

## Derek Dexheimer

Appropriate, vigorous action must be taken NOW to empty leaking tanks and remediate their waste into a safe form before shipping, not in 2040.

Hanford's single-shell radioactive waste tanks are leaking NOW, and no adequate action is being taken to stop the leaks. This contamination is endangering the Columbia River.

Leaking tanks must be prioritized for removal of all liquids or full retrieval. Leaking tanks cannot be allowed to keep leaking until 2040 or later. USDOE needs to commit to immediate action to stop or reduce the leaks from Single Shell Tanks and dramatically increase the pace of waste retrieval.

USDOE should be required to continue to retrieve waste from tanks in the 200 East Area after 2028 while also starting to retrieve waste from tanks in 200 West. Enforceable milestones need to be added for removal of leakable liquids from 200 West tanks using in-tank pretreatment followed by treatment to be solidified and disposed offsite. This needs to be in addition to full retrieval of 22 tanks.

An EIS is required to review the impacts of decisions, such as not retrieving waste from leaking tanks; and to present reasonable alternatives to stop the leaks and speed up retrieval before more tanks leak.

Hanford's radioactive contamination is an existential threat to life on the West Coast. Solidifying and removing tank waste must be a higher priority.