

Theodora Tsongas

I am Dr. Theodora Tsongas, an environmental health scientist/epidemiologist with a career in public health. I am concerned that the public input on these very important proposed amendments to the Tri-Party Agreement and Consent Decree on the Nuclear Waste Program must be given adequate time and attention to do a thorough review. Thus, I am asking that you extend the comment period for public input beyond September 1, 2024, to give people time to make thoughtful suggestions and comments on decisions that are so vital to their health and well being and that of their families, now and in the future. Summer time is really not a fair time to ask for the public's due consideration as other time, energy, and health constraints, as well as excess heat and wildfires, must take precedence. Second, I request that people in Portland and Spokane be given more fair consideration in the location of these most important public hearings, and that there be additional hearings scheduled in these urban areas. What happens in Washington affects the lives and health of people in Oregon and the entire NW region. We really need a fair chance to weigh in on decisions that affect us, our lives and health, and our air, water, and supporting ecosystems. Furthermore, our input can be quite valuable in that we can look at these decisions with less of a "jaundiced" eye and we can make valuable contributions to the work of the Tri-Party Agencies. Thank you for your time and consideration.