Alison Cole

To the team at WA Ecology,

Thank you for the meaningful opportunities your agency provides for public engagement regarding upcoming permits at the Hanford Site. My name is Alison Cole and I am the newest member of the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board. I regret that my comment regarding the "Dual Path" permit revision lacks any specificity regarding specific provisions. I know specificity is ultimately what you are seeking and what is most useful in the process. I still have a lot to learn regarding the current technical status of various cleanup projects around the site, so my comment remains somewhat high level.

My singular concern is that DOE has lost both its vision and public trust regarding vitrification at the Hanford site. They have failed to get the vit plant facility running at full capacity. Their program leadership should focus on committing to the provisions of their existing permit for treating low activity tank waste (LAW) via the vit plant. DOE and contractors should be committing their time to its success. Significant public funding and public support has been provisioned for vitrification already.

WA Ecology should not revise the permit to redirect tank-originating LAW to unspecified grouting facilities. DOE has yet to provide any transparency regarding who would grout the waste and I have serious concerns about Permafix's capacity to take on more work. If liquid tank waste were to be shipped to facilities at Clive or Andrews, it could potentially come through the state of Oregon. Both the Governor's office and the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board have expressed our strong opposition to transportation of liquid waste through our state by truck or rail.

Furthermore, I have serious concerns about the northern shipping route via Spokane and onwards along the Clark Fork River through Idaho and Montana. The highway is not suitable for trucking liquid hazardous waste due to its serpentine nature, mountainous terrain, and proximity to an essential Pacific Northwest river which feeds the Columbia.

Please do not make any revisions to operating permits that allow DOE or contractors to divert LAW waste for grouting. If DOE were planning to build an onsite grouting facility for all 200 Area tanks farms, I would feel very differently about the "Dual Path Approach."

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Alison Cole
Portland, OR