

May 4, 2011

TO: City of Portland Commissioners

FROM: Nancy Matela, Heart of America Northwest, Hanford Citizens Watch

I am here for your active support in petitioning the USDOE to remove Hanford Nuclear Reservation from the list of candidate sites for the national permanent storage of future radioactive waste. The recent tragic event at Fukushima underscores the potential devastating effects an accident would have on people and wildlife in the Columbia River basin including Portland. You have heard of this before when I was here two years ago. But let me summarize the situation and update you on the USDOE plans. After 21 years, citizen groups need your clout during this final push.

Currently, Hanford which is roughly 200 miles from here is the most contaminated site in the Western Hemisphere with its continuing degradation of the water and soil from the World War II nuclear waste stored on site. There is already documented leakage of strontium-90 in the Columbia River at concentrations of 1200 times the EPA standard. There are over one million people living downriver from Hanford including Portland. This fact alone makes the situation perilous without adding further waste.

Yet, the USDOE is considering bringing more "extremely high-level nuclear waste" to Hanford on an ongoing basis by declaring the site to be the national radioactive waste repository. USDOE's own draft of the Environmental Impact Statement says adding these wastes to Hanford will almost double the curies of radiation and increase groundwater and Columbia River contamination dramatically, including a ten-fold increase in cancer risk to future generations who are likely to use the vast groundwater reservoir for drinking or irrigation.

Besides the river contamination, Portland will be affected much more directly. If Hanford is selected, truckloads of radioactive waste would travel along interstate routes passing through our cities. Specifically, we are told that the Hanford proposal would mean between 12,000 and 27,000 truckloads will travel through Spokane and Portland along I-5, I-90, I-84 and I-205. Although not included in recent drafts of the Environmental Impact Statement, a 2008 USDOE study estimated 800 deaths would occur due to ambient radiation from the transport vehicles alone. This does not include the unimaginable number of deaths from a truck accident, earthquake or intentional attack that could happen in or near our city. A study vetted by nuclear scientists in 2004, indicated up to 57 square miles could be rendered uninhabitable, wiping out much of the City of Portland causing 3,000 immediate deaths in the event of a transportation calamity at the confluence of I-84 and I-205. In the past, this was considered an extreme doomsday statement. With the events at Fukushima, no one is dismissing the possibility of such a scenario now.

I know all of you oppose the USDOE's proposal, and Mayor Adams is drafting a letter expressing this to Secretary Chu and the DOE. ***What I'm here to underline is that this is our last chance to object to the USDOE's choosing Hanford as the permanent repository. On June 27, 2011, the time for public comment will close and the USDOE will make their recommendation to Congress for a final determination.*** Next Thursday, May 19 at 6:30, the last Portland hearing sponsored by the USDOE will be held at the Doubletree Lloyd Center. I understand that you will be in a budget meeting. I would ask that you send representatives to the hearing to strenuously object to this proposal and send follow-up letters to USDOE officials.

Contact information and Websites are on the reverse of this document.

Secretary Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
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Washington, DC 20585

Arnold Edelman
GTCC EIS Document Manager
Office of Disposal Operations (EM-43)
Email: gtcceis@anl.gov

To stay informed, see:

<http://www.gtcceis.anl.gov>

For the specific proposal in PowerPoint, see:

http://www.gtcceis.anl.gov/documents/docs/GTCC_Draft_EIS_Public_Hearings_Presentation.pdf

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Nancy Matela [nmatela@pacifier.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 2:34 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Request for 3-min slot on Wed May 4th

I would like to ask that the City of Portland speak out against Hanford Nuclear Reservation being declared the national radioactive waste dump. We have brought this topic to the Commissioners before but the Department of Energy is moving ahead on the decision. It would mean thousands of trucks carrying highly radioactive material through the City of Portland

Nancy Matela
Alliance for Democracy and Heart of America NW
6351 SE Morrison Ct
Portland, OR 97215
503-267-1401

Request of Nancy Matela to address Council regarding Hanford Nuclear Reservation (Communication)

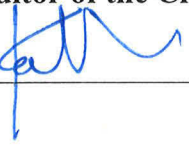
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PLACED ON FILE

APR 29 2011

Filed _____

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		