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I live in Oregon near the Columbia River. People in Oregon and elsewhere are threatened by this plan - which must change!

DOE must accelerating removal of waste from tanks in the 200 West Area. This is where 2 of the 3 tanks that are currently leaking are located. Acceleration is only possible if this waste can be treated and solidified into a grout and disposed offsite – in licensed facilities that have no groundwater. Those facilities are in West Texas and Utah. The West Texas facility (WCS) is the likelier facility to dispose of most of the lower radiation waste removed from tanks in 200 West based on its license conditions. The distance to truck the waste from Hanford to WCS in West Texas is approximately 1,575 miles if the most direct route through Oregon is taken. That route would require trucking waste over the dangerous Emigrant Pass and through the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

If trucked (or rail) through Spokane, the shipments would go through downtown Spokane and through some of the most "highly impacted" / "overburdened" communities in Washington as identified under our environmental justice law (the HEAL Act). This route adds 300 miles to the truck route and has several dangerous mountain passes.

Fortunately, there is a far safer, and readily available, alternative to trucking or rail shipping untreated liquid radioactive chemical waste from Hanford to Texas (or UT) for disposal: Immediately adjacent to the Hanford site is a licensed commercial radioactive hazardous waste treatment facility, "Perma-Fix NW". This facility already treats large amounts of more radioactive hazardous waste every year, which is returned to Hanford for disposal. Perma-Fix NW was the facility that did the first successful test as part of USDOE's "Test Bed Initiative" solidifying and treating low radiation Hanford tank waste which met the standards for disposal at WCS in Texas.