

Public Comment Period for Proposed Closure Plan for the 324 Building in Hanford's 300 Area

The Hanford Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies — the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) — request your input on the proposed modification to add the closure plan for the 324 Building Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs) to the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Permit. This closure plan will be a Class 2 modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit. Class 2 permit changes call for a 60-day comment period led by the permittee (DOE), and a public meeting.

July 2016

U.S. Department of Energy

Background

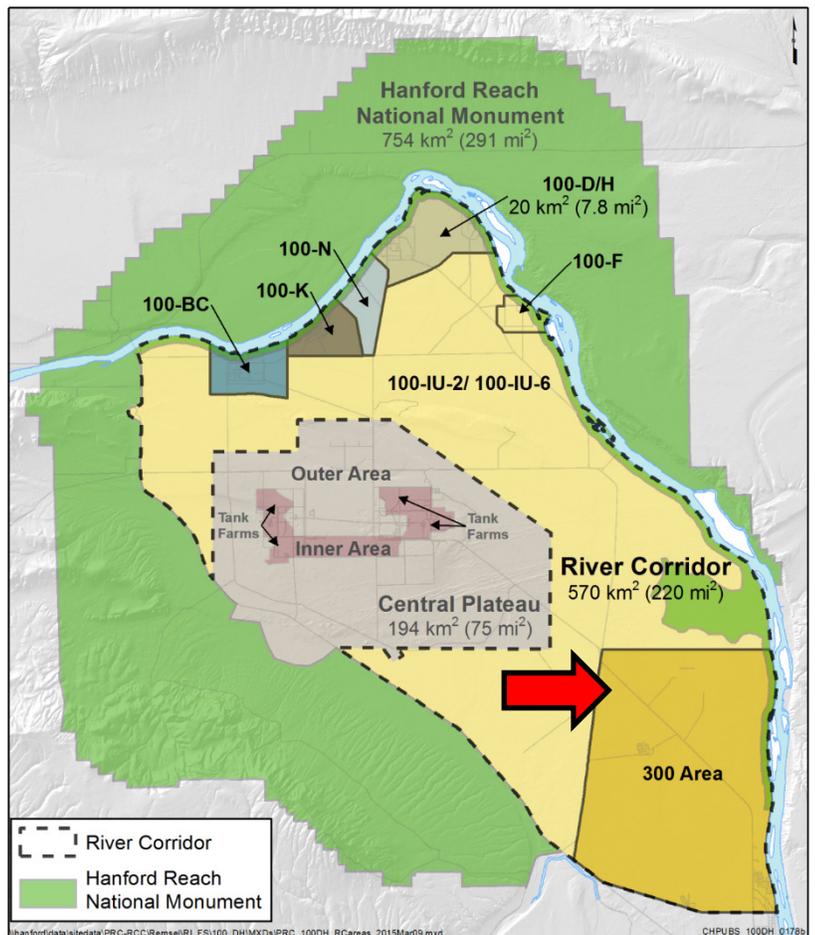
Hanford's 300 Area covers approximately 40 square miles along the Columbia River and is in the southeast corner of the Site, just north of the city of Richland.

The 300 Area, which began operations in 1943, was where the fuel for Hanford's nine plutonium reactors was manufactured. It was also home to experimental and laboratory facilities, including six small-scale nuclear reactors.

The 324 Building, located in the 300 Area, was constructed from 1964 to 1966 and was designed to provide office and laboratory space for scientific and engineering staff who conducted research in the area waste characterization and immobilization, waste remediation and cleanup development, biomass research, tritium development, and cesium chloride encapsulation.

The 324 Building has three functional areas that consist of the Radiochemical Engineering Cells (REC); the High Level Vault (HLV); and the Low Level Vault (LLV). These functional areas comprise the six 324 Building DWMUs, and include:

- A-Cell
- B-Cell including the pipe trench and the airlock
- C-Cell
- D-Cell



- High Level Vault (HLV) including piping to and from the REC
- Low Level Vault (LLV) including piping to and from the REC

The REC consists of the four hot cells (A-Cell, B-Cell, C-Cell, and D-Cell), the central airlock, and the pipe trench. The REC was used to study chemical and mechanical processes with high radiation levels.

The two shielded vaults (the HLV and LLV), contain stainless steel tanks ranging from 1,700 liters to 18,500 liters and provided for segregation and holding of radioactive liquid feed-stocks for cleaning operations in the hot cells.



The 324 Building

About the 324 Building Closure Plan

DOE is proposing to add the 324 Building DWMUs Closure Plan to the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Permit. The proposed closure plan calls for the removal of the REC, HLV and LLV structures. The process, known as monolithic removal, will entail cutting the hot cells/vaults into a number of large waste forms for removal as single-piece objects. Closure will include removal of the REC, HLV, LLV, associated piping, and 0.5 meters of soil. The waste forms will be packaged and disposed of on-site in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).



B-cell, located within the REC, is highly contaminated and will be addressed with this proposed closure plan.

To verify that cleanup standards have been met an Independent Qualified Registered Professional Engineer (IQRPE) will provide certification of the closure, as required by WAC 173-303-610(6). The IQRPE will be responsible for observing field activities and reviewing documents associated with the closure of the 324 Building DWMUs. The IQRPE will record observations and reviews in a written report that will be retained in the operating record. The result report will be used to develop the closure certification and ensure that closure standards have been achieved. The report will then be provided to Ecology.

The DOE-RL contact person for this proposed Closure Plan is Rich Buel, (509) 376-3375. The Washington Department of Ecology contact person is Stephanie Schleif, (509) 372-7929.

The permittees' compliance history, during the life of the permit being modified, is available from Ecology. Copies of the permit modification request and supporting documentation are available at the Administrative Record, 2440 Stevens Drive, Richland, WA.

Alternatively, the proposed Closure Plan and supporting documents can be accessed online at:

<http://1.usa.gov/2904nUs>

How you can get involved

Comment period – July 5 through September 9, 2016

Public meeting – August 24, 5:30 pm, Richland Library (955 Northgate Drive)

Please submit comments by *September 9, 2016* to:



Stephanie Schleif
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354
Email: Hanford@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: 509-372-7929





U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, A7-75
Richland, WA 99352

The documents are available for review at the Public Information Repositories listed below

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland

Portland State University Library
Government Information
Branford Price Millar Library – LIBW
PO Box 1151
Portland, OR 97207-1151
Attn: Claudia Irla (503) 725-4542
Map: <http://bit.ly/1K7Bfuk>

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Richland, WA 99352
Attn: Janice Scarano (509) 375-7443
Map: <http://bit.ly/1LpZKUa>

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195-2900
Attn: Hilary Reinert c/o ARCS
(206) 543-5597
Map: <http://bit.ly/1QMtUog>

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center Library
East 502 Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
Attn: John Spencer (509) 313-6110
Map: <http://bit.ly/1Cp0mRT>

Administrative Record and Public Information Repository

2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA
509-376-2530

<http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/>