

Department of Energy Public Comment,

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The Hanford Cleanup Five Year Plan needs to prioritize removing waste from leaking High-Level Nuclear Waste tanks. The Plan needs to commit to removing waste from leaking Tank B-109 now, as federal and state hazardous waste laws require. It's unacceptable that USDOE is spending billions of dollars on a plant to treat the waste from tanks while allowing leaking tanks to just keep leaking waste to contaminate the soil and groundwater which flows into the Columbia River. Develop the capacity via the "SAFE" and "Test Bed Initiatives" to remove waste from Single Shell Tanks with offsite treatment and disposal to lower overall risks to Hanford's groundwater and health.

Before an earthquake causes a catastrophe, remove all extremely radioactive Cesium and Strontium capsules from the WESF pools by 2025.

USDOE's Hanford Five Year Plan should commit to removing and treating all illegally stored wastes in Hanford's Central Waste Complex in the next 24 months. Thousands of drums and containers of waste are dangerously stored in violation of hazardous waste laws. Wastes are – even stored outdoors, and many containers are corroding. Laws forbid storing these wastes without treatment for more than a year, but USDOE has stored them for decades. It's time to remove and treat them at a licensed treatment facility.

Hanford's Five Year Plan should complete remediation of all River Corridor areas and ensure safe access to resources along the River by the end of 2025. Honor Treaty rights of Native American nations enabling them to safely utilize River Corridor resources within five years rather than waiting hundreds of years for the areas to be safe and stop spreading contamination into the Columbia.