

## **Safe Interim Storage of Hanford Tank Waste Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

RICHLAND, Wash., October 24, 1995 -- The U. S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), announced today the release of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Safe Interim Storage of Hanford Tank Wastes.

"Notice of the release was published in the October 20, 1995, issue of the Federal Register," said John Wagoner, Richland Manager. "A Record of Decision (ROD) will be announced following a minimum 30-day waiting period," he said.

"We're pleased that, working together, we were able to streamline this process, meet a Tri-Party Agreement milestone, and we're going to replace a potentially dangerous transfer line," said Mike Wilson, Manager of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program. "This is the kind of work we need to be doing at Hanford."

The EIS analyzed five alternatives for maintaining the safe storage of wastes in Hanford's 177 underground storage tanks. The tanks contain a total of 55 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste.

The five alternatives include the Preferred Alternative, the Truck Transfer Alternative, the Rail Transfer Alternative, the New Storage Alternative, and the No Action Alternative.

The preferred alternative calls for construction of a new cross-site transfer line, continued use of the mixer pump in Tank 101-SY (the "burping" tank) to mitigate the flammable gas safety issue, and transfer of liquid waste from the 200 West Area single-shell tanks to safer double-shell tanks in the 200 East Area. A retrieval and transfer system would be built for Tank 102-SY to remove transuranic sludge and residual liquids.

The truck transfer alternative would use tanker trucks to transfer the waste from the west to the east area, and would require the construction of high level radioactive waste load and unload facilities. It also would use existing roadways.

The rail transfer alternative would use rail cars for the transfer, necessitating improvements and extensions to the existing railway system on the site.

The new storage alternative would require the construction of two new one-million gallon double-shell storage tanks and the construction of the new cross site transfer line. It also would require retrieval and transfer systems for Tanks 101-SY and 102-SY.

The No Action Alternative would continue to the extent possible through transfer of the liquid wastes from the single-shell tanks in 200 West to double-shell tanks in 200 East using the existing cross-site transfer system.

Copies of the Final EIS may be obtained by contacting: Carolyn Haass  
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