



Nov. 3, 2016

Today, a federal judge in Spokane rejected a motion filed by the Department of Energy (DOE), and joined by Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), to remove the state of Washington from a lawsuit filed by the Attorney General related to tank vapors at Hanford.

Among other things, the motion claimed the state was exceeding its authority based on the number of individuals potentially affected. The judge said that “there is no required quantification as to the number of persons who must be affected” and rejected “DOE’s assertion that the alleged injury affects an insufficient...segment of the population.”

Today’s decision is separate from a motion for a preliminary injunction on whether to implement additional interim protective measures filed by the Attorney General, Hanford Challenge and Local 598. We anticipate that ruling in the coming weeks.

That said, WRPS’ commitment to protecting our workforce remains unchanged, as the legal matters work themselves out. We are continuing our execution of the Vapors Implementation Plan to actively address recommendations from the Tank Vapor Assessment Report. Pilot-scale technology testing is underway at Hanford’s AP Farm. We are working with union representatives as an independent third-party reviews results from air-purifying cartridge testing. New communication boards in the field provide workers with improved access to critical information, including Vapor Control Zones, boundaries and locations of work activities. And we continue to improve communication with our workforce, with regular posting of information to the revamped hanfordvapors.com website.

We’re making progress, and I appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in moving us forward as we work together on this important challenge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark'.

Mark Lindholm
President & Project Manager