

Janna Rolland

Dear Department of Ecology:

I'm deeply concerned that Hanford's High Level Nuclear Waste tanks continue to leak without any action to stop the leaks.

Since the public meetings on the Agreement were held in July, USDOE has announced that a third tank is now leaking. USDOE clearly knew about this leak in July, but never disclosed it in the meetings despite numerous people raising concerns that the Agreement fails to require any meaningful action to stop leaks. I share that concern and want the Agreement changed to include enforceable requirements to remove leakable liquids from leaking tanks starting next year and to prioritize full retrieval of wastes from the tank farms that have leaking tanks. It is not acceptable to let those tanks in B and T Farms keep leaking until sometime after 2040.

Leaking tanks must be prioritized for removal of all leakable 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.

Washington State and Ecology need to adopt conditions that ensure the wastes will be treated and solidified before shipment through Spokane or Oregon. Treatment and solidification before shipment is available and a necessary mitigation measure for inherently greater risks from shipping liquid wastes. Under SEPA, Ecology has a duty to adopt such a mitigation measure before it can adopt any USDOE NEPA finding of no significant impact or that impacts were discussed in an outdated EIS 25 years ago.

Thank you.