



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Office of the Governor

March 3, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy & Water  
Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy &  
Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
2362-B House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
& Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
& Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Simpson, and Ranking Members Feinstein and Kaptur:

Thank you for your continued support of the U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) budget for the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. As you know, the cleanup of legacy contamination from work done at Hanford during World War II and the Cold War is the moral and legal obligation of the federal government, which I know you take as seriously as I do.

I appreciate the commitment within the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 President's and EM budget proposals to address the 56 million gallons of nuclear waste stored at Hanford, through the USDOE Office of River Protection (ORP). Within the Radioactive Liquid Tank Waste Stabilization and Disposition account, the additional funding for Hanford tank farms will support critical activities such as:

- Retrieving and pumping waste of the leaking double-shell tank AY-102;
- Preparing to retrieve and pump the tanks in A and AX tank farms; and
- Completing the pumping of all tanks in C farm as required in the court-mandated consent decree.

It also provides funding for continued integrity assessments of the aging tanks and maintenance of the infrastructure needed for transferring waste to treatment facilities. Finally, it provides design funding for the Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System that would support Direct Feed Low Activity Waste (DFLAW).

Within the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) account, the funding allows ORP to continue design and construction activities on the Low Activity Waste vitrification facility. ORP also has initiated site preparation for an Effluent Management Facility. Both of these actions would support DFLAW.



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While I am encouraged by the proposed funding levels on the ORP side, I am extremely concerned about the drastic proposed reduction in the budget for the Richland Operations (RL) office, which provides equally crucial cleanup work on the Hanford site. The work conducted by RL protects the Columbia River, a resource of incalculable value to the residents of the Pacific Northwest.

The \$190 million proposed reduction would dramatically affect major work currently underway and completion of cleanup along the Columbia River shoreline. Projects that are extremely important to the state of Washington, and that are moving forward to completion, would be severely impacted and, in many cases, halted completely as a result of the budget reduction that has been proposed.

Examples of this critical work include:

- Remediation of the 324 Building, including cleanup and removal of the highly dangerous radioactive waste site (300-296) under the building. This building is in the area nearest to the City of Richland and is of great concern to local residents and businesses in the area.
- Completion of cleanup at the high hazard 618-10 waste burial site vertical pipe units. Cleanup of this complex waste site has been underway for some time, and the experience gained from completing this cleanup will be of great value in addressing the 618-11 burial ground, which is close to the Columbia Generating station and its employees.
- Completion of cleanup at the K Reactors Area along the river. Remediation of these waste sites has been waiting for removal of the K Basins Sludge.
- Upgrades and completion of groundwater treatment systems along the river to address contaminated groundwater and prevent further contamination of the river.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of aging infrastructure to support cleanup across the site and to ensure the safety of the workforce and our adjacent communities.

I ask that your subcommittees reject the significant proposed funding reductions for RL, and maintain essential funding for both RL and ORP, to ensure that Hanford cleanup continues and positive progress is not halted. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Ernest Moniz, U.S. Secretary of Energy  
The Honorable Monica Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy  
The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Representative