

DOE NEWS

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DOE ISSUES MID-YEAR REPORT ON WASTE TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week issued a congressionally mandated report detailing the status of construction of the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

The *2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act Conference Report* (109-275) requires DOE to report on the activities and financial status of each of the subprojects of the WTP project. The subprojects that comprise the WTP are: Pretreatment facility, High-Level Waste Vitrification facility, Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facility, Analytical Laboratory, and Balance of Facilities.

“We have sought independent external reviews by senior officials in private industry, academia and other government agencies to analyze key elements of the Waste Treatment Plant, including technology, cost and schedule, project management and earthquake seismic criteria and this report provides a comprehensive update on this and other progress,” said DOE’s WTP Project Manager John Eschenberg.

This mid-year report provides a summary of management issues and technical reviews, and a status on construction progress, cost and schedule, and project challenges for the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2007. The mid-year report and other documents regarding the WTP project can be found at the DOE’s Office of River Protection website at <http://www.Hanford.gov/orp> under Public Information/Documents and Presentations.

The WTP will be an industrial complex of facilities for separating and vitrifying (immobilizing in glass) millions of gallons of radioactive and chemical wastes stored at the Hanford Site. The five major components of the WTP are the Pretreatment Facility for separating the waste, the High-Level Waste and Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facilities where the waste will be immobilized in glass, the Analytical Laboratory for testing quality of the glass, and the Balance of Facilities which will comprise over 20 various support facilities. Once complete, the WTP will be the largest and most capable facility of its kind in the world.

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