

Kathleen Allen

The "Test Bed Initiative" (TBI) offers the first hope for speeding up removal of leakable liquids from High Level Nuclear waste tanks decades ahead of current plans for vitrification (glassification) and for reducing how much waste is disposed in landfills along our Columbia River at Hanford.

TBI will test if 2,000 gallons can be removed from a High Level Waste Tank, solidified and treated to be disposed at sites where there is no drinkable groundwater that can ever be contaminated (the sites are in West Texas or Utah).

The Department of Ecology has a duty under SEPA and the HEAL Act to consider and mitigate the risks from truck shipments of liquid waste by requiring that the waste is solidified and treated at the licensed facility adjacent to Hanford instead of trucking untreated liquid waste.

So why does the USDOE want to ship 2000 gallons of untreated radioactive waste as a liquid through Spokane for either 900 or 1,900 miles to be treated in Utah or Texas?

Any spill of liquids from Hanford will be an international news incident as well as putting residents and the environment at risk.

Please take necessary steps to guarantee the waste will be treated and grouted before shipment. Hanford's "Test Bed Initiative" can make a difference in REMOVING waste threatening the Columbia from Hanford for the first time! BUT we have to ensure that the waste is not trucked as a liquid.

Thank you,

Kathleen Allen