

March 7, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
State of Oregon

ATTN: Senator Janeen Sollman  
Senator David Brock Smith  
Senator Jeff Golden  
Senator Khanh Pham  
Senator Noah Robinson

Dear Committee,

On Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the hearing on the Micronuclear Facilities proposed to be constructed and operated near Umatilla, Oregon. During this hearing, three presenters spoke on a large screen. I'm sorry that I did not note down their names. However, the first two presentations seemed to me to be extended infomercials for building nuclear reactors in our state. George Orwell would have had a field day with the shaded language that was used. The third presenter was more balanced. He pointed out that these micro nuclear plants would not be completed for at least 10 years, and so would not cover the immediate need ahead of us, and that there are other alternatives already available.

You might be interested to read an online article called "Real Life Applications – Isotopes" in [scienceclarified.com](http://scienceclarified.com). Under the section called "Hazards Related to Radioactivity," after a section on possible faulty maintenance, is the following paragraph:

"Another danger associated with nuclear power plants is radio active waste. Spent fuel rods and other waste products from these plants have to be dumped somewhere, but it cant simply be buried in the ground because it will create a continuing health hazard through the water supply. No fully fail-safe storage system has been developed, and the problem of radioactive waste poses a continuing threat due to the extremely long half lives of some of the isotopes involved."

Then I looked up the history of Hanford, which was, of course, created for a different purpose, that is, to build bombs for WW II. This site has been on the radar my entire life, so I wanted to follow what has happened with the leaks that the Department of Energy was asked to remediate years ago. In an article called "Hanford Nuclear Site," by Paul Lundholt and Lilian Seitz, published om 10/26t/2020, leaks that escaped into the air, water and ground, are followed. Tank B-109, and Tank T-111 still haven't been dealt with. And as of August 19, 2024, Tank T-101 joined the leaking tanks.

I want to register my opposition to the creation of Micro Nuclear Reactor in Oregon, for all of the reasons above.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Wigginton