

Diane Burke

Dear WA State Department of Ecology Hanford Nuclear Site,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Class 2 Permit Modification for the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility. I am very concerned about getting the WESF capsules into dry storage sooner rather than later. If a major earthquake or other event causes the water to drain from the WESF capsule storage pools, it could trigger a catastrophic release of radioactivity that could make the Hanford Site inaccessible for hundreds of years. We can't let that happen. Thank you for considering my comments:

-Require Concrete Testing: Due to the scarcity of data on the effects of gamma radiation on dry concrete, it is incumbent that Ecology require collection of concrete testing data at WESF for use in assessments under Ecology's permits to make conditions safer now and in the future.

-Don't Delay Transfer to Dry Storage: Work hard to stay on schedule to complete work by August 2025, while ensuring a safe work environment.

-Fully Fund WESF: Deliver a unified message on fully funding Hanford cleanup to ensure crucial cleanup work, such as transferring the capsules to dry storage, is completed.

-Include Catastrophic Release Emergency Response Plans: Ensure that robust, specific and detailed emergency response plans for a catastrophic release of radioactivity at WESF are included in the permit. The emergency response plan is even more important in light of the delays to the 2025 milestone.

The eventual dismantling of the WESF is a golden opportunity to carry out studies of the damage to its concrete components from gamma radiation. The data accrued would be critical for risk assessment for many Hanford facilities.

Sincerely,
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