

## **Cleanup, Constraints and Challenges to Hanford Cleanup Workshop II**

On October 5, 2001, Hanford leaders met to continue discussions on the future of Hanford cleanup in a workshop at the Columbia Basin College in Pasco, Washington. This was the second workshop to discuss the leading constraints that hamper progress with Hanford Site cleanup and to identify opportunities to move cleanup forward more efficiently and cost-effectively in the future. The first workshop was held June 26, 2001. At the first workshop participants agreed unanimously to collectively tackle four key issues that have the potential to significantly enable Hanford cleanup progress. Those issues include:

- Development of a collective and widely accepted vision of the future end state for Hanford, including the areas where such agreement largely already exists and those areas where the vision still needs major work.
- Renewed commitment to the Tri-Party Agreement as the governing document to Hanford cleanup. Contracts and other important cleanup mechanisms will be aligned with the TPA. The procedures embodied in the TPA provide the flexibility to accommodate the widely accepted vision of the future end state for Hanford.
- Evaluation and appropriate reduction of unnecessary layers of requirements and procedures being applied to cleanup activities.
- Development of an "investment strategy" to ensure national support for vital Hanford cleanup activities.

Since the first workshop teams have been actively working on the first three of these issues. The specific objectives of the October 5, 2001 workshop were to report on and develop a path forward for resolving major issues on future endstates and with issues associated with alignment of contracts and baselines to the TPA. Other topics addressed expectations for eliminating requirements and for securing stable funding at the Hanford site. At this workshop the participants agreed to develop a strategy and path forward for the:

**100 Area and 300 Area River Corridor Cleanup:** The parties agreed to develop an Agreement-in-Principle [AIP] for cleanup of the River Corridor. The AIP will address waste site remediation and facility decontamination and decommissioning for the 100 and 300 Areas as well as reactor interim safe storage commitments for the 100 Area. The goal of the AIP is to ensure the scope and the schedule are aligned between TPA milestones and the River Corridor Request for Proposal that DOE is issuing in October or November 2001.

**200 Area Central Plateau:** The 200 Area is a complicated mix of facilities, nuclear materials management, waste site cleanup, and waste treatment and storage activities. The parties agreed to tackle two issues with respect to this Area: 1] to develop a more refined assessment of the schedule disconnects and interfaces in order to develop an integrated picture of this area. An "AIP-like" document will be developed that will have the prioritized list of decisions, both short and long-term, and a description of rapid

resolution of those decisions and 2] to continue to focus on developing an overall mission, vision, commitments, and strategy for the Central Plateau.

**Vitrification Plant:** Specific discussion of the tank farms and the vitrification plant was limited. It was understood that the disconnects described for the 200 Area cleanup are due in large part to required actions in the tank farms. Timing of waste retrieval and eventual closure of tank farms must be incorporated in the revised schedule for the broader 200 Area cleanup in order to achieve an integrated Central Plateau strategy. It was recognized that the Vitrification Plant has a "life of its own" and the schedule for design, construction and operation of the plant is subject to legal action and funding uncertainties but also recognized that the contracts, TPA and baselines must eventually be aligned.

In addition to these three topics, the participants agreed to explore how the public can become more informed about this overall effort, and where they can learn about where the parties agree and where disconnects still exist.

Participants in the workshop included senior officials and representatives from the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection, Washington State Departments of Ecology and Health, Oregon Office of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and Hanford Site contractors.