



*USW Local 12-369*

P.O. Box 524 Richland, WA 99352 (509) 943-8441 Fax (509) 943-8443

May 30, 2014

ALL UNITED STEELWORKER UNION LOCAL 12-369 MEMBERS

**SUBJECT: WASTE SAMPLING CHARACTERIZATION FACILITY AT HANFORD  
(WSCF)**

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Recently, the Department of Energy (DOE) decided to shut down the WSCF Laboratory at Hanford. This facility provides Hanford timely sample analyses for cleanup projects and worker health/safety. The Hanford Nuclear Site is the most contaminated nuclear site within the United States.

The DOE made the decision to close the facility which is only at 2/3 of its expected life cycle based on shipping contaminated (radioactive/chemical/hazardous) to non-union laboratories. Instead of keeping the contaminated samples on site, where the work is, DOE is going to ship these samples down the highway or through the air. USW 12-369 believes this facility should be kept operable and on site where the samples are being taken during the high risk cleanup work.

The USW is affiliated with the Hanford Atomic Metal Council (HAMTC) and more than just our own Local Union members will lose their jobs if this decision is not over turned.

In an effort to save the facility and keep our members employed, we are requesting political action from each and every member, including friends or other family members. We are requesting each member write letters to our Congressional Representatives to keep WSCF operational and save our brothers and sisters jobs.

Attached is a "sample" letter that you can use to aid in our effort. Additionally is an addressed sheet to the Congressional Representatives we ask to be contacted

Fraternally,

Dave Roberts, President  
USW Local 12-369

DR/drt

Attachment (2)

cc: File

**SAMPLE LETTER**  
**REQUEST FOR DOE TO CANCEL THE SHUTDOWN OF THE**  
**WSCF LABORATORY AT HANFORD**

**SELECT REPRESENTATIVE NAME AND ADDRESS**

**DATE**

I am against the decision made by the Department of Energy to close the Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility at Hanford.

The WSCF Facility provides cleanup support on site where the high risk remediation work is being performed. I prefer samples of this nature be processed as close to the work as possible eliminating the/or mitigating any shipping accidents or mistakes, which could cause harm to the public. I also prefer keeping work at Hanford and within the State of Washington performed by members of the community where the work is being performed.

I believe any cost savings from the closure of this facility are not offset if by the negative impacts to the local work force at Hanford and its surrounding communities.

The WSCF Facility was built and became operational in 1994 and was paid for by the tax payers to have a 30 year life cycle at a minimum. The DOE should abandon and reverse their decision to end the operation of the WSCF.

Sincerely,

**YOUR NAME**

Political Mailing Address List:

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Representative Doc Hastings  
2715 St Andrews Loop, Suite D  
Pasco, WA 99301

Senator Maria Cantwell  
825 Jadwin, Suite 206  
Richland, WA 99352

Senator Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510