



Mayor Lisa Brown

September 18, 2024

The Honorable David Turk Deputy Secretary U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Ave. SW Washington, D.C. 20585	The Honorable Casey Sixkiller Regional Administrator, Region 10 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155 Seattle, WA 98102	The Honorable Jay Inslee Governor State of Washington PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504
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Dear Deputy Secretary Turk, Governor Inslee, and Regional Administrator Sixkiller,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the planned shipment of liquid radioactive hazardous waste from the Hanford site to facilities in Texas and Utah through Spokane or by any other route. Radioactive waste shipped in its liquid form poses an unconscionable risk to every community through which it is trucked, but the risks to Spokane are even more elevated. I add my voice to those of the State of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the City of Bend, OR, and the many concerned community advocacy and watchdog groups to urge you to cancel or modify these dangerous plans.

I understand that, should the initial 2,000 gallons of waste successfully be solidified at facilities in Texas and Utah, your proposed agreement includes plans for millions of gallons of hazardous liquid waste to be shipped by rail or truck in the future. My further understanding is that no updated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to these activities has been completed.

I am extremely disappointed to learn that, following the expression of serious concerns by our friends from the State of Oregon and the CTUIR, your agencies shifted your planned route to go through Spokane. This plan poses an unacceptable risk to our city, as both rail and truck traffic passes through the heart of downtown Spokane over high bridges and elevated viaducts. We cannot afford the risk associated with a train derailment or truck accident. Furthermore, the communities closest to the interstate and rail corridors in our city are ones that have already borne the weight of historic discrimination and disinvestment. The potential negative consequences of this plan would disproportionately impact some of our most marginalized communities.

A Better Way Starts Here

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On behalf of the citizens of Spokane, and in defense of our beautiful natural spaces and vibrant urban setting, I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,



Lisa Brown
Mayor of Spokane

CC: The Honorable Senator Patty Murray
The Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Spokane County Board of Commissioners
Spokane City Council