

Hanford Communities Position on High Level Waste
Presented to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

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Hanford's inventory of High Level Waste

53 million gallons of tank waste which is projected to produce 9,700 canisters of HLW vitrified glass

1,900 canisters of cesium and strontium in wet storage

2,300 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel in dry storage ready to ship to a repository

570 tons of commercial spent fuel in dry storage at Energy NW

124 decommissioned submarine reactors with more to come

Interim Storage

Hanford is in effect an interim storage facility because we have no place to ship the material that is by law destined for a deep geologic repository

There are financial consequences to Hanford because of the fact that there is no HLW repository

- Funding for the guards and guns that protect the spent nuclear fuel , come out of the cleanup budget
- HLW glass that will be produced by our Waste Treatment Plant must be stored until it can be shipped. Therefore funding will have to be pulled from cleanup efforts to design and build such a facility. We are calling it a temporary storage facility but we are designing it in a manner so that it can be expanded if needed.
- We believe that there should be compensation to our community and others who host interim storage of nuclear waste and geologic repositories.

Path Forward

We support the recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission to establish a new entity dedicated to implementing the Nation's high level waste storage program.

We support the licensing, construction and operation of a permanent geologic repository for HLW. We are encouraged that Eddy County, New Mexico is interested in hosting such a facility.

We believe that the NRC should complete the evaluation of the Yucca Mt license application and that public hearings should be held as required by law.

Future of the Hanford Site

The Hanford Site encompasses 586 square miles. Nearly 90% of the site will be remediated in the next few years. However, the highly radioactive tank waste will require decades of work to solidify and encapsulate.

Our community has requested 1,640 acres of land, just north of the City of Richland to develop an Energy Park to attract new green manufacturing jobs. There is also a strong interest in new missions.

While we believe there should be some quid pro quo to communities hosting interim storage, we do not seek monetary compensation as the nation struggles to reduce the deficit. We do ask that Hanford be given consideration for new national missions such as energy development and storage programs.

We believe that our future lies not with the DOE Environmental Management program but with other DOE program offices such as Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), the Office of Science, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and possibly Nuclear Energy.