



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program

Jane Hedges, Manager

Update for Hanford Advisory Board
November 3, 2011

State Budget Update

- September 15: Report finds state budget \$1.4 billion short (despite \$10 billion in cuts over last 3 years).
- Sept./Oct.: State agencies submit proposed budget cuts of up to 15 percent.
- November 17: Next revenue forecast (not expected to be pretty).
- Governor to finish preparing budget plan that cuts \$2 billion in state spending.
- November 28: Special legislative session begins to deal with latest revenue shortfall.
- Nuclear Waste Program maintaining level spending budget.

Ecology Director Grants Temporary Authorization

- DOE requested modification to the WTP permit to change the design in Cesium Ion Exchange systems in the Pretreatment Facility. The modification includes removal of a vessel already installed, but never used.
- Temporary Authorization (TA) was requested to allow weld cutting and removal of vessel in coordination with other construction project requirements.
- Ecology approved 180-day TA for DOE to cut the welds and remove vessel. Work is expected to be done in December.
- Regulations and technical information support this decision.
- Comment period on permit modification runs through December 12.
- Last TA granted at WTP was in 2004.

Site-wide Permit Schedule

- March 2012:
 - Formatting complete on draft permit.
 - Begin printing permit.
 - Public involvement materials for meetings/web drafted.
 - Finish posting draft permit on website.
- **May 1: Begin public comment period.**
- May/June: Public meetings & workshop.
- September 6-7: Board advice on draft permit.
- September 14: End of comment period.

Education & Outreach

Tri-Cities Prep High School

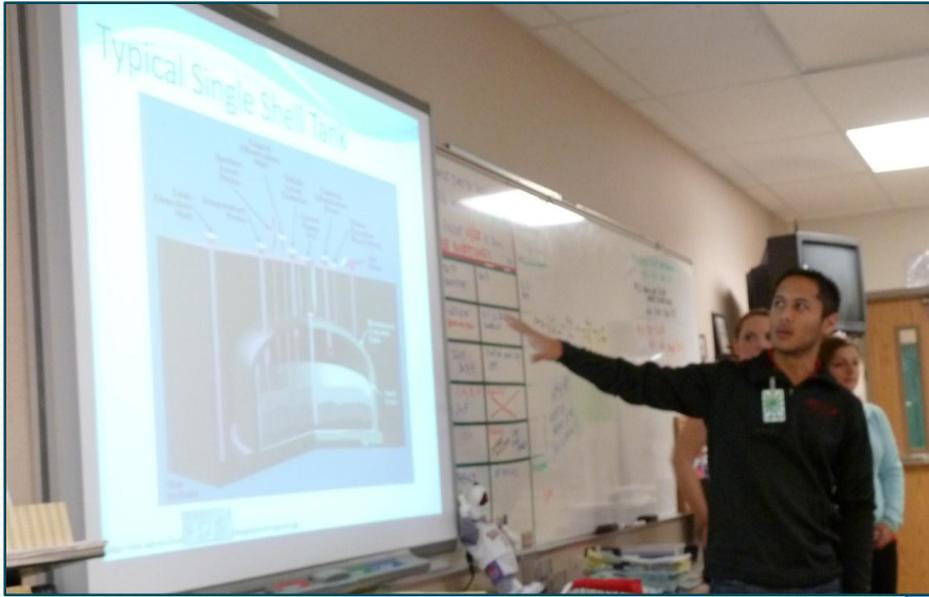


Erika Holmes, Annette Carlson, and Beth Rochette visited with about 100 students on October 4.



Agriculture and Natural Resources Career Fair at CBC

Ginger Wireman and Erika Holmes
talked with about 125 students on
October 5.



Ecology developed a project for two classes to prepare presentations on Hanford.

Several teams of students shared their presentations with local high school classes.

The project is estimated to have reached over 600 high school and university students.

WSU Tri-Cities Technical Communication Students



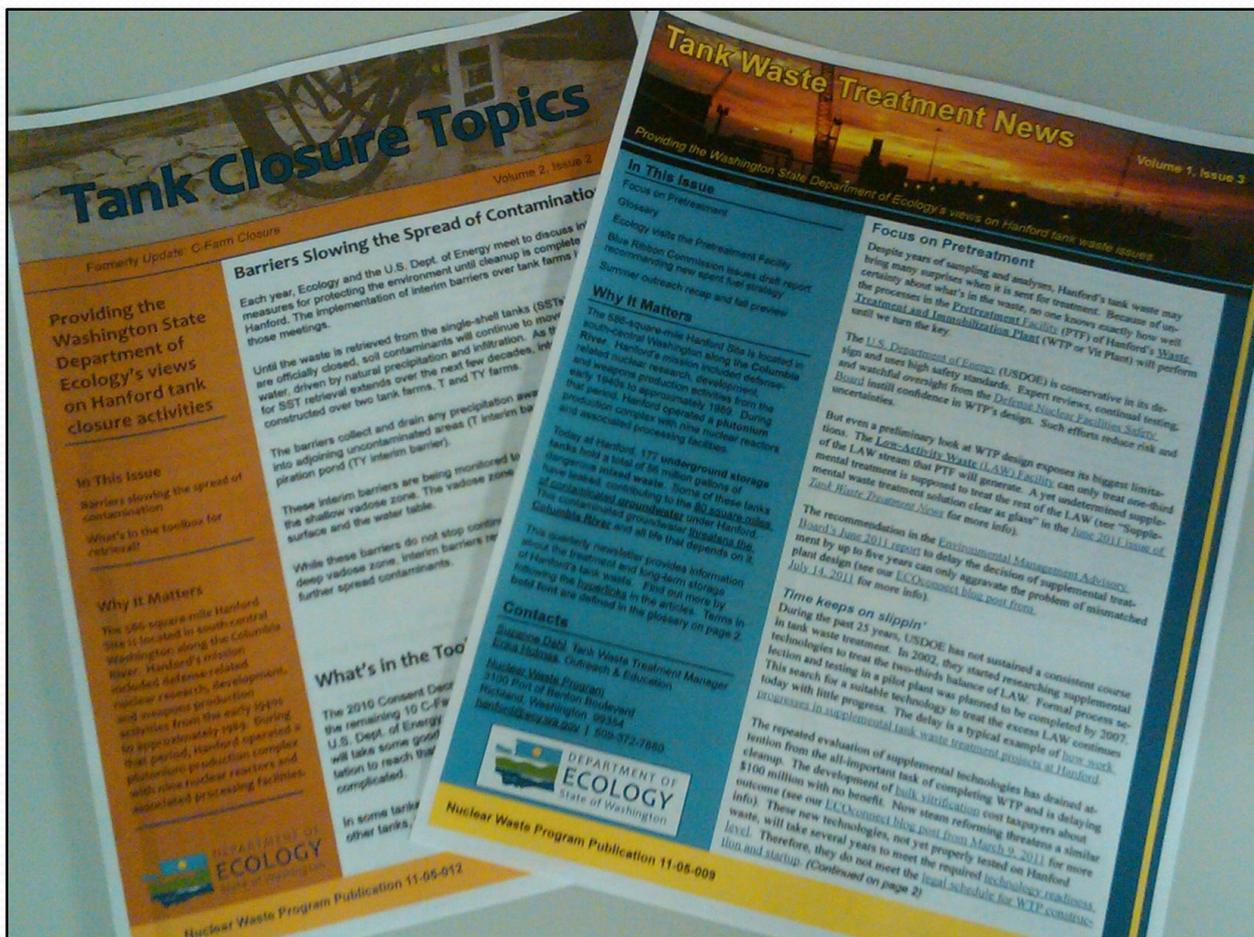


UW Public Health Seminar Series

Suzanne Dahl spoke to over 125 University of Washington students and staff about the Waste Treatment Plant on October 27 in Seattle.



Ecology Publications



Tank Closure Topics and Tank Waste Treatment News are scheduled to publish quarterly to keep the Board and other interested parties informed of news and issues on these topics from Ecology's perspective.

The newsletters are available on Ecology's NWP website.

Questions?

Nuclear Waste Program

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