



WAREP Letter to U.S. Department of Energy and Washington State Department of Ecology regarding Hanford cleanup

The attached letter to the U.S. Department of Energy and Washington State Department of Ecology, regarding the Hanford cleanup problem, is the culmination of substantial work and research by your chapter president with the help of the chapter Executive Committee and in consultation with Heart of America Northwest. As you can see, WAREP is asking very specific questions and taking very specific positions about the cleanup effort. We plan to evaluate the responses and act based on that evaluation.

My research started with attending the 2007 “State of the Site” meeting and obtaining a very complex and lengthy report about the 2006 cleanup activity. I targeted the single shell tank problem as an initial focus because failure of those tanks has significant downstream effects that go far beyond the impact on the greater Tri-Cities area, which has seemed to accept the risks of the Hanford threat as a “quid-pro-quo” for the economic prosperity it has brought to that area. I also reviewed the 2007 cleanup report, and much of the content of the letter is a comparison of the results evident from those two reports.

While I am happy to report that there is increasing activity on the legal and legislative fronts, I worry that regulatory activity is hamstrung by too many pressures and complexities to solve the most pressing problems soon enough to avoid a catastrophic event. We all need to keep the pressure on both the state and federal governments to do everything possible to avoid such an event. I’m proud that WAREP has signed on to that end. If you would like to participate more actively, e-mail me to that effect so we can get you more involved.

You may also want to go to the Heart of America Northwest fact sheet and see its assessment of the stimulus bill impact on Hanford. You can find it at:

<http://www.hoanw.org/uploads/hoanw/TPA%20factsheet%20background%20color.pdf>

Best regards,

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