# Hanford Challenge (Miya Burke)

OK I for whatever reason I'm unable to start video but at least you can hear me. So thank you for the opportunity to comment my name is Miya Burke and I am program manager of Hanford Challenge. I want to thank Ecology for your strong commitment to public involvement through public meetings, regional hearings, and weekly lunch and learn sessions. This level of transparency stands in stark contrast to the Department of Energy 's increasingly limited and inconsistent public involvement practices. DOE is moving fast and loose by accelerating cleanup decisions. shortening comment windows, and sidelining public oversight at the exact moment when risks are rising.
Hanford Challenge is still in the process of working through the Rev 9A RCRA permit and creating materials to help the public navigate this complicated comment period. First, we ask that Ecology please extend the Rev 9A comment period by 45 days and host an additional virtual public hearing closer to the end of the extended comment period. The current flood of comment periods related to Hanford cleanup is making it difficult to give each one the attention it deserves. By spacing out the deadline for the Rev 9A comment period by 45 days, Hanford Challenge and other groups would have more time to engage the public in a meaningful way without competing for attention amid the other important comment periods that are currently underway. Ecology spent 14 years producing this 30,000 page permit please extend this public comment period to provide adequate time for meaningful review. Second, please remove incorporated by reference requirements, the permit must contain clear enforceable conditions. Ambiguous or incorporated by reference requirements weaken accountability. Please update the permit to eliminate eliminate incorporated by reference rules and regulations and instead include this information directly in the permit. The RCRA permit should contain all of the information necessary for the Hanford workforce to demonstrate compliance with the permit. They should not be required to track down documents that are incorporated by reference. Third Ecology must keep holding DOE accountable. DOE is pushing cleanup decisions that prioritize speed and cost over long term protection. Ecology must ensure the permit contains conditions that protect water quality through rigorous groundwater monitoring and sampling protocols,
protect worker health and safety through training requirements and safety protocols especially for protections from toxic chemical vapors, and catch problems early through rigorous monitoring protocols, leak detection requirements, and response protocol. Fourth, Ecology should prohibit tank farm closure until additional waste removal technologies are developed and deployed.