

Gary Petersen

Dana McFadden
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

Dave Bartus
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

Subject: Comments in support of Perma Fix Northwest's permit modification for an upgraded in-container mixer

Dear Ms. McFadden and Mr. Bartus

This letter is in strong support of the proposed permit modification to PermaFix Northwest's (PFNW) Dangerous Waste Permit and TCSA Approval No. WAR 000 10355 as per the Department of Ecology's notification to a Class 2 notice.

I personally have worked with PermaFix Northwest and their staff for some 20 years and have been through their North Richland facilities several times over those years. I have witnessed PFNW's use of the earlier in-container mixer and have been fully briefed on this improved and upgraded in-container mixer. PFNW needs this permit to allow them to continue their commercial treatment of mixed low-level waste which PermaFix has been receiving from all across the U.S.

This new mixer is a state-of-the-art system which should improve the mixing, and thereby the enhance the safety of mixed low-level waste treatment. This grout treatment system is a standard treatment technique being used for the large majority of mixed low-level waste across the U.S.

PFNW's facilities are located nearly directly adjacent to the Hanford Site, and in close proximity to other commercial nuclear processing facilities also located in North Richland. This company has long been a member of the Tri-Cities business community; operating safely and consistently for a long period of time.

Approval of this permit modification will strengthen this company's commercial business opportunities by treating, and disposing of, some of our nation's mixed low-level wastes.

As a long-time community resident, I have a history and a knowledge of, nuclear waste and nuclear waste issues. I was one of three local businessmen who sued the U.S. government and the Nuclear Regulatory commission relative to the repository at Yucca Mountain. We won that lawsuit in support of a National Repository!

Our nation's nuclear waste, as well as the nuclear waste at Hanford, needs to be treated and disposed of. This permit, and this mixer, will go a long way toward making our nation safer through the treatment of mixed low-level waste.

I encourage your agencies to move forward with granting this permit.

Sincerely

Gary R. Petersen
President, Northwest Energy Associates