

10 QUICK FACTS RISKY BUSINESS AT PERMA-FIX NORTHWEST



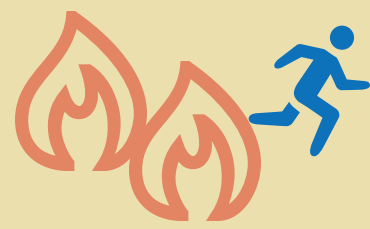
Hanford Challenge started investigating Perma-Fix Northwest after learning about proposals to send more of Hanford's waste there for off-site treatment. Perma-Fix Northwest is a commercial waste treatment facility located in Richland, WA that mostly treats waste from Hanford and other DOE sites. In November 2020, Hanford Challenge and Robert Alvarez released their findings in a report titled "Risky Business at Perma-Fix Northwest," recommending that it would be safer to treat Hanford's waste at the Hanford Site instead of sending it to Perma-Fix Northwest for treatment.

1.



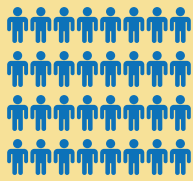
Perma-Fix NW has a checkered and worrisome history of environmental non-compliance, including making the EPA's "Significant Non-Complier" list in 2019.

2.



Perma-Fix NW had two fires in 2019, both unreported in the press. One was deemed "a near catastrophe" by a state inspector, as fire alarms were inoperable at the time.

3.



Over 32,000 people live within 5 miles of Perma-Fix NW and a daycare center is less than a mile away.

4.



Most of the waste Perma-Fix NW treats comes from Hanford and other DOE sites.

5.



Between 2011 and 2019, Perma-Fix Northwest processed at least 11,000 grams of plutonium-239, more than enough for two nuclear weapons. Plutonium is deadly in microscopic quantities.

6.



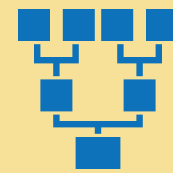
Past serious worker over-exposures to radiation could have been prevented with better training, safety systems, and protective equipment.

7.



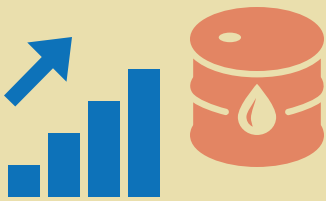
The annual occupational exposure limit of 50 rem/year was grossly exceeded in two accidents. In 2006, three workers exceeded this exposure limit with doses of 442 Rem, 313 Rem, and 68 Rem. In 2009, a worker received a dose of 120 Rem.

8.



The multi-player regulatory structure at Perma-Fix NW lacks a unified basis and has led to problems slipping through the cracks. Pooling the collective knowledge of the regulators in an integrative assessment could provide better oversight.

9.



There is a proposal to send 500,000 gallons of treated Hanford tank waste for grouting at Perma-Fix NW and also send waste from around the country (over 2 million cubic feet) to Perma-Fix NW over the next 30 years.

10.



Hanford waste should be treated on the Hanford Site, not off-site at Perma-Fix NW. This would lower the risk to the community; eliminate transportation risks; and increase transparency, accountability, and safety.