



**OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352

**JUN 06 2019**

19-CIM-0007

Ms. Alexandra K. Smith, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
3100 Port of Benton  
Richland, Washington 99354

Ms. Smith:

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION REQUESTS  
WITHDRAWAL OF THE TEST BED INITIATIVE PERMIT APPLICATION**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is withdrawing its permit application for the Test Bed Initiative in light of the State of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) proposal of May 29, 2019 that DOE and Ecology engage in negotiations for six to nine months to develop a holistic and realistic approach to the retrieval and treatment of Hanford's tank waste. DOE hopes this approach will recognize both the State's needs and the fiscal and technical challenges facing the tank waste mission, and will be one that need not be revisited every few years.

DOE believes the Test Bed Initiative, which could result in the treatment and offsite disposal of tank waste before the Waste Treatment Plant is operational, should be one of the approaches DOE and Ecology consider carefully in their upcoming negotiations. DOE is withdrawing the application to eliminate any time pressure on these negotiations, and to allow the parties to carefully consider this and other approaches to retrieving and treating tank waste.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Harp, (509) 376-1462.

  
Ben J. Harp, Deputy Manager  
Office of River Protection

MGR: BJH

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Ms. Alexandra K. Smith  
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cc electronic:

D.R. Einan, EPA

J.K. Perry, MSA

K. Niles, ODOE

Administrative Record

WRPS Correspondance

cc:

J. Price, Ecology

Environmental Portal