



Public Comment Period on the 207-A South Retention Basin Closure Plan

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a 60-day comment period on the proposed closure plan for the 207-A South Retention Basin treatment, storage, and/or disposal unit. This closure plan will be a Class 3 modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit. Class 3 permit changes call for a 60-day comment period led by the permittee (DOE), and a public meeting. This will be followed by a separate 45-day comment period by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Background

The 207-A South Retention Basin is in Hanford's 200 East Area just east of the 242-A Evaporator. The facility began operations in March 1977 and consisted of three open concrete liquid effluent storage cells. Each of the three cells had a 70,000-gallon design capacity and was 55 feet long and 10 feet wide at the bottom and 7 feet deep. These concrete structures have remained intact since operations ceased. No leaks were reported from the basin during inspections.

The cells were used for storage of condensate, a mixed waste solution containing trace amounts of dissolved sodium, potassium, aluminum, hydroxides, nitrates, and nitrites with radionuclides. The condensate came from the 242-A Evaporator process. It was collected in the retention basin for sampling before it was discharged to the soil column. The 242 A Evaporator discharge to the basin ended on April 12, 1989, and the basin has been inactive since.

The Proposed Closure Plan

DOE seeks a change to Hanford's Dangerous Waste Permit to close the 207-A South Retention Basin. The proposed closure plan calls for removal of the basin storage cells and up to 3 feet of soil. The material removed is planned to be disposed of in Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. The cleanup levels will be developed to meet unrestricted use standards under the state's Model Toxics Control Act. These cleanup standards consider carcinogens, non-carcinogens, groundwater protection, and ecological indicator values. To allow the work to be completed in this fiscal year, DOE plans to submit a Temporary Authorization request to Ecology.

Sampling and analysis of the 207-A South Retention Basin will be performed to verify cleanup standards have been met. Should sampling and analysis indicate contamination above unrestricted use standards, a post-closure plan will be submitted as required by state Dangerous Waste regulations.

Closure of the 207-A South Retention Basin will include:

- Basin demolition and disposal
- Soil removal as needed
- Waste management activities
- Air emission controls
- Health and safety requirements
- Cultural and ecological resource reviews
- Soil verification sampling and analysis plans

The DOE-RL contact person for this permit change is Kris Skopeck, 509-376-5803. The Ecology contact person is Nina Menard, 509-372-7950. The permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Ecology contact person.

Get Involved!

Public Comment Period
June 30 – August 28, 2015

Public Meeting
August 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
Richland Public Library
955 Northgate Drive
Richland, WA 99352

You can also submit comments by August 28, 2015 to:
Nina Menard
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
or email: Hanford@ecy.wa.gov