

**Parsons, Susan**

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**From:** Sabine Hilding <sabinehilding@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018 9:58 AM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Cc:** paigesknight46@gmail.com; Nancy Matela; David Delk  
**Subject:** Hanford US DOE testimony by Sabine Hilding and Nancy Matela  
**Attachments:** 1 . Testimony, Regarding USDOE proposal to reclassify some high level toxic nuclear waste at Hanford, Sabine Hilding, Nancy Matela to PDX Council December 5, 2018.docx;  
2. Letter to Theresa Kliczewski at USDOE, deadline December 10, 2018.docx

Dear Sue,

Nancy Matela and I will be giving testimony December 5 to Council about this USDOE proposal, whose public comment deadline is December 10, 2018.

This affects Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and how high level toxic nuclear waste would potentially be remediated there.

Please pass these two docs on to Mayor Wheeler and council members. The first is what we will read, the second is a sample letter we would like them to send by way of a comment to USDOE.

Sincerely,

Sabine Hilding

cc  
Nancy Matela  
David Delk, Oregon Alliance for Democracy  
Paige Knight, Hanfordwatch, and Regional Hanford Advisory Board

## **To PDX City Council December 5, 2018**

Every few years another plan to deal with the national volume of nuclear waste left over from bomb making (1945-1989) during the Cold War and after, is floated by the US Department of Energy. Under the Trump administration, a plan whose deadline for comment is December 10, 2018, involves renaming some high level toxic nuclear waste to low level nuclear waste. The bottom line of this plan is to find a cheaper and faster way to sweep the issue of much high level toxic nuclear waste under the rug, and call it clean up.

The USDOE wants to redefine the statutory term of High Level Waste (HLW) resulting in its reclassification/redefinition from what has been set forth in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

Hanford Nuclear Reservation is the worst toxic waste site in the Western Hemisphere. This USDOE reclassification has huge geographical implications for Hanford's leaking 177 high level radioactive waste tanks, amounting to 56 million gallons stored at Hanford, 240 miles up the Columbia River from Portland in Washington State.

If high level is reclassified to low level waste, many remaining tank wastes could be left in the tanks and also underground beneath the tanks, potentially flowing into the Columbia. Additionally the USDOE has not said how they will classify low level vs. high level. The devil is in the details which are not disclosed.

Edwin Lyman from the Union of Concerned Scientists notes, "The USDOE should *not* be making any changes in its requirements that would result in a reduction of safety. We are concerned with the possible misuse of this definition."

This definition change could potentially provide less secure ways of dealing with the existing plumes of underground waste and the future leaks of more waste below the 177 tanks. This reclassification gives too much leeway to the USDOE.

Removal of the high level waste in the tanks and in the vadose zone (the underground water zone) must be a priority.

As representatives for us, your constituency, we are asking our Portland City Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler to weigh in on this USDOE proposal plan by sending the city's objections.

Thank you.

Public comments should be sent by December 10, 2018 to: Theresa Kliczewski email: [HLWnotice@em.doe.gov](mailto:HLWnotice@em.doe.gov) By post address: US Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, Office of Materials Management, Office of Waste and Materials Management (EM-4.2) 1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington DC 20585 (202) 586 3301

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/10/2018-22002/request-for-public-comment-on-the-us-department-of-energy-interpretation-of-high-level-radioactive>

December 5, 2018

Theresa Kliczewski [HLWnotice@em.doe.gov](mailto:HLWnotice@em.doe.gov)

US Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, Office of Materials Management, Office of Waste and Materials Management (EM-4.2),  
1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington DC 20585 phone (202) 586 3301

Dear MS Kliczewski:

As per the Request for Public Comment on the U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste...(a Notice by the Energy Department on 10/10/2018 in the Federal Register deadline for comments due December 10, 2018)...

The Portland, Oregon City Council would like to comment on the proposed plan by the US Department of Energy to redefine the statutory term of High Level Waste (HLW) resulting in its reclassification/redefinition from what has been set forth in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

Reclassification of some of this high level toxic nuclear waste to low level could result in the US Department of Energy (US DOE) having too much leeway as to how this toxic waste at Hanford is remediated. Safe disposal of high level waste for current and future generations is a priority.

We believe this proposed reclassification could potentially relax the rules for clean-up at Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Thank you

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Sabine Hilding <sabine1770@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2018 9:42 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** December 5--time slot City Council

Sabine Hilding  
3311 SW Fairmount Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97239  
503 935 9352

TOPIC- Hanford Nuclear Reservation: Commissioners and Mayor should take a public stand for clean-up as Portland administrations have done before, (i.e. Mayor Katz, Adams, etc.) urge commissioners and mayor to fabricate a letter to USDOE as well as Oregon delegation in Washington. (will shape contents of letter for commissioners--this is the 3 minute thing--the toxic waste is not going away and its safe treatment is crucial for cities all along the Columbia River and the entire watershed. Right now! USDOE is floating a plan to *reclassify* high level nuclear waste as low level, which means they can leave it in the ground at Hanford, and not clean up the plume beneath leaking tanks--huge implications both legal and environmental--for the 1770 tanks/leaking tanks onsite there, by law high level waste must be stored in deep underground repository, US DOE acting too fast before adequate studies and alternatives, etc. Renaming waste is simply unacceptable solution.) Need back-up to Oregon DOE's stance, the large affected cities should step up.

DATE: December 5, 2018

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Sabine Hilding  
email [sabine1770@gmail.com](mailto:sabine1770@gmail.com)  
cell 503 935 9352

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Request of Sabine Hilding to address Council regarding the Department of Energy's decision about high level nuclear waste disposal (Communication)

DEC 05 2018

PLACED ON FILE

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NOV 27 2018

Filed \_\_\_\_\_

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*  
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED  
AS FOLLOWS:

	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		