

WASHINGTON, DC --- Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) issued the following statement in support of the Department of Energy's decision to permanently deactivate the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

"There is no more important issue to the Northwest than the cleanup of Hanford and anything, including FFTF, that detracts from that goal must be rejected. I am extremely pleased that the Secretary of Energy has decided to permanently shut down this facility and devote our attention and funding to the clean up of this site," said Blumenauer. "I look forward to working with citizen groups and agency officials to set long-term clean-up priorities, and seek more federal funding dollars for clean-up."

After months of delay, the Department of Energy announced yesterday that they would not restart the FFTF because of high costs, a lack of feasibility and scientific reviews that did not support the project.

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's work on Hanford, visit his web site at <http://www.house.gov/blumenauer/>.