

“The Department is committed to the safe cleanup of the Hanford Site. We are disappointed that the Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology chose to send an administrative order to pump AY-102 without advanced notice to the Department despite the Secretary flying to Washington state just this week. We have been actively monitoring and inspecting all of the double shell tanks at Hanford. The Department believes there are risks associated with pumping Tank AY-102 at this time. The tank is not leaking into the environment, and there is no immediate threat to the public or the environment posed by AY-102.

The Department began taking the steps necessary to remove waste from this tank when we first discovered the initial leak into the annulus. In accordance with the AY-102 pumping plan, the Department has the equipment in place to begin pumping the liquid, and already initiated engineering and procurement activities for the removal of sludge from this tank when appropriate,” said a DOE Spokesperson.