

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMENT

OBJECTIVES

As public servants, we are required to respond to public comments. Your clear and direct comments allow us to craft meaningful responses and include public values in final cleanup decisions.

Effective comments are supported by factual information, sound reasoning, and include specific examples.

- Keep comments within the scope of the comment period. For example, don't submit air quality comments during a groundwater comment period.
- Make your concerns clear and concise.
 - Use bullets, numbering, or formatting to show each individual statement.
 - Use active voice.
 - Include references to any relevant reports, articles, or other source material.
- If public meetings are offered, try to attend and ask any questions you have before submitting your comment.
- Try to submit comments during the early part of the comment period. This gives the permitting team more time to craft meaningful responses.

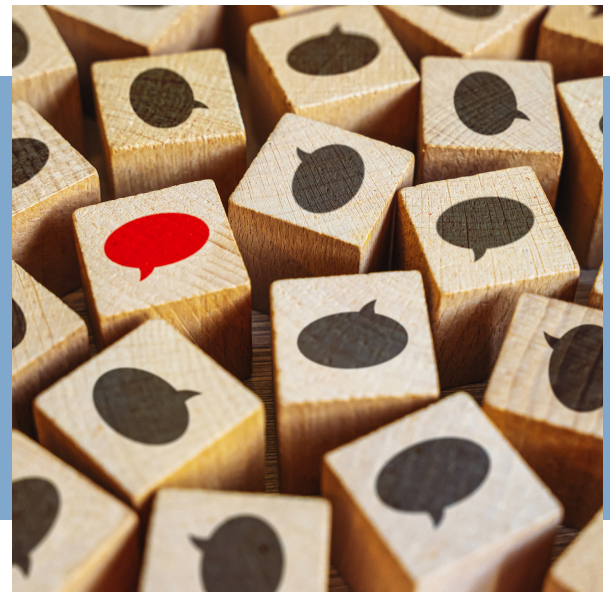
EXAMPLES

1. No more waste to Hanford! CLEAN. UP. HANFORD!

This comment is very broad and hard to answer. It is more helpful to state specific concerns, such as type of waste or unit to clean up.

2. On the news, I see that the Waste Treatment Plant is not up and running yet to glassify the waste. When is it going to be running?

This comment is more specific, but more of a general kind of question instead of comment on the permit itself. While we are happy to answer these type of questions, they are not impactful on the permit.



THINGS TO REMEMBER

- State what you want, or don't want, the agency to do in one or two sentences, when you can.
- Read the part of the permit you are commenting on.
- You can submit comments anonymously.
- You can see the comments already submitted in SmartComments. It may be useful to read other people's concerns.
- If you want to be notified when the Response to Comments document is published, you need to include your email address on your submission.

PLEASE AVOID

- Sarcasm.
- SENTENCES IN ALL CAPS. (YELLING)
- Over generalization.
- Hearsay or prophetic ("chicken little") statements.

3. After reviewing permit documents for Unit X, I noticed that the emergency boxes are all supposed to be painted blue. Wouldn't make more sense to have them painted red, since that is usually associated with emergencies?

This type of comment is more likely to make an impact on the permit. It is very specific and has a pointed concern that can be answered.