Comment Period Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is gathering your comments on its evaluation of three options to reduce the cost of maintenance on B-Plant, until a Record of Decision is made for final cleanup in 2032.

B-Plant is where irradiated fuel rods were dissolved in toxic chemicals to remove plutonium. High-level radioactive tank waste was also treated here to remove strontium and cesium. The removed strontium and cesium is now in capsules stored underwater at the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility, which is next to B-Plant.

Of most concern to Hanford Challenge is the plan to grout the HEPA filter vaults that are part of the 291-B Ventilation system which contain an estimated 227,000 curies of radioactive Strontium-90 and Cesium-137.

Email Comments by midnight PST October 14, 2020 to: BPlantEECA@rl.gov

Sample Comments Prepared by Hanford Challenge

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the B-Plant EE/CA. I am writing because I care about protecting future generations and the environment from Hanford’s contamination. I care about worker, public, and environmental safety.

Thank you for considering my comments:

- **Don’t grout the sites and walk away.** I want to ensure that the highly contaminated HEPA filters at B-Plant are characterized and removed, treated, and disposed.
- **Gather more information through a Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study (RI/FS) which would include more analysis and deliberation.**
- **Look at other options to stabilize these specific sites** before filling them with grout, especially options that would make removal of the contamination easier and safer.

Additional Resources

- Hanford Challenge comments on the B-Plant EE/CA
- Oregon Department of Energy comments on the B-Plant EE/CA
- Department of Energy B-Plant EE/CA Fact Sheet
- B-Plant Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis