

## **Hanford Moves to Alleviate Safety Concerns in C-106 Tank**

RICHLAND, Wash., April 27, 1995 -- The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office is moving forward to remove high-heat waste from single-shell Tank C-106, on the Hanford Site, in order to resolve the safety issue associated with waste storage. In completing this project, Hanford will demonstrate national leadership in the movement to reinvent government by proceeding based on local approval authority. Previously, the ability to proceed with this project would have been controlled by DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Environmental Assessment and a Safety Evaluation Report, concluding that the project would not require an Environmental Impact Statement and could be performed safely, were approved by John D. Wagoner, Manager of the Richland Operations Office, on February 17, 1995. These allow the Department to move forward with this project in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Tank C-106 was identified as a high-heat safety tank in accordance with Public Law 101-510 (Wyden Bill) and presently requires water additions to maintain a safe configuration for waste storage. Waste retrieval of the heat-generating sludge from Tank C-106 and transfer to a double-shell tank that is capable of safely storing the removed waste will allow cooling water additions to cease and will allow closure of the safety issue. This action is in accordance with the Secretarial Safety Initiative and Tri-Party Agreement milestone commitments and is scheduled to be initiated in October 1996.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment, FONSI, and Safety Evaluation Report are available from Leif Erickson, Director; Tank Waste Retrieval, Treatment and Immobilization Division; P.O.Box 550; Richland, WA 99352; or phone (509) 376-6406.

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