

# DOE NEWS

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## **DOE ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF PROCUREMENT FOR FAST FLUX TEST FACILITY (FFTF) CLEANUP AT HANFORD**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) notified the three affected offerors today of its decision to cancel the solicitation for the FFTF Closure Project at Hanford. DOE will instead focus on higher priority cleanup work, consistent with the recommendations of DOE's regulators at Hanford, the State of Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Original proposals were received by DOE in February 2004; an award was made to SEC Closure Alliance in September 2004. Following a sustained protest of the award by an unsuccessful bidder, revised proposals were submitted to DOE in June 2005, with responses to discussion questions in September and October.

“Given the current budget constraints, we had to take a hard look at where we are with this project compared to the higher priority work remaining to be done at Hanford,” said James Rispoli, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. “We will focus on completing the key risk reduction activities at FFTF over the next year and placing the facility in a long-term low-cost surveillance and maintenance mode – freeing up critical funding to invest in higher-priority work at Hanford in the years ahead.”

The first project phase, deactivation, which is currently underway, consists of cleaning and removing fuel, draining liquid sodium from the facility's coolant and storage systems, and shutting down all remaining systems. During the initial competition, bid protest, and second competition, deactivation work has been continuing under incumbent contractor Fluor Hanford. Only a limited amount of fuel remains to be offloaded and just one major sodium tank remains to be drained. DOE anticipates the remaining deactivation activities will be complete within a year, allowing the facility to transition to long-term, low-cost surveillance and maintenance mode.

The final project phase, decommissioning, would take the facility down to its final end state, such as cocooning or demolishing the entire structure to slab-on-grade. This phase is being

deferred with today's decision until the higher priority cleanup issues are adequately addressed and the end state is defined through a future Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

"The Department is committed to the safe cleanup of the Hanford Site and is aligning its resources with the priorities. DOE also remains committed to looking for opportunities to partner with small business to realize more cost-effective cleanup and to achieve our business goals," Rispoli said.

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