



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting the future with a cleanup that works.



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HANFORD
CHALLENGE

Eyes on the Prize

A Message from the Executive Director & Board Chair

2020 was quite a year. We've noticed that when things are hard it's easy to get stuck in the weeds and harder to look up and nourish a hopeful vision of the future.

Over the next year, Hanford Challenge is inviting you to climb up on the balcony with us to put energy into the vision we're here to make possible: To create a future for the Hanford Nuclear Site that secures human health and safety, advances accountability, and promotes a sustainable environmental legacy.

By nourishing our vision of the future, we can imagine a Hanford cleanup that is safe and effective, that protects the vulnerable and deals with problems now instead of putting an unnecessary burden on future generations. We can imagine behaviors and culture that model accountability and transparency and champion the concerned employees that catch problems and set the cleanup on track. And then, when we dive into the weeds and the technical complexity of Hanford cleanup, we have this energizing vision that helps us keep our eyes on the prize, no matter what challenges come our way.

The next year offers challenges and opportunities. Many of the principles and agreements guiding cleanup that have felt rock solid are now on shaky ground. There are efforts to abandon high-level tank waste at Hanford. There are proposals to send a lot more of Hanford's waste for offsite treatment at Perma-Fix Northwest, a place riddled with safety and compliance issues, and which displace risk to nearby communities. Insufficient funding for cleanup could mean delays for work on safety threats like the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility. Hanford cleanup is a long game and over the next year we're going to be muscling up to counter growing momentum for faster, cheaper cleanup solutions that leave more waste onsite.

Key to our success is the rigorous protection and empowerment of whistleblowers at Hanford, who serve as early warning systems for wrongdoing, fraud and threats to human health and safety. Our partnerships with national and local environmental organizations, tribes, and the State of Washington, and United Association Local 598 are also necessary for future progress.

And of course we have new opportunities with the Biden administration, shepherding in a new attitude for cleanup, setting groundwork with elected officials and new hires.

We can't do this work alone. We count on you, and on our partners and allies, to keep our eyes on the prize of a safe and effective cleanup.

Thank you for investing in a safer, cleaner future.



Tom Carpenter

Executive Director



Victoria Vreeland

Board Chair



Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission

To create a future for the Hanford Nuclear Site that secures human health and safety, advances accountability, and promotes a sustainable environmental legacy.

Hanford Challenge exists to:

- Ensure **permanent protection for the planet and its inhabitants** from the effects of contamination at Hanford.
- Ensure **worker rights, safety and security** at Hanford.
- Ensure **transparency and accountability to the public** for the most efficient and effective cleanup of Hanford available.



Protecting the Planet

Hanford Challenge protects the planet from the dangers posed by the most contaminated nuclear site in the western hemisphere. We strive to protect the planet and its inhabitants in the short and long term, working towards a safer, cleaner future.



Transparency & Accountability

Hanford Challenge stops attempts to evade regulations, challenges cleanup shortcuts, and empowers individuals to act. We form strategic networks of unions, tribes, environmental organizations, community groups, public officials, and concerned individuals to hold Hanford accountable.



Hanford Workers

Hanford Challenge provides legal representation and advocacy for Hanford workers and whistleblowers. We support workers who report waste and fraud, health and safety risks, and violations of laws at the Hanford Nuclear Site. We also fight for workforce access to protective equipment and healthcare.



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Program Accomplishments



185,000

People Reached on Social Media



9000+

Event Views



7

Virtual Events

49

Hanford Advisory Board Meetings on Hanford Cleanup Policy



The Hanford Advisory Board is a regional advisory board for the Tri-Party Agencies.

We participate to make sure workers are protected and the public is involved.



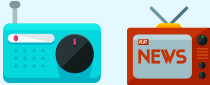
11

Comments Submitted



7

Say What Comment Guides



17

Mentions and Quotes in the News Media



15,125

People our Comments Reached



3900+

Total Views for Town Hall Event



Livestream event with Town Hall Seattle:

Panel discussion with Tom Carpenter, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, and author Tom Mueller to celebrate whistleblowers.





High-Level Waste Campaign

In 2020, your donations were hard at work tracking and fighting attempts to shortcut the cleanup of high-level tank waste.

Hanford Challenge teamed up with Natural Resources Defense Council, Columbia Riverkeeper, and Yakama Nation for a coordinated strategy and response. We coordinated over 20 meetings in 2020 with our allies and WA State as we continue to keep in close contact to protect the legally binding agreements that are in place to protect our future. We also issued a 100-page report opposing plans to treat tank waste at Perma-Fix Northwest, and issued 4 sets of public comments and held virtual “Take Action!” events on Hanford tank waste treatment and related facilities.



Already in January 2021, efforts are ramping up that threaten our beloved Pacific Northwest. At the local and national level, there is a big push to rename high-level waste with the wave of a pen to low-activity waste and to put the waste in grout instead of glass, both of which could leave staggering amounts of waste on the Hanford site causing irreparable harm to the environment and future generations.

In 2021, we must keep up the pressure for safe and effective treatment of Hanford’s high-level tank waste and protective environmental laws. The battle is far from over, so stay tuned for updates and opportunities to take action!



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Take Action!

In 2020, Hanford Challenge filed more public comments than ever before.

Thanks to your generous donations, we tackled an upsurge in public comment periods, filing eleven sets of public comments, empowering you to write comments with seven "Say What?" Comment Writing Guides, and holding three virtual "Take Action!" comment writing workshops.

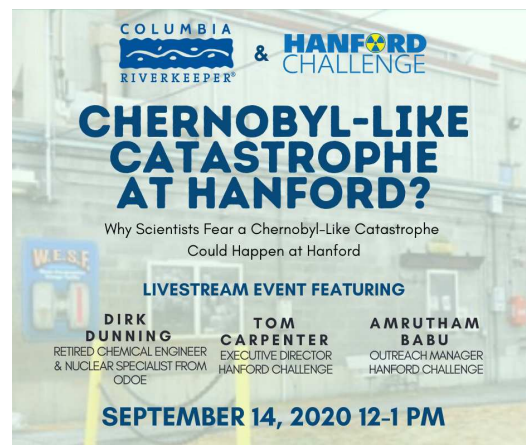


1. Disposal of Mixed Low-Level Waste at the Integrated Disposal Facility
2. Perma-Fix NW Permit Modification
3. WTP Risk Assessment Permit Mod
4. Stabilization of Structures at Risk of Failure
5. 242-A Evaporator Permit Modification
6. Annual DOE Hanford Site Budget Submittal for Fiscal Year 2022
7. 242-A Evaporator Transfer Line
8. LERF Basin 41 Comments
9. Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility Permit Mod
10. B-Plant EE/CA for Non-Time Critical Removal Action
11. Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Evaluation on Vitrified Low Activity Waste Waste



Thanks to you, Hanford Challenge mobilized action on the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF) - a catastrophe waiting to happen.

WESF provides underwater storage for nearly 2,000 stainless steel capsules filled with extremely radioactive strontium and cesium. We created an animated video, filed extensive public comments, and held educational events urging action to protect our beloved Pacific Northwest!





Perma-Fix NW Report

Hanford Challenge started investigating Perma-Fix Northwest after learning about proposals to send Hanford's tank waste there for off-site treatment. Perma-Fix Northwest is a commercial waste treatment facility located in Richland, WA that mostly treats waste from Hanford and other DOE sites.

In November 2020, Hanford Challenge and Robert Alvarez released their findings in a report titled "Risky Business at Perma-Fix Northwest," recommending that it would be safer to treat Hanford's waste at the Hanford Site instead of sending it to Perma-Fix Northwest for treatment.

In conjunction with the report, Hanford Challenge created an animated video about our findings and held an "Insider Hour" virtual event with Tom Carpenter and Robert Alvarez.



EPA NON-COMPLIANCE LIST

Perma-Fix Northwest Richland
2025 Battelle Blvd, Richland WA 99354

Three-Year Compliance History by Quarter

Statute	Program Violation Type	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	QTR 5	QTR 6	QTR 7	QTR 8	QTR 9
RCCA (Source ID)	10401-12/19/17	01/01/03/21/18	04/01/04/20/18	07/01/09/20/17						
Facility Level Status	Violation	Violation	No Violation	No Violation	Significant Noncomplier	Significant Noncomplier	Significant Noncomplier	Significant Noncomplier	Significant Noncomplier	Significant Noncomplier
Enforcement Agency	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA	EPA

RISKY BUSINESS AT PERMA-FIX NORTHWEST

The Inside Story on Hanford's Off-Site Radioactive Treatment Facility
By Robert Alvarez and Hanford Challenge



Image from Tri-City Herald

(Last updated: December 4, 2020)



10 QUICK FACTS FROM "RISKY BUSINESS AT PERMA-FIX NORTHWEST"



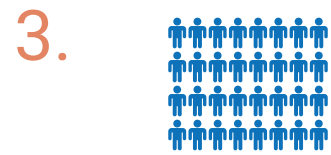
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1. Perma-Fix NW has a checkered and worrisome history of environmental non-compliance, including making the EPA's "Significant Non-Complier" list in 2019.



2. Perma-Fix NW had two fires in 2019, both unreported in the press. One was deemed "a near catastrophe" by a state inspector, as fire alarms were inoperable at the time.



3. Over 32,000 people live within 5 miles of Perma-Fix NW and a daycare center is less than a mile away.



4. Most of the waste Perma-Fix NW treats comes from Hanford and other DOE sites.



5. Between 2011 and 2019, Perma-Fix Northwest processed at least 11,000 grams of plutonium-239, more than enough for two nuclear weapons. Plutonium is deadly in microscopic quantities.



6. Past serious worker over-exposures to radiation could have been prevented with better training, safety systems, and protective equipment.



7. The annual occupational exposure limit of 50 rem/year was grossly exceeded in two accidents. In 2006, three workers exceeded this exposure limit with doses of 442 Rem, 313 Rem, and 68 Rem. In 2009, a worker received a dose of 120 Rem.



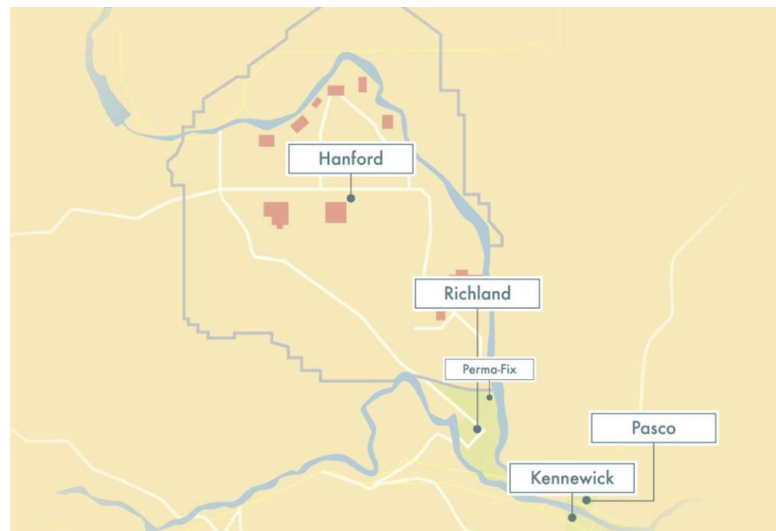
8. The multi-player regulatory structure at Perma-Fix NW lacks a unified basis and has led to problems slipping through the cracks. Pooling the collective knowledge of the regulators in an integrative assessment could provide better oversight.



9. There is a proposal to send 500,000 gallons of treated Hanford tank waste for grouting at Perma-Fix NW and also send waste from around the country (over 2 million cubic feet) to Perma-Fix NW over the next 30 years.



10. Hanford waste should be treated on the Hanford Site, not off-site at Perma-Fix NW. This would lower the risk to the community; eliminate transportation risks; and increase transparency, accountability, and safety.





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Legal Accomplishments

Worker Comp Bill Successfully Defended

Hanford Challenge was instrumental in helping get this bill passed in the State of WA to increase access to healthcare and compensation for worker illnesses as a result of working at Hanford. The federal government challenged this law in federal court, but lost to the state of WA this year.

"I thank my legal team for the hard work they put into this case, and Governor Inslee, the Department of Labor & Industries and Hanford Challenge for their assistance and support."
- Bob Ferguson

3.22.17

Hanford Challenge coordinates with sick and injured Hanford workers to testify in Olympia, WA on new proposed bill to give Hanford workers who get ill on the job better access to healthcare, compensation, and services.



1.10.18

Hanford Challenge submits oral and written testimonies in Olympia, WA before the WA State Legislature, State Committee on Labor & Commerce.



3.7.19

Hanford Challenge is invited to Governor Inslee's signing of the Hanford bill.



6.13.19

Federal District Court judge rejects federal government challenge to state law. Federal government appeals to the 9th Circuit.



8.19.2020

Final Resolution: 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upholds state law (hanford bill) that helps Hanford workers. Now, law of the land.



Hanford Challenge will help assess and report on whether the compensation system is easier to navigate and whether workers can access compensation more fairly as a result of this bill.



Legal Accomplishments

Hanford Challenge has supported whistleblower and connected powerhouse legal teams that have recovered nearly \$200 million taxpayer dollars and implemented greater protections for workers. I don't want to think about how much worse the fraud, the environmental contamination, or the worker health and safety issues would be at Hanford without Hanford Challenge."

-Meredith Crafton, Attorney at Law, Smith & Lowney



False Claims Act Case

Hanford Challenge staff provided our collective 40+ years of experience working on Hanford issues to assist two law firms--and four courageous whistleblowers--combat fraud at Hanford. This legal case ultimately led to the second largest Hanford false claims act settlement ever--\$58 million! We continue to work very closely with these firms.

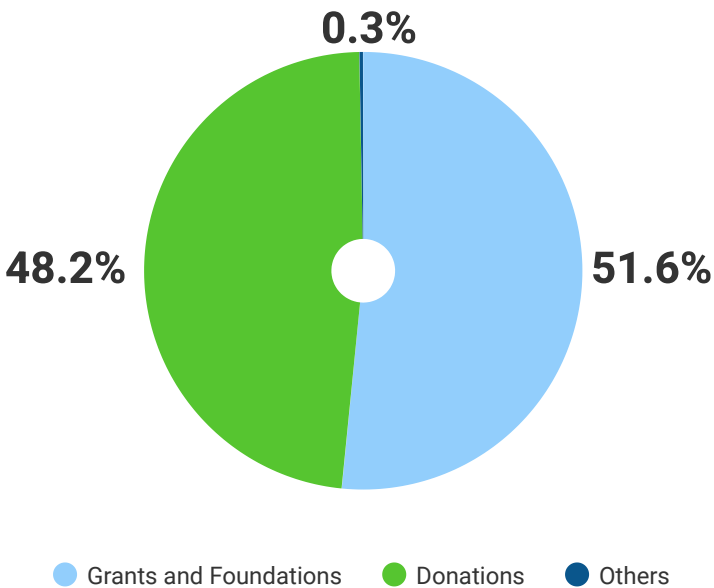
We continue to represent Hanford whistleblowers and prepare for environmental litigation. Stay tuned for more opportunities to hold Hanford accountable.



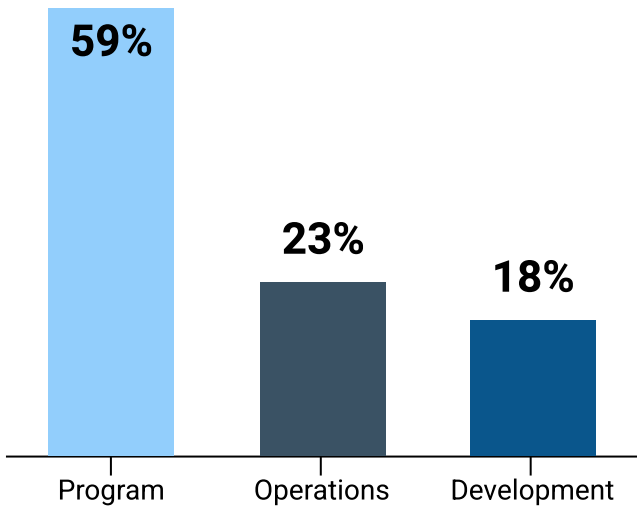


2020 Financial Summary

COVID posed challenges for everyone in 2020, including Hanford Challenge. Thank you for stepping up with generous donations to help us weather the storm. Because of you, Hanford Challenge continues protecting the future with a cleanup that works. Your generous donations helped Hanford Challenge end the year with the equivalent of a five-month cash reserve, THANK YOU!



Total Operating Revenue= **\$670,000**



Total Operating Expenses= **\$540,000**



We are hopeful that we will be able to see you in person in 2021! Stay tuned for more information on our spring 2021 Gala and other events.



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Thank you! Despite canceling our gala and moving to a virtual event we raised over

\$100,000!



56+

members of the Hanford Challenge community...

...from **8** states participated!

The farthest away was from **Hiroshima, Japan!**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Nicely produced, very efficient, classy; great spirit and vibe. Inspiring and Interesting format.

Thank you everyone! a wonderful chance to be together for such a great group!!

So great to see everyone tonight and thank you to everyone for giving so generously and enthusiastically to this amazing organization. Thank you HC staff and board!!



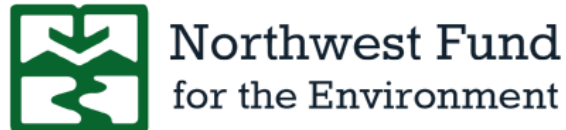
Grants & Sponsorships



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Horizons Foundation



Lucky Seven Foundation





Hanford Challenge Team

Staff:

Tom Carpenter
Executive Director

Jeanna Deforeit
Deputy Director

Nikolas Peterson
Legal Director

Amrutham Babu
Outreach Manager

Alison Tate
Development Manager

Liz Mattson
Senior Advisor

Board of Directors:

Vicky Vreeland
Chair

Deanne Meek
Vice Chair

Laura Gerber
Secretary

Steve Gilbert
Treasurer

Allen Brecke

Nick Bumpaous

Randal Dick

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John Kriese

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