Request for Public Comment on the U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste

Comment Period: Oct 10, 2018 - Jan 09, 2019

DOE Comment Period on High-Level Radioactive Waste Interpretation

Below you will find a sample comment provided by Hanford Challenge for this comment period. If you have time, please personalize your comments and include details such as where you live and why you care. Thank you so much for taking the time to write a comment on this important issue.

Elected Officials

Sharing your comments and views on Hanford’s comment periods with your elected officials can help to amplify your voice and inform your elected officials of their constituents’ views. We recommend that you contact the following elected officials using their online contact forms to share your position.

Governor Jay Inslee:

- **Contact Form:** [www.governor.wa.gov/contact](http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact)
- **Mail:** Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002
- **Phone:** (360)-902-4111

Rep Adam Smith:

- **Contact Form:** [https://adamsmith.house.gov/contact](https://adamsmith.house.gov/contact)
- **Mail:** 15 S Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057
- **Phone:** (425) 793-5180

Senator Maria Cantwell:

- **Contact Form:** [https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email)
- **Mail:** Senator Maria Cantwell, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- **Phone:** (202)-224-3441

Senator Patty Murray:

- **Contact Form:** [https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme](https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme)
- **Mail:** 154 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- **Phone:** (202)-224-2621
**Phone Script:** My name is [name] and I live in [city]. I am calling to share my position on the Department of Energy proposal to redefine Hanford’s high-level radioactive waste as low-level waste. I am against this proposal and urge the [elected official] to take action to prevent the Department of Energy from reclassifying this waste. [reason you care].

**Sample Comments from Hanford Challenge**

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to share my comments on the Federal Register Notice published on October 10th, 2018 regarding DOE’s interpretation of the definition of High-Level Waste.

I do not support this interpretation of the definition of high-level waste as I have many concerns about its application at sites like Hanford.

I do not want restrictions removed through this interpretation that require the removal, treatment, and disposal of HLW at a deep geologic repository. This waste and its long-lived radioactive isotopes need to be isolated from humans and the environment deep underground for the hundreds of thousands of years it will take for decay. Shallow land burial of HLW is unacceptable.

In addition, this decision could have a huge impact on the future of cleanup at nuclear weapons complex sites across the nation. A 90-day comment period for such a huge decision is insufficient to provide in-depth research and comments. Please further extend the deadline for public comments by an additional 30 days and include public hearings and information about how this would be implemented nationwide with site specific examples.