

Jean Schwinberg

To Washington Ecology and Governor Inslee:

Ecology should not permit the US Department of Energy(USDOE) to truck untreated liquid wastes from Hanford's High Level Nuclear Waste tanks through Spokane or across Oregon and the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Instead, it would be better to move forward with the test to remove and treat 2,000 gallons from Hanford's tanks for disposal offsite in licensed facilities where the waste does not create any risk to groundwater. Ecology has a duty to consider and take mitigation action to prevent the risk from a truck accident in Spokane or anywhere on the 900-1,900 mile truck routes. This is an environmental justice issue, as well as a risk to the Spokane River.

I agree with the Umatilla Tribe whose Chair wrote to USDOE:

"The current plan to transport waste in liquid form poses for us an unacceptable risk of spills and harm to the environment, First Foods, and our citizens. The current proposal is especially disappointing given that shipping waste in a grouted, immobile, solid form is a viable and much safer option.

"To be clear, the CTUIR requests the following:

1. Do NOT ship liquid Hanford tank waste across the Columbia Basin. Only ship this waste in GROUTED/SOLID form.
2. Move forward with large-scale grouting and out-of-state disposal as soon as reasonably allowable to decrease the risk of leaking Hanford tanks on the CTUIR's treaty-protected resources."

USDOE agree not to truck the waste through Oregon and the Umatilla Reservation. The Umatilla Tribe has continued to advocate that liquid wastes should be trucked at all when there is a licensed facility that can solidify and treat the waste next door to Hanford, thus avoiding trucking wastes through Spokane on I-90 for 900 miles to Utah or 1,900 miles to Texas for disposal.

It would be best for 2,000 gallons of waste to proceed, but if it succeeds, there will be thousands of shipment. Ecology has an obligation under SEPA and the HEAL Act to consider and mitigate the risks from through low-income communities in Spokane or on Indian Reservations by requiring that the waste is solidified and treated the the licensed facility adjacent to Hanford instead of trucking untreated liquid waste. Any spill of liquids from Hanford would put residents and the environment at risk.

USDOE did not even consider risks from the chemical in the liquid wastes and acknowledges that there is risk of one accidental crash for a truck with wastes ever 884 shipment from Hanford to Texas. That is too high a risk to go without Washington requiring that the waste be solidified before being trucked through Spokane or Oregon and the Umatilla Reservations.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Schwinberg