

2,000-gallon Test Bed Initiative Draft RD&D Permit.

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2,000 gallon Test Bed Initiative Draft RD&D permit.

1. "I strongly urge you to ensure that permit conditions include comprehensive protections for workers from toxic chemical vapor exposure. It is crucial that these protections align with the terms and conditions of the Vapor Lawsuit Settlement Agreement. The health and safety of workers should be a top priority."
2. "I request that you add more detailed information about the disposition plan for bounce-back waste in the permit. Ecology's requirement for the USDOE to provide this plan is essential in case waste shipped to offsite facilities needs to be returned to Hanford. Transparency and accountability are key in waste management."
3. "Please clarify the language in the permit regarding the sampling procedure. Specifically, it would be helpful to know whether it should be one discrete sample per tote or two 250 ml samples per tote (and four 250ml samples for the final tote filled). Clarity in this matter will ensure accurate sampling and testing."
4. "I would like to see improvements in the public process for future clean-up work. Instead of focusing solely on the administrative tool (permit), please provide a high-level overview of how the tool will facilitate the cleanup work and protect the environment, workers, and the public. Additionally, it would be beneficial to have USDOE and contractor staff available to answer questions during the process, rather than directing attendees to submit their questions as comments. This will help attendees write informed comments that can influence the decision-making process."
5. "I recommend that a clear attachment be included in the permit, outlining how consent has been achieved for offsite disposal and transportation routes. Transparency and accountability in this matter are essential to ensure that the disposal and transportation processes are conducted with the proper consent of all involved parties."
6. "Please prioritize the focus on vitrifying tank waste. It is important to note that grout does not meet the 'as-good-as-glass' criteria. I urge you to wait before proceeding with any alternative tank waste immobilization forms that do not meet this criteria. Let's keep the focus on vitrifying tank waste, which is a more reliable and effective method."