HJM 5 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/27

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:

-2 Replaces whereas section with language that makes it clear that although there has been significant progress in reducing flow of contaminants in ground water to the Columbia River, expansion of treatment systems is still needed, especially on Hanford's Central Plateau. Clarifies that federal funding for the Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup is not keeping pace with the actions needed to continue widespread progress with the overall Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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.