

## Diana Gordon

HOLISTIC AGREEMENT ON CLEANUP OF HANFORD TANK WASTE Comments due 9/1/24

This agreement is very confusing for the layman and there seem to be several changes to understandings I have had over the years. However, we live in a downstream community and fishing is the local religion so I'm doing what I can to get a glimpse of what this 'Holistic' Agreement means for us.

I had thought that the High Level Waste was on a much faster track to vitrification than it apparently is. Now I learn that it will first have to be separated from the Low Level Waste and then vitrified in a plant that is not yet completed. Construction of the High Level Vitrification Plant has been paused due to cost and safety concerns. Construction is now scheduled to resume with the adoption of this Agreement and I feel it is vital to do all we can to accelerate the completion of this plant and get it into use at least by the current deadline of 2033.

Completion of this plant has been paused before and that absolutely should not happen again no matter the cost. We cannot afford to miss this 2033 target. But what if an unforeseen accident or earthquake or new safety issue, etc., comes along and they decide to halt it again. Other decisions, like the one setting new deadlines for extracting and treating the rest of the waste, hinge on the completion of that plant. Now what? Are we just going to push it off into the future with escalating costs and an accepted continuation of leaking tanks? This should never be an option. How about telling us what will happen in that scenario?

Another option that should also never be on the table is the one that the Trump Administration floated of simply re-classifying the waste into something less dangerous-sounding than High Level Nuclear Waste. Although the Agreement bans this kind of re-classification, I am not sure a future administration or cost-cutting schemer couldn't figure out how to get it done. This definition should be bomb-proof. Period.

I have a few other concerns as well, but I want to get this on its way to you. This Agreement does not bolster my confidence that the folks up at Hanford are moving Heaven and Earth to get things moving quickly. Future generations are going to have enough trouble dealing with aging vitrified glass and grout. Let's at least get the waste to that stage.

Diana Gordon