

Ruchi Stair

To Washington Ecology and Governor Inslee:

I am an environmental activist who has tracked the safety issues surrounding radioactive waste since the 1980s. I welcome the Test Bed Initiative, if it safe transport can be ensured.

I strongly support moving 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.

Importantly, 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. Prudence requires that the radioactive waste be stabilized at a site adjacent to Hanford prior to transport. This is an environmental justice issue as well as a risk to the Spokane River.

I stand in solidarity 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."

I ask that radioactive waste be stabilized via grouting--prior to transport via ANY route or via any mode of transportation--and that the waste is solidified and treated at the licensed facility adjacent to Hanford instead.