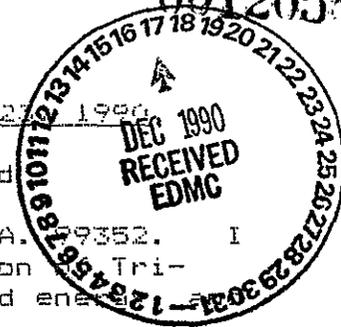


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Statement to the Hanford Cleanup Meeting, Oct. 27, 1990

From THE HANFORD FAMILY, by R. S. Hammond



My name is Dick Hammond, 1522 Hains, Richland, WA, 99352. I represent The Hanford Family, a voluntary organization of Tri-Citians for the past five years, who have monitored energy particularly nuclear energy, for balance.

Our thanks to the representatives from the Department of Energy and their contractors, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Department of Ecology. We appreciate the openness and willingness of you people and your parent organizations to provide this public presentation, and to provide the wealth of detail on your plans for Hanford clean-up. We believe, as you do, that this approach will meet a public need, will minimize problems of interpretation and communication, will provide the stimulus for your management that wide exposure fosters, and will result in access to technical and non-technical views. More simply put, we agree with your open approach.

Hazardous wastes abound in our world. Even if we restrict the subject to hazardous radioactive wastes, the problem is still almost too large to comprehend. That is why we paraphrase one of the IF phrases under Hanford's Organizational Culture in your FIVE-YEAR VISION FOR HANFORD CLEANUP. The words we want to modify are, quote "We propose alternatives or changes to laws and regulations that prevent or hinder protection of the environment, and human health and safety or provide little or no benefit for the public funds expended." Expansion of that thought should note that since clean-up of all of Hanford's inactive facilities and waste sites is driven by a complex of Federal and State laws, some restatements of limits or requirements in these laws will be needed to avoid needless conflict or untimely, harmful, detrimental, extravagant, or disserviceable actions. To this end, such changes should be continuously noted so that offending regulatory agencies, elected officials and any ombudsmen can be held responsible for balancing our laws to agree with our pocketbooks. Regular reviews are necessary to assure that timing of expenditures does not outrun our technological abilities, our hope for a Utopian environment, or the budget.

A look at the big picture tells us that Hanford's clean-up goal is not to establish answers for the world's nuclear waste problems. But, viable clean-up methods developed here would be a first-order-of-magnitude need to assure US support for commercial nuclear power in these days when foreign oil is a major factor in our country's energy picture.

If, as many suspect, progress in the US continues to be blocked in the search for permanent, deep geologic disposal, we agree with one of your commenters in his Question 24 that Monitored Retrievable Storage should become a main effort here, and should be factored into long term clean-up plans.

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Another commenter in his Question 43 refers to the public's need for basic nuclear information. We include educational aid in the elementary schools and beyond. And we agree with Question 44 and the possibility of various "white papers", and the use of scientist and engineer presentors to schools, Chamber of Commerce, and concerned adults.

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