

## HJM 5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Energy and Environment

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**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/6

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Urges Congress to continue to appropriate funds for Hanford Nuclear Reservation cleanup, with specific focus on funding for remediation of ground water contamination.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Hanford sits on the Columbia River, just 35 miles from Oregon's border. For more than 40 years, the federal government produced plutonium for America's nuclear weapons program at the Hanford nuclear site in southeast Washington. That process created large amounts of radioactive and chemically hazardous waste. Since plutonium production ended in 1989, the focus at Hanford has shifted to waste cleanup. More than 2,000 distinct waste sites have been identified at Hanford, ranging from small areas of surface contamination to hundreds of solid waste burial trenches. There are hundreds of contaminated facilities, including nine nuclear production reactors, laboratories, and large chemical reprocessing plants. An estimated 444 billion gallons of contaminated liquid was dumped into the soil, causing extensive contamination of Hanford's groundwater. The most hazardous of the liquid waste was pumped to 177 underground storage tanks.