

The Department of Energy (DOE) has carefully considered the State's proposal to amend the Consent Decree and appreciates its recognition of the benefits of a phased approach to completing the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant. The State's proposal reflects agreement between DOE and the State in several key areas; it does not, however, adequately account for the realities of technical issues resolution, project management requirements, and budget constraints, and therefore DOE cannot accept the State's proposal. The Department of Energy remains committed to working with the State in the hope of arriving at a mutually acceptable amendment that will ensure the objectives of the Consent Decree are achieved safely, efficiently, and as soon as practicable. DOE's response can be found [here](#).