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March 4, 2010
For Immediate Release

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**PUBLIC HEARING ON MAKING HANFORD THE NATIONAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DUMP
AND NATIONAL SACRIFICE ZONE**

Seattle, WA: Public interest organizations are urging the public to attend an upcoming Seattle public hearing on Monday, March 8th to comment on government plans they say will result in inadequate cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Site, and pave the way for tens of thousands of truckloads of offsite nuclear garbage to end up at Hanford.

In November, 2009 the US Department of Energy released the 6,000 page *Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement* outlining various options for cleaning up the tank farms, building landfills for waste, and decommissioning the Fast Flux Test Facility. Public comment is open until March 19, 2010.

All scenarios in the cleanup plan will turn Hanford into a National radioactive waste dump. "It is unconscionable that the government would consider adding to the mess at Hanford, already acknowledged to be the nation's worst contaminated facility in the nation," said Tom Carpenter, Executive Director of Hanford Challenge.

The cleanup plan will also determine if and to what extent dangerous and radioactive waste in the soil will be removed and treated before it migrates through the environment and into the Columbia River.

"Taxpayers spent \$5.5 trillion to create the nuclear arsenal, of which Hanford was a key component. The government has moral and legal responsibilities to conduct as thorough and protective a cleanup as possible to protect current and future generations from Hanford's legacy," said Carpenter.

Public feedback at the hearing on March 8th is critical to ensure a cleanup that is protective of human health and safety and the environment.

Hanford Challenge and Heart of America Northwest are holding a workshop at 10:30 to noon on March 6th at the Hugo House, 1634 11th Avenue, Seattle, to prepare the public for this critical hearing and public comment period.

The Public Hearing will be held at the Seattle Center Northwest Rooms in the Lopez Room on March 8th, in the evening. There will be a workshop starting at 6pm, with the hearing itself beginning at 7 pm.

More information is available at Hanford Challenge's website, hanfordchallenge.org.

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