



Heart of America Northwest

The Public's Voice for Hanford Cleanup

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Protect the Northwest from Hanford Being Used (Again) as a National Radioactive Waste Dump — More Plans to Truck and Bury EXTREMELY Radioactive Waste (GTCC)



Courtesy: Oregon State Police

Radioactive Waste truck jackknifed on I-84 Blue Mts. Under USDOE's plan to start shipping radioactive wastes to Hanford after 2020, over 15,000 truckloads of radioactive waste would drive through Portland, the Gorge, Blue Mts and Spokane to Hanford.

The federal Energy Dept. (USDOE) estimated that radiation from trucks carrying High-Level Waste to Hanford would cause **over 800 fatal cancers in adults along truck routes** because the shipments emit radiation even though highly shielded (unlike this truck with very low-level waste). Although there would be far fewer shipments of extremely radioactive GTCC wastes, each truck would likely emit as much, or more, radiation than under USDOE's withdrawn proposal to ship High-Level Nuclear Waste.

Lessons for the Northwest from the Japanese Reactor meltdown crisis:

The consortium of public utilities that runs the region's only commercial nuclear reactor located at Hanford, Energy NW (formerly WPPSS), has been **secretly planning to use the same experimental Plutonium fuel** as Fukushima Reactor 3, with the gravest risks and releases.

As reported in the Seattle Times on P. 1 on 3-19, we are suing Energy NW for withholding public records on this plan which it sought to keep from the public. Documents admit that the offsite radiation dose would be higher from Plutonium fuel, and likelihood of an accident increased. The scheme would also set back Hanford cleanup by keeping open contaminated buildings in the 300 Area to fabricate the Pu fuel and make more waste, instead of cleaning up this area. Please donate to support our suit at: www.hoanw.org



Over 40 miles of unlined trenches like this one were used to dump radioactive and toxic chemical wastes at Hanford.

Groundwater flowing into the Columbia River will be contaminated over and over again at levels causing high cancer rates for ten thousand years if USDOE's proposals to "*cover up*" the trenches and tanks with dirt, instead of cleaning up by retrieving wastes, are adopted - according to USDOE's own 2010 TCWMEIS. WA State operates a commercial radioactive waste dump with leaking unlined trenches, which it plans to cover up, instead of cleaning up.

***Using Hanford as a National Radioactive Waste Dump increases the cancer risk tenfold – before adding the extremely radioactive waste, called GTCC waste.

Your voice is needed at the hearing on USDOE's proposal to truck and bury extremely radioactive GTCC waste at Hanford:

Portland Doubletree Hotel – Lloyd Center
Thursday May 19th 6:30 PM

Send in your comment by June 27 & get info at:
<http://www.gtcceis.anl.gov/involve/index.cfm>
and stay up to date at: www.hoanw.org

Support Heart of America Northwest's Lawsuit to Overturn USDOE's Decision to Use Hanford as a National Radioactive Waste Dump - Urge Your City and State to Join the Suit:

Heart of America Northwest, the region's leading citizens' Hanford watchdog group (www.hoanw.org or *join us on face book*), has filed a federal lawsuit to overturn USDOE's 2004 decision to use Hanford as a national radioactive and radioactive – hazardous waste dump.

Under USDOE's preferred plans to "cover-up", not clean-up, Hanford's 40 miles of unlined radioactive waste trenches, High-Level Nuclear Waste tank leaks and discharges, the groundwater flowing to the Columbia River will be contaminated over and over again over ten thousand years to levels which will cause high cancer rates.

Plutonium 239 levels, for example, are projected by USDOE's own 2010 impact statement to be nearly 300 times the Drinking Water Standard at the Columbia River shoreline 1,000 years from now. Uranium 238 levels on Hanford's Central Plateau outside the "Core Zone" are projected to rise to approximately 200 times the Drinking Water Standard. Technetium 99, Iodine and chemical contaminant levels will also be far above Drinking Water Standards.

The Drinking Water Standard is set at a level at which one adult out of every ten thousand who drink average amounts of water will die of cancer. Children are three to ten times more susceptible to cancer from the same exposure as an adult. Thus, 500 x the standard = adult fatal cancer rate of 5%.

The "Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS" (TCWMEIS) released by USDOE in 2010 projected that the **cancer risk from use of the groundwater will be tenfold worse if USDOE proceeds with its 2004 decision to import and bury nearly 20,000 truck loads of radioactive and radioactive chemical hazardous wastes at Hanford.**

Instead of considering NOT using Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump in the TCWMEIS, USDOE is only considering WHERE at Hanford it should dispose of those wastes, and offering an unenforceable promise not to start trucking waste until after its Vitrification Plant is built. Of course, delaying the dumping of wastes by five or ten years does nothing to reduce the risk of children dying of cancer from the contaminated water in 200 or 1,000 years.

Making matters worse, USDOE is violating the law by considering in a separate impact statement **adding EXTREMELY radioactive GTCC wastes to be buried in trenches or boreholes at Hanford on top of the other 20,000 truckloads of waste USDOE decided to bury at Hanford in 2004.**

Extremely Radioactive Greater than Class C (GTCC) Waste is often as radioactive as High-Level Nuclear Waste. USDOE has renamed highly radioactive Plutonium to be included in this category of "Greater than Class C-Like wastes." For borehole and near-surface disposal, the draft EIS considers Hanford and several other DOE sites, such as the Idaho National Laboratory, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee. BUT, USDOE also says it **already chose Hanford in 2004** and 2000 to be the only USDOE site other than Nevada Test Site for disposal of radioactive and mixed radioactive – hazardous waste. The Draft GTCC EIS drops Nevada from consideration ... USDOE's proposal would **DOUBLE the total radioactivity in Hanford's soil.**

What SHOULD we do with GTCC Waste? Highly radioactive wastes, which include GTCC and remote-handled Plutonium TRU, *belong in a deep geologic repository*, in geologically stable formations below the depth of usable groundwater. Radioactive and chemical wastes, especially long lived and extremely radioactive wastes, do not belong in shallow landfills or boreholes along the Columbia River.