

Sydney Virgen

To Washington State Department of Ecology:

I am apart of the 2018 college graduating class that has entered into the nuclear insustry work force. I majored in chemistry in hopes that I would be able to be apart of the solution in the clean up of Hanford. However, that became difficult when I realized the only way currently to be a solution is to work with the WTP, which is not currently fully operational. Perma-Fix is offering another solution to the problem. As a young adult who aspires to help with the clean up of Hanford, I am writing to you in support of the expansion and renewal of Perma Fix Northwest's (PFNW) permit.

PFNW is a valuable commercial business to the local community who is pushing the clean up. The multiple delays in the WTP construction has and will continue to make the waste treatment process very expensive to operate. To deny the permit puts an unfair and unjust burden on the taxpayers by unnecessarily prolonging the Hanford cleanup by tens of years and adding tens of billions of dollars to taxpayer costs. The risks to workers and the community will only increase with time as deteriorating tanks and infrastructures wait with waste until the WTP becomes fully operational.

It is time to get on with a common-sense approach to treating and disposing of these wastes in a safe and compliant manner. The requirements and methods for disposing of wastes by means other than deep geologic repositories have been proven safe and effective in protecting the environment through decades of experience. We can treat and dispose of much of the waste currently stored in Hanford's HLW tanks in ways that meet these requirements and do it much sooner and at far more cost-effective route than running all the different waste levels through the WTP over the next 3 or 4 decades.

As a citizen of the state of Washington and someone who lives in Richland, I believe it is unacceptable for Ecology to deny this permit.

Regards,

Sydney Virgen