

Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) Evaluation for Closure of Waste Management Area C (WMA C)

Comment Period: June 04, 2018- Nov 07, 2018

Hanford Challenge Sample Comments

There are a variety of ways you can make a comment. When writing in your own voice, include a note about the city you live in and why Hanford cleanup matters to you. The Department of Energy is receiving these comments and is required to respond to your comments in a response to public comments document as part of its decision-making process.

Elected Officials

Sharing your comments and views on Hanford's comment periods with your elected officials can help to amplify your voice and inform your elected officials of their constituents' views.

We recommend that you forward or CC your email comments, copy and send your mailed comments or call to share your position on the Draft WIR Evaluation with the following Washington State elected officials.

Governor Jay Inslee:

- Email: Use the contact form on Governor Inslee's website www.governor.wa.gov/contact
- Mail: Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002
- Phone: (360)-902-4111

Senator Maria Cantwell:

- Email: maria@cantwell.senate.gov
- Mail: Senator Maria Cantwell, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Phone: (202)-224-3441

Senator Patty Murray:

- Email: patty@murray.senate.gov
- Mail: 154 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Phone: (202)-224-2621

Phone Script: My name is [name] and I live in [city]. I am calling to share my position on the Department of Energy proposal to reclassify Hanford's high-level radioactive waste as low-level waste through the Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Evaluation for Waste Management Area C. I am against this proposal and urge the [elected official] to take action to prevent the Department of Energy from reclassifying this waste. [reason you care].

General Written Comment Writing Template

Mr. Jan Bovier
US Dept. of Energy, Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, WA 99354

[DATE]

Dear Department of Energy,

[COMMENT]

Thank you for considering my comments,

[NAME]

General Sample Comment

The proposed reclassification of Hanford's high-level nuclear waste has significant ramifications for future generations and the environment. I am writing to request that the DOE not reclassify Hanford's high-level waste to low-level waste and not bury tank waste under cement.

Please protect our groundwater and the Columbia River from this dangerous nuclear waste.

More Detailed Sample Comment

The proposed reclassification of high-level nuclear waste in Hanford's tanks is one of the most significant changes to Energy's cleanup approach in recent years. I am writing to offer my comments on the DOE proposal.

The DOE's attempt to re-label high-level nuclear waste is contrary to existing law as codified by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and should be disallowed.

All high-level waste in Hanford tanks, and that which has either been dumped out of the tanks or accidentally spilled, should be removed and treated by mixing with glass and sent to a licensed geological repository. Hanford is no place for this dangerous waste.

Information supporting the Draft WIR Evaluation is incomplete and inadequate. Energy's Performance Assessment and review of potential soil and groundwater impacts do not present information necessary to support the Draft WIR Evaluation.

Pouring cement onto the 60,000-70,000 gallons of tank waste in the 16 C-Farm tanks which contain a total of half a million curies of long-lived radioactive products forecloses future remediation possibilities, both for the in-tank waste and for wastes that have leaked out of the tanks and into the soil, and thereby consigns an extraordinary amount of radioactivity next to the Columbia River forever.

In addition, there are far more urgent priorities for Hanford cleanup than closing Hanford's Waste Management Area C at this time. This action diverts valuable resources from more pressing risks to the public and environment. These include but are not limited to:

- emptying single-shell tanks that are leaking or recently leaked;
- building new double shell tanks to protect the groundwater, the Columbia River and future generations;
- fast-tracking remediation of the strontium and cesium capsules in the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility by moving them to dry storage;
- and addressing the various site risks on the Central Plateau identified following the PUREX tunnel collapse including stabilizing and/or removing dangerous nuclear facilities at risk of collapse.

I therefore oppose DOE's "*Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Evaluation for Closure of Waste Management Area C at the Hanford Site*" (Draft WIR Evaluation). DOE should not be relabeling high-level nuclear waste at Hanford, nor should it foreclose the ability for future remediation actions to address leaked tank waste, additional high-level waste removal, and waste tank removal by putting cement in tanks. Please withdraw the proposal and return to the commitment to remove, treat, and dispose of this waste in a deep geologic repository.