

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/17

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Single largest environmental problem in the United States
- The clean up process started almost 20 years ago
- Progress is approximately one-third of the way complete

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 U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Washington signed a comprehensive cleanup 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 cleanup project with an annual budget of \$2 billion dollars.

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