



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

3100 Port of Benton Blvd • Richland, WA 99354 • (509) 372-7950

711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

December 18, 2018

18-NWP-206

Peter Habighorst, Chief
Export Controls & Nonproliferation Branch
Office of International Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Request for United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to support Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Public Meeting

References: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, August 23, 2017. "Public Participation" home page, <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/open/public-participation.html>

Dear Peter Habighorst:

Ecology requests a representative from your Branch to attend an Ecology-sponsored public meeting in March 2019. Ecology wants an NRC representative to be available to answer any questions about the NRC licensing of imports and exports of international waste processed at the PermaFix Northwest (PFNW) facility in Richland, Washington.

The purpose of the public meeting is to collect comments on the scope of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) evaluation of PFNW. Ecology is renewing a state Dangerous Waste Regulations (DWR) permit for the PFNW mixed waste operations. Ecology's DWR implement an EPA-authorized state hazardous waste program. SEPA regulations require Ecology to analyze the potential adverse environmental impacts of Ecology's action of issuing the permit.

Ecology will not be issuing a DWR permit for the Low-Level Waste operations at PFNW that are licensed by the Washington Department of Health. Ecology's SEPA regulations require us to analyze the potential adverse environmental impacts of those LLW operations because they could contribute to the cumulative impacts of PFNW. Ecology will be evaluating the potential impacts of international waste brought to PFNW as LLW. Therefore, Ecology will be distributing information to the public about the NRC import/export licensing process.



Ecology believes that NRC participation in the Ecology public meeting would be consistent with the NRC commitment to provide opportunities for the public to participate meaningfully in the NRC's decision-making process (Reference). Ecology appreciates that collaboration is an essential aspect of the NRC Approach to Open Government.

We are interested in collaborating with the NRC in advance of the meeting, to:

- Get assistance developing accurate and informative presentation materials and handouts.
- Develop social media broadcasts for Ecology and/or the NRC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at john.price@ecy.wa.gov, or (509) 372-7921.

Sincerely,



John Price
Tri-Party Agreement Section Manager/
SEPA Responsible Official
Nuclear Waste Program

ss/jm/so

cc see page 2

cc electronic:

Dave Bartus, EPA
Richard Grondin, PFNW
Becky Weigman, PFNW
ERWM Staff, YN
Ken Niles, ODOE
Earl Fordham, DOH
Robin Priddy, BCAA
Kristin Schwab, DOH

Theresa Howell, Ecology
Randy Bradbury, Ecology
Mandy Jones, Ecology
Lily Murphy, Ecology
John Price, Ecology
Stephanie Schleif, Ecology
Denise Clifford, Ecology
Andrea Jones, US NRC

cc:

Matt Johnson, CTUIR
Jack Bell, NPT
Laurene Contreras, YN
Julie Atwood, YN
NWP Central File - PFNW