



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Richland Field Office

3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA 99354 • 509-372-7950

November 17, 2025

25-NWP-206

Christina Beusch  
Office of the Attorney General  
agorulemaking@atg.wa.gov

Re: Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program Comment on Proposed Amendments to  
Washington Administrative Code 44-14

Dear Attorney General:

The Nuclear Waste Program (NWP) respectfully submits the following comment on the proposed changes (CR-101 and CR-102) to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 44-14, *Public Records Act — Model Rules*.

Regarding WAC 44-14-040(6): NWP has an agreement to initiate third party notification to the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) if Official Use Only (OUO) or Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) becomes responsive to a public records request. OUO/CUI is exempt under the *Freedom of Information Act* but is non-exempt under the Public Records Act and thus requires an injunction.

Waiving third party notification places an unfair burden on our program to properly conduct our mission of overseeing the Hanford Site. Furthermore, ten (10) days is not a sufficient length of time for the third party (USDOE) to obtain an injunction. Agencies should be allowed to set a reasonable timeframe to obtain an injunction through policy, not to exceed thirty (30) business days.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Hansen, NWP Public Disclosure Coordinator, at [heather.hansen@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:heather.hansen@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 380-4555.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Schleif  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

Kat Husted  
Agency Public Disclosure Officer  
Ecology Information Governance

cc: See page 2

Christina Beusch  
November 17, 2025  
Page 2 of 2

25-NWP-206

cc electronic:

Andrea Adams, Ecology  
Teresa Booth, Ecology  
Christy Caldwell, Ecology  
Cole Caldwell, Ecology  
Annette Carlson, Ecology  
Jennifer Cantu, Ecology  
Will deLuna, Ecology  
Suzanne Dahl, Ecology  
Bill Falling, Ecology  
David Fernandez, Ecology  
Amie Green, Ecology  
Emma Greene, Ecology  
Heather Hansen, Ecology  
Edward Holbrook, Ecology  
Kat Husted, Ecology  
Jon Jennings, Ecology  
Katrina Lassiter, Ecology  
Jared Mathey, Ecology  
Naoko Schiffen, Ecology  
Stephanie Schleif, Ecology  
Stacie Sexton, Ecology