

City of Bend, Oregon

Please see attached comment letter



CITY OF BEND

August 22, 2024

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Megan Norris
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CITY MANAGER

Eric King

To the State of Washington Department of Ecology,

The City of Bend is writing to endorse the comments from the Governor of Oregon, Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, and the Oregon Department of Energy on the proposed Holistic Negotiations Agreement modifying the Hanford Nuclear Waste Site Tri-Party Agreement and Consent Decree. The City of Bend is also writing to express concerns regarding the transportation of Hanford waste through central Oregon.

The top issues identified and outlined in the State of Oregon’s comments are in alignment with the City of Bend’s concerns, specifically to include emergency responder training, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS), treatment strategy, and public engagement and transparency.

Our region’s closest Hazmat Regional Response Team is in Salem Oregon, making us particularly vulnerable to transportation incidents involving hazardous materials. The plan for transporting the low-activity waste has not been specified and the commitment for additional public engagement once specified is unclear. This is problematic as it requires transport by either truck or rail through populated corridors like Bend, and we believe that waste in a liquid form poses significantly more risks to our community than waste in a solid form. The City of Bend is ready to help support the State of Oregon with their offer to facilitate public information and engagement campaigns in our region regarding tank waste transportation.

The agreement represents an important step towards risk reduction at the Hanford site and requires innovative solutions and careful consideration of the long-term environmental and public health impacts. Please consider Oregon’s recommendations to ensure the Hanford tank waste mission can progress more effectively and safely, while minimizing long-term environmental and public health risks.

Sincerely,

Melanie Kebler, Mayor
City of Bend



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Carrie Karl at ckarl@bendoregon.gov or 541-323-5969. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.