

Ann Dorsey

I am concerned about the three leaking tanks at the Hanford site since the liquids put the water supply, local communities, the environment and wildlife at risk. As such, I support and encourage plans to accelerate the leaks being stopped and site cleaned up. Transporting the radioactive waste as an untreated liquid, though, would only extend the risks, exposing waterways, communities and the environment along the approximately 1,575 - 1,875 mile route to West Texas or Utah where the nearest facilities with no ground water are located.

This would not be acceptable.

I therefore urge you to instead have Perma-Fix NW, a nearby radioactive hazardous waste treatment facility that already treats radioactive wastes at Hanford, solidify and treat the wastes so that they meet the standards for disposal at the facility in West Texas BEFORE they are transported.

Given the severity of long-term harms a spill would cause, the long distance traveled and treacherousness of some of the passages (e.g. Emigrant Pass), number of communities/people that could be harmed (in downtown Spokane, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, etc.), if untreated radioactive waste is going to be transported, there MUST be an EIS, before the agencies adopt this program, so the potential damage can be documented and evaluated and measures taken to minimize them.

The EIS needs to consider route specific risks, including through Spokane, Oregon communities, Tribal reservations and "highly impacted communities" identified under Washington's environmental justice law and include the cumulative risks from USDOE's related decision to ship liquid "secondary wastes" from Hanford tanks to the same potential disposal sites. Additionally, there must be public meetings, with discussions of the potential impacts and alternatives, along the shipment routes.

Please do what is best for people and the environment by having the liquid radioactive wastes solidified and treated locally by Perma-Fix NW before it is transported over 1,500 miles to West Texas or Utah where there are facilities with no ground water.

Thank you!