



# Oregon

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## Oregon's response to Hanford's 5-Year Plan 2023-2027

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Sent via email: [5YearPlan@rl.gov](mailto:5YearPlan@rl.gov)

Oregon appreciates the opportunity to comment on the most recent Hanford 5-year Plan (rev 4). The comment period and continued public outreach helps demonstrate US DOE's commitment to building trust, as described in other US DOE documents such as the [Consent Based Siting RFI](#). Additionally, please accept our continued thanks in making the documents accessible in multiple languages. The 2023-2027 document did change the "Major Components of the Hanford Site Cleanup Mission" from prior iterations (e.g., Tank Waste, Central Plateau, and River Corridor) to a division along mission archetypes where Tank Waste is the same, but Risk Mitigation and Site Infrastructure are new. While it appears that only the titles have changed, the 11"x17" page runs the risk of implying that Cleanup is included in "Risk Reduction."

Waste site cleanup and protection of the Columbia River remains a priority for Oregon. This transition brings the 5-year plan into alignment with the EM Strategic Vision Cleanup Scope and aids when cross-referencing Placemat to the EM Strategic Vision. The major components nomenclature change further emphasizes the "One Hanford" program by focusing on the mission goals rather than the location or specificity of a project. While we understand and support the value of a unified business culture across the site, it would be helpful to also understand which DOE office is requesting the funding for the listed projects. We note that significant projects associated with "Risk Reduction" including Central Plateau characterization and retrievably stored transuranic waste recovery appear to be missing from the list.


We offer the following additional specific comments:

- Oregon still believes that the 5-year document can be expanded upon to allow easier use, by not only the lay-person, but those with advanced site knowledge. This could be accomplished by embedding links to further information or QR codes within the document linking to the supplemental fact sheets. Fact sheets can be expanded upon, highlighting significant achievements or obstacles overcome to appeal to the high-level user. The basic user would benefit from a frequently asked question section, public engagement calendars, and links to site tours or other captivating media at <https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/5-YearPlan>.
- The website <https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/5-YearPlan> now stands in somewhat in dichotomy to the placemat and project fact sheets. The placemat showcases a well-polished and engaging product, but the website is still fairly basic. There is a wealth of engaging media from US DOE, Hanford, and community partners, some of which is available on the side column of the site. DOE should consider updating its website to showcase these excellent engagement products.

- Considering the reorganizing of the placement to describing activities by “Major Component” from geographical location the placemat may benefit from a change as well. Hanford is a complex and enormous site which does not translate well onto the map page of the placemat. With so many projects collocated on a nearly 600 square mile site, scope and scale can be lost when displayed on a smaller map. This could be remedied by transitioning to a larger format Gantt, or project management chart. Information included could address some of Oregon’s previous suggestions (e.g., noting when work began on a project, and expected completion date) and provide further project clarity. Each line item could be linked to milestones such as closures, plant activations, or the project fact sheets. This might also provide the space for our suggestions of adding a visual aid for Hanford’s budget, a final column for “On the Horizon,” work being planned past the five-year timeline, and planned investigation or remediation activities.
- Transuranic (TRU) waste shipments are scheduled to resume in 2028, which is just outside this 5-year window. Given the volume of TRU waste that will be shipped between 2028 and 2050, it is surprising that there is no significant scope item in 2027 ramping up recovery and packaging in preparation for the WIPP shipping campaign. While the Carlsbad office is responsible for inspecting and shipping the waste, the Richland office should do everything in their power to ensure that there is sufficient waste prepared and ready to ship.
- Please consider including a reference to continued support of the Natural Resources Damage Assessment process on the placemat or the companion website. This will add another line of interest to members of the public to follow and again demonstrate DOE’s commitment to environmental restoration at Hanford.

Since its introduction, the 5-Year vision document has undergone changes that have improved its overall appearance and public reach. The media included on <https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/5-YearPlan> is also becoming more polished, but larger gains in functionality may be achieved by updating the landing page. Oregon appreciates for the efforts spent on this public outreach model and feels that further refinement will continue to increase public engagement, knowledge, and will serve to build trust. If you have any questions, please reach out to Matthew Hendrickson ([matt.hendrickson@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:matt.hendrickson@energy.oregon.gov)) of my staff.

Sincerely,



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