



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Richland Field Office

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June 15, 2023

23-NWP-082

Susan Coleman, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
245 Torbett Street  
Richland, Washington 99354

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #314, Fiscal Year 2025 Hanford Cleanup Priorities

Dear Susan Coleman:

Thank you for Hanford Advisory Board (Board) Advice #314. We appreciate the Board's annual policy-level advice on Hanford Site cleanup priorities. As requested, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an individual response to the Board's advice.

The Board also requested a point-by-point response to the advice. Overall, Ecology supports the Board's recommended cleanup priorities in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, including the request to include this advice in the upcoming Hanford budget request to be submitted. Therefore, we are not providing a point-by-point response, but we are providing expanded comment and perspective on several points:

- **TW-a – DFLAW:** Ecology's expectation is that the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) suite of systems will operate efficiently and effectively to reach 21 metric tons of glass per day (at 70 percent total operating capacity) as noted in the [2016 Amended Consent Decree](#)<sup>1</sup>. It's also our expectation that the DFLAW suite of equipment will increase production rates to achieve the "nameplate capacity," of the Low-Activity Waste Vitrification Facility, totaling 30 metric tons per day with two melters.
- **TW-b – Leak Response Plan:** The U.S. Department of Energy (Energy) is required to submit a [Leak Response Plan](#)<sup>2</sup> for single-shell tanks to our agency for review by August 25, 2023. This plan is required to include water intrusion monitoring, investigation, and response requirements. Once we review it, the plan will be incorporated into the Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal, Revision 9A. The Rev. 9A Permit is expected to go out for public comment in early 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> 2016 Amended Consent Decree: <https://ecology.wa.gov/DOE/files/c7/c7baa4c9-818b-40e6-9872-09bc6293afdd.pdf>


<sup>2</sup> Ecology's Hanford leaking tanks webpage: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Nuclear-waste/Hanford-cleanup/Leaking-tanks>

- **TW-c – High-Level Waste Facility:** Ecology shares the Board’s desire for resumption of design and construction activities for the High-Level Waste Vitrification Facility. We stand ready to participate in and support the necessary permitting, design review, construction certification, and other activities for the facility.
- **ISA-b – Hanford Funding Support:** Ecology recognizes that the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) project will require appropriate levels of funding over a significant amount of time. The specific amounts of required funding and the timing of those funds are not yet resolved. However, the level of provided funds will directly impact WTP’s ability to move forward to maintain scope and schedules of the project in support of the Hanford mission.

Ecology has heavily advocated for increasing and maintaining a sufficient budget for Hanford cleanup and will continue to do so. Consistent, sufficient funding for Hanford will save taxpayers billions while also finishing the job decades sooner and reducing the chance of a contamination release or infrastructure collapse.<sup>3</sup>

If you have any questions regarding this response, contact Ryan Miller at [ryan.miller@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ryan.miller@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 537-2228, or Stephanie Schleif at [stephanie.schleif@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:stephanie.schleif@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 537-229.

Sincerely,



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David B. Bowen  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

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<sup>3</sup> Lowering Hanford’s Price Tag one-pager: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2305003.pdf>