

Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program

Agency Update Hanford Advisory Board

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September 8, 2011

FY2011 Highlights

- Consent Decree signed
- Tank Closure communications
- First Lifecycle Report released
- Waste Treatment Plant hits 60% completion
- Deep Vadose Zone technologies workshop
- State fights Yucca Mountain decision
- Effective use of ARRA funds
- Substantial progress made on preparing Permit
- Increased education & outreach efforts



HAB Advice response

Ecology responses in FY2011

- #237 – EE/CA for 105-KE Reactor Decommissioning
- #238 – System Planning Process (joint w/ORP)
- #239 – Public Involvement Strategic Planning in the Hanford Community Relations Plan (joint TPA)
- #240 – DOE's Open Government Plan and the Hanford Community Relations Plan
- #243 – Radioactive Solid Waste Burial Grounds
- #244 – Cleanup Budget Priorities for FY2012, 2013 and beyond
- #245 – System Plan (Revision 6)
- #246 – River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment
- Letter on request to review draft SEPA documents related to draft site-wide Permit



Key advice for Ecology

<u>Advice</u>	<u>Board's key points</u>	<u>Ecology's response</u>
<p>#238 – System Planning Process</p> <p>(Related -- #245/System Plan Rev 6)</p>	<p>Be open and transparent about the process. Early involvement and dialogue with Board and public is necessary to ensure meaningful input for agency consideration and potential advice development.</p>	<p>Ecology appreciated the opportunity to work closely with the Tank Waste Committee over the past year on the SP process and when and how the Board can provide meaningful input. We look forward to more of these discussions.</p>
<p>#239 – Public Involvement Strategic Planning in the Hanford Community Relations Plan (CRP)</p> <p>(Related -- #240/Open Gov't & CRP)</p>	<p>Robust and successful strategy critical to implement policy of effective public involvement. TPA agency efforts determine quality of public participation. CRP should include key principles of successful PI.</p>	<p>TPA agencies appreciate the time and effort that went into this advice. Ecology recognizes importance of collaboration on PI activities and is committed to continuous improvement. Ecology welcomes input on the updated CRP.</p>
<p>#243 – Radioactive Solid Waste Burial Grounds</p>	<p>Do more characterization before deciding on remedies. Don't rely on capping. Find and deal with high-risk areas first. RTD alternatives encouraged. Permit should require DVZ and groundwater monitoring. Communicate risk.</p>	<p>Ecology agrees with Board's 4 key values: Minimize risk; protect workers; be efficient and cost-effective in cleanup; be transparent. Ecology also supports follow-up public meetings to discuss the work plan.</p>
<p>#244 – Cleanup Budget Priorities for FY2012, 2013 and beyond</p>	<p>DOE-HQ needs to request full funding to meet. TPA requirements. Don't halt retrieval and treatment of TRU and mixed waste. Lack of budget does not justify changing milestones.</p>	<p>Ecology shares the Board's concerns. We will continue to work with the other agencies and Board to prioritize cleanup work and build on progress made with ARRA funds.</p>
<p>Letter on request to review draft SEPA documents related to draft site-wide Permit</p>	<p>Request for early review and comment opportunity on draft SEPA documents related to draft Permit. Also concerned with Ecology's plan to submit a draft Permit before the draft TOSWM EIS is finalized.</p>	<p>Previously determined SEPA reviews enclosed. Drafts of others will be sent to Board when signed. Links to SEPA information on the Department of Ecology website.</p>

Site-wide Permit Update

What's the status?

- Ecology meeting with DOE and EPA to resolve comments
- Staff is working on formatting for print and web
- Permit is being printed as draft units are finished (14,000 pages total)
- “Baseball cards,” fact sheets, FAQ, and more posted on Ecology’s website

Public involvement activities

- Comment period set to begin in January 2012 (will run 120 days)
- Committee of the Whole workshop planned for March 2012
- Public hearings winter/spring 2012 in Tri-Cities, Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver

HAB involvement in FY2011

- Presentations to committees (R&P/PIC): Oct., Nov., Feb., April, May
- Issue Manager meetings: Oct. 10; Feb. 9; April 12
- Letter on SEPA for Permit in June



State Budget Update

- State employees took 3% pay cut starting July 1
- Salary reductions effective until June 30, 2013
- Employees also must take average 5.2 hours per month of Temporary Salary Reduction (TSR) leave during biennium
- TSR leave comes on top of regular leave (this translates to about 8 extra days off each year)



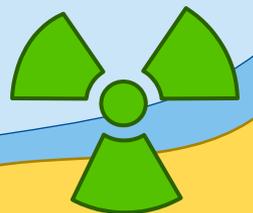
State Budget Update

Not-so-good news

- State agencies preparing for more cuts if needed (next revenue forecast Sept. 15)
- Ecology to submit plan for reductions of 5 percent and 10 percent

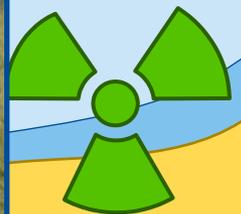
Better news

- NWP not included in this budget cut exercise
- Richland office is still hiring



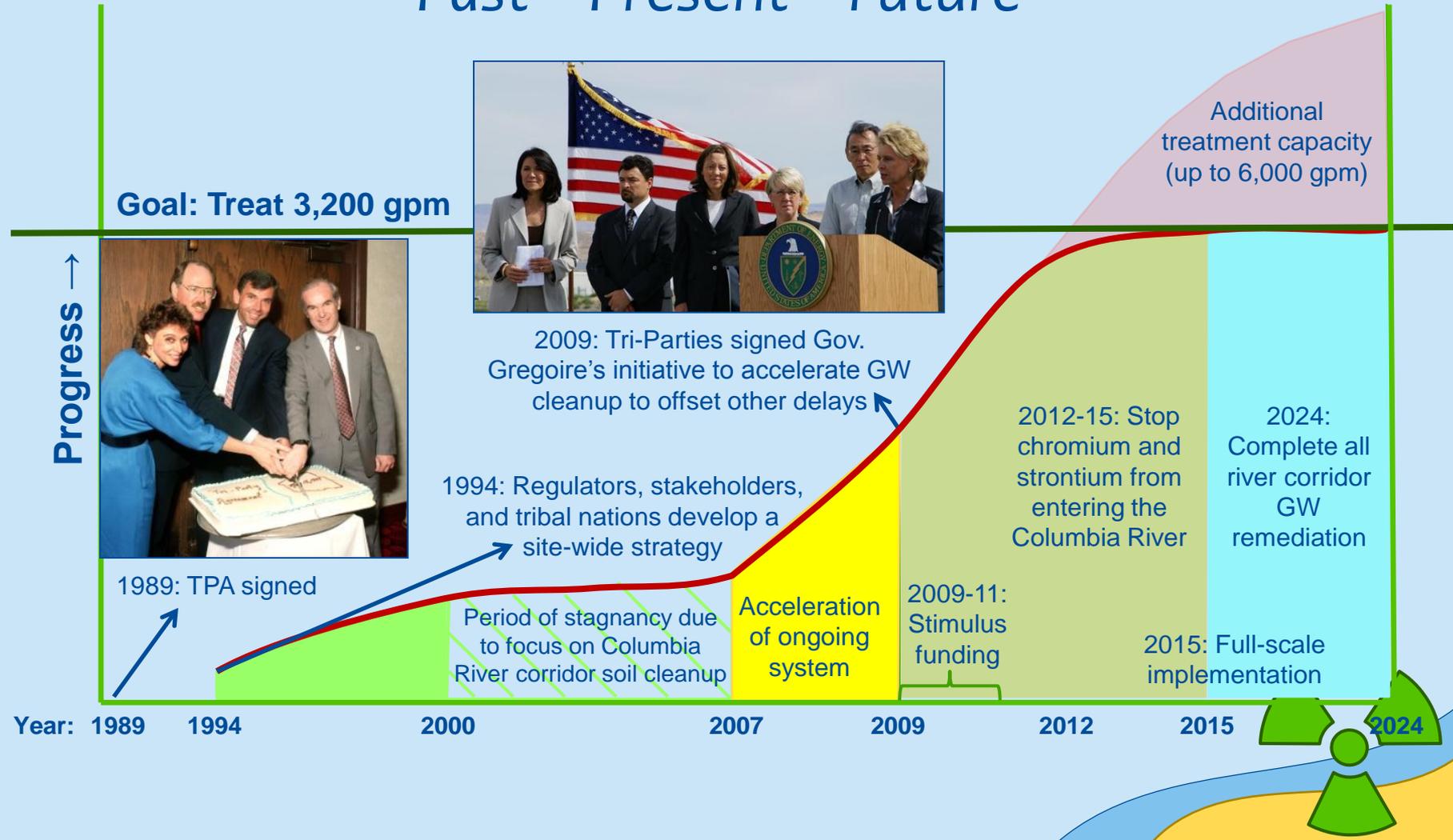
Ecology cleanup priorities

- Continue progress on groundwater cleanup & protection of river
- Continue soil cleanup on River Corridor
- Complete PFP demolition work
- Support tank retrievals, construction/design of vit plant



Hanford Groundwater Remediation

Past – Present – Future



Education & Outreach

Classroom outreach in FY2011

- 10 schools visited (K-12 & college)
- 9 classes visited @ 4 universities

Some school events attended

- Salmon Summit
- Environmental career camp for girls
- Badger Mt. Elem. Science Night
- Chiawana H.S. Science Career Day
- 5 WSU Tri-Cities summer science camps

Community outreach

- Benton-Franklin County Fair
- Hanford Health & Safety Expo
- Tri-Cities Sportsmen's Show



Education & Outreach

Communication tools

- Nuclear Waste Program Hanford Facebook page started in March (~70 followers)
- Hanford Education & Outreach listserv started in April
- 20+ Hanford-related blog posts on Ecology's website in past year
- Hanford@ecy.wa.gov email address created to



Goals for 2012 & beyond

- Issue draft site-wide Permit for public comment
- Update Hanford Public Involvement Plan
- Continue discussions on tank retrievals & closure



Questions?

Nuclear Waste Program

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