

# Storage tank lost more than a million gallons of contaminated water

SEATTLE (AP) — A nuclear-waste storage tank at the Hanford nuclear reservation leaked more than a million gallons of contaminated water over a 10-year period ending in 1978, memos between the government and its Hanford contractor show.

State officials, outraged when they learned of the leak last week, are demanding to know the extent of contamination and why the problem was kept secret.

Public documents from the U.S. Energy Department, which owns Hanford, and its prime contractor at the site, Westinghouse Hanford Co., estimate the leak from single-wall storage tank 105A at 5,000 gallons.

But the documents do not mention cooling water added over a 10-year period to keep the million-gallon tank from exploding.

Memos between the department and Westinghouse show that cooling water leaked from

the concrete structure into the desert soil, *The Seattle Times* reported in its Sunday editions.

In a letter sent Friday, state Ecology officials ask the Energy

Department to provide all documentation about the 35-year-old tank by Oct. 10, said Roger Stanley, manager of state agency's Nuclear and Mixed Waste

Program.

"This information is disturbing in that it raises, once again, serious concern over past waste-management practices at

Hanford tank farms as well as questions regarding tank-farm safety and the extent of environmental damages," Stanley said.

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