

Guy Bishop

I fully support the proposed modifications to the T Plant (six) and Central Waste Complex (CWC) (one) facilities permits. These modifications were made consistent with the settlement agreement made among the parties following the Pollution Control Hearing Board deliberations. Changes to the time allowed to the Washington state Department of Ecology (WDOE) to be notified of and respond to closure plan deviations is of vital importance to cleanup of the Hanford site. WDOE simply cannot put itself out as an obstacle to cleanup, and timely response to deviations is urgently needed. It is recognized that WDOE staff have many other matters to attend to that constrain their time. Nevertheless, it is vital that WDOE develop expedited review processes so that the deviations are acted upon quickly. It is unacceptable that cleanup be held hostage to review time.

It must also be pointed out that the amount of contaminants that have been spilled in each of these seven facilities is minimal. In other words, the concrete pads or nearby soil are only lightly contaminated, if at all. Dangers to the public or environment are therefore likewise minimal. This fact underscores the need for expedited review. There are other matters at Hanford that indeed deserve a deliberative and hence time-consuming review than these seven facilities.

The additional changes to five of the facilities in regard to concrete decon, removal of concrete chip sampling, and soil sample should likewise be approved. Again, the amount of contamination involved in any of these is minimal.

Therefore, I fully support the proposed modifications.