



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



April 4, 2025

US Department of Energy
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Ms. Colborn,

Oregon appreciates the continued opportunity to provide input on priorities at the Hanford site. Our priorities for fiscal year 2027 are similar to those in the past:

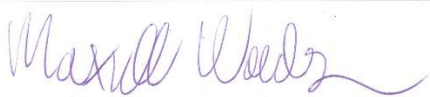
Protect the Columbia River,
Remove and mitigate risk by cleaning up the site, and
Restore ecosystem services.

Progress at the site has picked up over the past handful of years with negotiated milestones to ship mixed transuranic waste by FY28 and a path forward for tank waste in the 200-west area. With that progress behind us, we ask DOE to request a budget which will allow the site to keep moving forward.

- Move dangerous materials to a safer configuration – the teams preparing to move cesium and strontium capsules stored in pools in the waste encapsulation and storage facility have made admirable progress. Keep the momentum going and safely move the capsules to dry storage, preventing the catastrophic risk associated with dewatering the storage pools. We understand that the capsules are scheduled to begin moving to dry storage this calendar year, and we encourage DOE to continue this effort until the job is complete.
- Move tank waste out of single shell tanks – Continue the safe and methodical process of retrieving tank waste from at-risk single shell tanks to temporary storage in more protective double shell tanks. This activity minimizes the risk of waste leaking from antique storage facilities as they inevitably fail.
- Move forward with tank waste treatment – This year promises to see a major accomplishment – the first large scale vitrification of treated tank waste at Hanford. Keep up the good work in 200-east tanks, and prepare the 200-west treatment capabilities to support solidification in Washington, and then offsite disposal of the waste.

- Move waste out of the Northwest – in the coming decades, there will be multiple shipping campaigns, and additional imports of raw materials needed to support site operations. Trucks will be coming on-site with large quantities of glass-forming materials for the direct feed vitrification plant and grouting materials for the 200-w treatment. Transuranic waste and then grouted low level tank waste from 200-w will be leaving the site. 2027 provides an opportunity for site engineers to ensure that the roadways at the site will be sufficient to handle this increased shipping burden. 2027 is also the opportune time to expand outreach to communities along the TRU shipping routes to WIPP and the selected shipping routes for 200-W grouted tank waste. Early communication builds trust and allows first responders to complete all necessary trainings and action plans. Coordination with states and tribal nations along the planned transit route should be a priority.
- Move to the Central Plateau – remediation along the river corridor has reduced the amount of contamination reaching the Columbia River in the short-term. This work is necessary and important. Equally important is characterizing and remediating waste sites on the central plateau, which will be contributing to groundwater contamination for hundreds of years to come. Characterizing the degree and extent of central plateau contamination will take time, and should be started soon. Until that work is done, the timeline for site cleanup and closure is uncertain.

Oregon continues to support and advocate for the safe and comprehensive cleanup of the Hanford site. The clear leadership of DOE and collaboration with the tri-party agencies has resulted in an achievable path to success in the medium range future. We are hopeful that congress will provide the resources to build on these successes and provide the greatest value for dollars spent – by getting the work done safely and soon. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me or Tom Sicilia of my staff at tom.sicilia@energy.oregon.gov, 503-508-8333.



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