology  
Hanford@ecy.gov

Contact Hanford Challenge  
lizm@hanfordchallenge.org

Do you have questions?

More info