

Nuclear waste waste transport could go along Deschutes near reservation

A federal proposal calls for moving radioactive nuclear waste from Washington through Oregon, then on to Utah and Texas.

The plan is move the liquid nuclear waste by truck and rail, raising major concerns among Oregon officials.

The radioactive waste comes from the Hanford Site near the Columbia River north of Richland, Washington.

Fifty-six million gallons of radioactive sludge are a byproduct of World War II-era plutonium production. The radioactive waste still sits, 80 years later, in 177 underground tanks, some of which are leaking.

To clean up the site and to remove the sludge, federal agencies and the Washington Department of Ecology could decide by the end of the year to move ahead with a proposal to cart the sludge by rail or truck through Oregon to the Utah and Texas sites. The waste can then be processed into a kind of cement that can be be stored.

Negotiations in arriving at the plan were mostly in private, according to a recent report.

The transport proposal does not yet detail a route, but critics have said it would most likely end up on major interstate highways through Oregon.

Another option: A rail line through central Oregon along the Deschutes River, passing near areas like the Warm Springs Reservation and Bend.

The possibility of thousands of gallons of the waste moving through the state as a liquid, rather than in a solid form as outlined in previous plans, are among the parts of the proposal that most alarm Oregon Gov. Tina



Nuclear waste tanks, built early in Hanford's development.

Kotek and Janine Benner, director of the Oregon Department of Energy.

Both have written to officials at the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, asking that they shelve the proposal until three critical issues are resolved.

Gov. Kotek wants an explanation for why the liquid won't be solidified before transit. She also wants to see an environmental assessment that scrutinizes all the possible impacts a leak or spill could have in transit; and would like to see greater involvement and outreach with potentially impacted communities.

In response, Candice Trummell Robertson, a senior environmental management advisor for the U.S. Department of Energy, wrote to Gov. Kotek to say officials had not yet decided on a route for the waste. And that the agency would seek public comment once they defined a

path in the fall.

She said the agency was determining if an environmental impact analysis would be needed to move waste, but noted it had been done safely before.

For nearly three decades, the plan for cleaning up the Hanford Site was to build an onsite glass plant where radioactive waste could be blended into glass, trapping the dangerous substances in a solid form. But such a plant has not been completed, and in 2023, the Department of Energy learned it could more cheaply mix some of the waste into grout cement at existing facilities in other states. Utah and Texas also offer disposal sites with little potential for groundwater contamination.

Since plutonium production began at Hanford nearly 80 years ago, about one-third of the 177 tanks have leaked. The leaks have sent at least a million gallons of radioactive waste into the groundwater aquifer and onto the Columbia River over the years.

Council seeks to fill board, committee, commission positions

Tribal Council seeks to fill the following positions on tribal committees, boards of directors and commissions:

Education Committee: One tribal member position and one non-member alternative position. The board serves as an advisory body to the Tribal Council in the development of educational programs and opportunities for tribal members. Review and recommend educational services offered through tribal, state and federal agencies.

Letters of interest and resumes of applicants interested in serving on a tribal committee, submit to the following address no later than **Monday, October 21, 2024:**

1. Drop off at the tribal administration building addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer/CEO.
2. By mail to: CTWS Secretary-Treasurer/CEO, PO Box 455, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Please sign a criminal background check. Forms can be emailed or mailed to you. Return signed forms to the Management office. Information will be submitted confidentially to the S-T/CEO.

Telco Board of Directors: One position, non member. The company, subject to restrictions of applicable laws and the corporate articles of incorporation

and bylaws, performs every act the board deems necessary, expedient or advisable to carry out the objective of this enterprise.

Application process same as above.

Warm Springs Tribal Employment Rights Commission, TERO: One position. The position is open to any Indian 18 years and older who works or resides on the reservation. The board oversees the successful operation of the office.

Application same as above.

Water Board: Two positions, ending October 30, 2025. The Tribal Council has the responsibility of managing the water resources of the reservation through the Water Management Plan. The three-member board is the advisory body in carry out this mission.

Application same as above.

The Warm Springs Housing **Authority Board of Commissioners:** One position. The Tribal Housing Authority is the body established to develop policies and procedures relating to tribal housing, to give direction to the Housing manager and Housing Department, and make recommendations to Tribal Council regarding housing matters.

Application same as above.

Tribal fall fishing season

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and its member tribes have announced a modification for the previously scheduled **zone 6 commercial gillnet fishery**.

The season is open from 6 a.m. on Friday, October 7 through 6 p.m. Friday, October 11. Gear can be set, and drift gillnets have no mesh size restriction.

Anyone can sign up for CRITFC text alerts. Subscribe by sending the keyword 'critfc' in a text message to the number 555-888.

Notes...

A Range and Agriculture **Grazing group meeting** is coming up on Tuesday, October 8 at the Simnasho Longhouse from 6 to 8 p.m.

Warm Springs **Commodities** is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Commodities provides eligible individuals fresh fruits and vegetables, healthy meats, pastas and other healthy food. To apply, stop by the Commodities warehouse located in the Industrial Park. Individuals who currently receive Snap Food Benefits do not qualify for Commodities. The **Food Bank** is every Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

Warm Springs **Eearly Childhood Education families** are reminded that if your child uses a backpack when they attend, please check the bag for any items that might not be appropriate. Please do not bring in snacks for your child, as ECE already provides meals, outside snacks are limited to avoid any food allergy reactions.

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Community Wellness Center/Recreation Department Presents:

Spooky Indian Nite Out & Drummerz Jam Session

Monday October 28, 2024

Warm Springs Community Center Gymnasium

MC: Captain Moody



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How-wow 6:30 p.m.

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