

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bailey, Barnhart, Bentz, Gilliam, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boone
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Recognizes that radioactive waste stored at Hanford Nuclear Reservation is contaminating ground water beneath site and ultimately flowing into Columbia River. Acknowledges that contamination poses serious threat to human health and to sensitive species in river. States that cleaning up Hanford Nuclear Reservation is a top priority for Oregonians. Urges United States Congress to provide stable and sufficient funding and to direct United States Department of Energy to expedite efforts to protect Columbia River. Urges Congress to provide Oregon with decision-making role in related matters, including Hanford Tri- Party Agreement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent developments related to Hanford clean up
- Potential use of federal stimulus money for clean up
- Importance of role for Oregon in decision making

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1943, the United States government as a part of the Manhattan project acquired 586 square miles of land in Benton County, Washington. The purpose of this purchase was to build large industrial facilities to produce plutonium. Between 1943 and 1963, nine plutonium production reactors were built along the Columbia River and five reprocessing facilities were built on the Central Plateau with more than 900 support facilities and radiological laboratories around the site. Over its 40 years of operations, Hanford produced nearly two-thirds of all the plutonium produced for government purposes in the United States. Most of the nuclear reactors were shut down between 1964 and 1971; the last reactor operated until 1987.

On May 15, 1989, the United States Department of Energy, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Washington signed a comprehensive clean up and compliance agreement known as the Tri-Party Agreement. The Tri-Party Agreement defines and ranks the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act commitments; establishes responsibility; provides a basis for budgeting; and reflects a goal of achieving regulatory compliance and remediation. Hanford is the country's largest environmental clean up project with an annual budget of \$2 billion dollars.

5/15/2009 1:30:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.