

GERRY POLLET: Gerry Pollet for Heart of America Northwest, and I'm going to start by using a few seconds of my three minutes here to say whoever came up with this ground rule that when there are not many people remaining here because we didn't start taking comments until 8:30 and limiting people to three minutes is inappropriate.

And normally in a public hearing you look at this crowd and you say, gee, maybe we could go five minutes each and it's inappropriate to cut people off. And I don't know who came up with the ground rule but it's inappropriate and I do hope that you're going to invite everyone to come back up who wants to give additional comments since I'm just going to make that comment from the floor because I assume you will do so, right.

Heart of America Northwest believes that this proposal is a potpourri, a wish list, of delays and changes from an enforceable Hanford cleanup agreement with accountability to wish list of the Department of Energy taking little items that it's wanted to get its hands on for a while to big items in delaying and the total sum of the agreement is to reduce accountability at a time when you have an obligation to show dramatically increased accountability.

You have a vitrification plant that is eight years behind schedule and \$8 billion over budget and despite that and despite the fact that Congress handed you \$2 billion in cleanup funds and the response to being handed \$2 billion in cleanup funds is to ask for delays in the enforceable schedules for the very work you're planning to use those funds for and those delays do not add up to, well, we were negotiating and we had to give a few months while we were negotiating and we didn't know we'd get the money.

Instead those delays for instance for transuranic waste retrieval, treating illegally stored mixed wastes, those delays add up to years when your excuse is we were in negotiations for a few months without knowing how much money we'd have in 2009 --

PENNY MABIE: 30 seconds, Gerry.

GERRY POLLET: -- this is unacceptable.

It is also unacceptable to say we want to replace the role of the Environmental Protection Agency with the fox guarding the henhouse as Daniel said, the Energy Department writing the records of decision. CERCLA, the Federal cleanup law, doesn't mention anything about records of decision, it says EPA will choose the remedy and it says no executive order or anything else can change EPA's role.

PENNY MABIE: Time, Gerry.

GERRY POLLET: Then I'll come back up and finish.

PENNY MABIE: Thank you. Next is Cherie Lambert Holenstein followed by, I know I'm slaughtering this but I can't read it, Aubrey something.

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