



Oregon

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Delivered via email to:

5YearPlan@rl.gov

RE: Oregon's comments on DOE's 2023-2028 5-Year Plan Communication "Placemat"

Ms. Colborn,

Oregon appreciates the annual opportunity to provide input on the latest revision of the Hanford 5-year vision communication placemat. Since the placemat's first appearance in 2019, there has been significant improvements in its design and digital presentation. This letter will discuss areas for additional suggestions for the placemat. General site-wide priorities for fiscal year 2026 will be provided under separate cover early 2024 when DOE prepares its budget submittal.

The Placemat (HNF-68192 REV-1 DRAFT)

The website housing 5-year-plan placemat (<https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/5-YearPlan2023-2028>) is intuitive and provides the PDF in a flipbook style in both English and Spanish. There is a link to a list of project fact sheets, but it appears that the factsheets are not curated to only include projects listed on the placemat. There is an active link to the October 24, 2023 public meeting, which perhaps should be changed to either the slide deck or recording for the meeting which has already happened. There is also room to expand the site to include supplemental material, such as a table with descriptions and due dates of milestone which fall during the 5-year window. That table would be of use to note which milestones are included in the work scopes presented on the placemats, which milestones are on target even though they did not make the placemat due to space limitations, and which milestones will not be completed in the 5-year window.

The front page of the placemat is informative and places clear emphasis on both the critical missions and the budgetary assumptions. The placemat appears to be as it was presented in the public meeting, yet is still listed as DRAFT. One consideration to note is that tank waste treatment is largely a subset of the risk reduction component. Of the five components listed under Tank Waste Treatment, three are associated with risk reduction (initiating and optimizing Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste, staging waste in double-shell tanks, and 222-S Laboratory Operations) and one (design and resume construction of the High-Level Waste Facility) is better listed under Site Infrastructure. Managing the tank waste while it is pending treatment could fit into either of the other categories and would perhaps be better suited there rather than under tank waste treatment.

The inside of the placemat is well laid out and contains an appropriate level of detail, including a re-iteration of funding assumptions and informative callout boxes across the bottom of the page. It is heartening to see resumption of transuranic waste listed within the next 5-years, and Oregon looks forward to coordinating with DOE and other partners, including the Western Interstate Energy Board's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant-Transportation Advisory Group ("WIPP TAG") to support waste transportation from Hanford to New Mexico through Oregon.

While Oregon's priorities will be submitted in a separate submittal, there is one suggestion for improvement of the items listed on the placemat that seems ripe for discussion in this letter. One project listed in 2026 is a task item that includes completion of the apatite barrier in 100-N. Oregon fully supports cleanup of the groundwater plume to prevent contamination from reaching the Columbia River. We note that the final Record of Decision has not been written for this operable unit yet. As such it seems early to assume that the apatite barrier will be the selected remedy. Perhaps an alternate and more accurate description of 2026 activities could be "advance remedial actions in accordance with river corridor records of decision".

In the "Essential Services" box under Pace of Operations, the text states that "WTP uses 42 site services and will increase up to 76 services, of which 27 are required for 24/7 operations." This sentence leaves a reader with many questions, and additional information via a link or QR code could help provide context and explanation.

There is no mention of Transuranic Waste management between the initiation of certification in 2026 and the shipment in 2027. We assume that WIPP TAG coordination along the transit routes will be completed in 2026 and 2027 prior to shipments resuming. Starting this coordination early will ensure that state and local officials and first responders along the transit route are aware and informed of the appropriate safety and security plan, including emergency response procedures.

The short-term focus at the site is vitrifying tank waste before it leaks to the environment. There has been admirable progress towards this goal, and reducing the risk of future releases is important. Similarly, reducing the cost and risk associated with managing antique contaminated concrete fortresses on the central plateau makes sense in the short term. However, Oregon notes that the DOE-EM mission at the Hanford site should not just be to make vitrified waste logs and knock down buildings, but to complete cleanup and closure activities. This mission cannot be completed without characterization central plateau soils and completion of the required CERCLA documentation. Given the complexity and co-mingled contamination on the central plateau, completing this work will not be easy, fast, or inexpensive. We assume that the characterization and documentation will continue over the next five years but did not fit into the placemat as a text line item. If this is an incorrect assumption, DOE may be delaying the date at which EM's mission is over and the site is transferred to Legacy Management.

The back page of the placemat is conceptually effective, although the placement of the text boxes make the figure unnecessarily hard to read. The leader lines make the projects look complicated and interconnected rather than having the projects on the north side of the figure listed above and the south side below. Matching, the location markers on the map to the clean-up mission component color may help clarify the location of the activity and reduce the apparent complexity of the figure. Also on the back page of the placemat, there is a floating statement "*Planning assumes no budget impacts,"

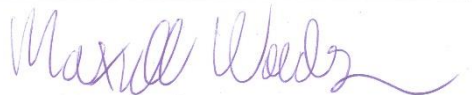
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but there is no link to a specific "*" elsewhere on the mat, and it is unclear what plans assume no budget impacts, or what the consequence would be if there was a budget impact.

The 5-year plan placemat remains a valuable communication tool, and it is apparent that DOE is investing in continual improvement of the process. The high-level overview of the 5-year plan is a good appetizer, although DOE should consider including a more detailed companion 5-year plan summary report including milestones and other planned activities that do not fit on the placemat as a main course, and to explain the information shown on the placemat.

Overall, the 5-year plan placemat is effective and informative, and we look forward to seeing future iterations. Oregon commends DOE for continually improving its public communication tools. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Sicilia of my staff at tom.sicilia@energy.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,



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