



Permit Change Proposed to Support Hanford Tank Waste Treatment

The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) and Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) are holding a 60-day public comment period on proposed modifications to the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit. This permit change is needed for construction of the Direct-Feed Low Activity Waste Effluent Management Facility (EMF) Secondary Containment System. This system supports the initiative to begin treating low-activity tank waste as early as 2022.

November 2016

U.S. Department of Energy – Office of River Protection

Background

Hanford's 177 underground tanks currently hold about 56 million gallons of high-level radioactive and dangerous waste. Most of the tanks are beyond their engineered design life, and some have leaked in the past. To begin treating the tank waste as soon as practicable, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) and Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI), as co-Permittees, developed a plan to begin feeding low-activity (mostly liquid) tank waste directly to the WTP Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Vitrification Facility, allowing the treatment of Hanford tank waste to begin as early as 2022. The process is called Direct Feed LAW or DFLAW.

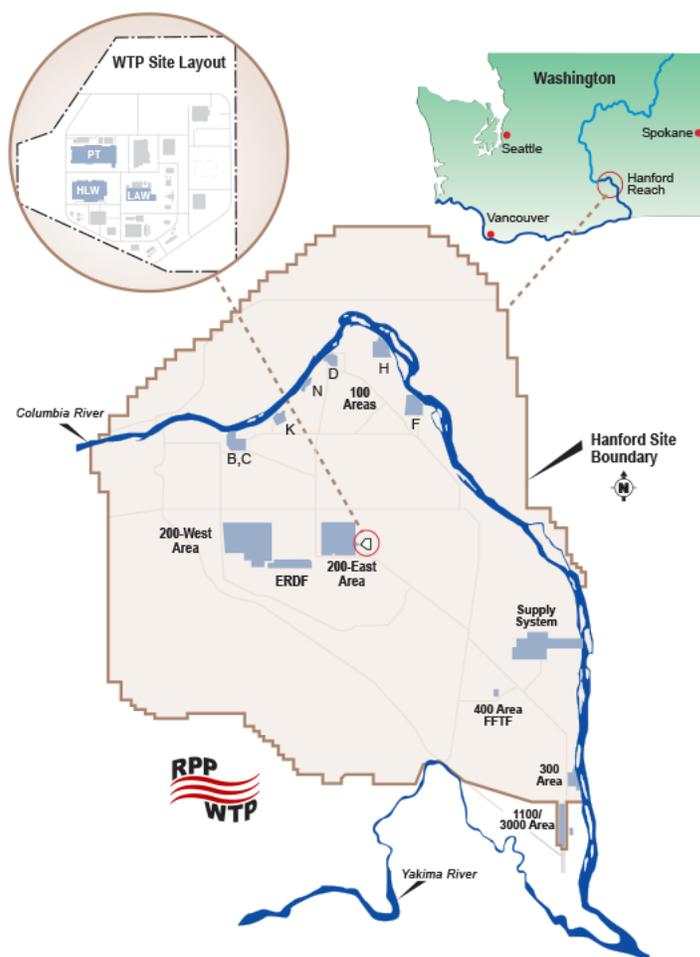
One of the advantages of DFLAW is that it allows the Permittees to begin treating a significant portion of the tank waste supernate using the WTP facilities closest to completion, while technical issues at the WTP Pretreatment and High-Level Waste facilities are resolved.

Most of the WTP facilities required to process waste in the direct-feed mode are complete or nearly complete, however DFLAW does require construction of two new facilities. The LAW Pretreatment System (LAWPS) will be built at the tank farms to condition waste to meet the acceptance criteria for WTP. The Effluent Management Facility (EMF) will be constructed at WTP to treat secondary liquid effluent generated by the LAW Facility off-gas ventilation system.

This proposed modification to the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit involves the EMF, and the facility's secondary containment. The WTP permit regulates the storage, treatment and disposal of Hanford's dangerous and radioactive mixed waste.

Why it Matters

The Permittees are proposing the Class 3 permit modification to support construction activities for the EMF Secondary Containment System. This system provides the required containment for regulated process tanks and vessels, miscellaneous units (e.g. evaporator and condensers), and ancillary equipment (e.g. piping, pumps and valves) in the EMF.



Public Comment

We want your feedback on this proposed modification. The public comment period will run from **November 28, 2016 to January 27, 2017.**

A public meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., December 14, 2016, at the Richland Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, WA

Who to Contact

Questions or comments? Please contact Dieter Bohrmann, DOE-ORP, at [Dieter G Bohrmann@orp.doe.gov](mailto:Dieter_G_Bohrmann@orp.doe.gov), or Randy Bradbury, Washington Department of Ecology, at Hanford@ecy.wa.gov.

Summary of Proposed Changes

This proposed Class 3 permit modification applies to permitting EMF secondary containment systems construction activities. It incorporates new documents and drawings into the WTP permit as well as updating existing documents and drawings found in various permit appendices and in the WTP Administrative Record.

The proposed modification also includes updates to existing WTP permit chapters to add design and process changes needed to support DFLAW. Additionally, the modification incorporates a new EMF appendix into the WTP Permit Chapter 4 to support design and construction of EMF secondary containment systems.

We welcome your comments on these proposed changes. The documents are available for review during the comment period on Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program website, the Hanford Administrative Record and at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below.

Class 3 Permit Modifications:

Class 3 permit modifications address changes that substantially alter a facility or its operations.

Class 3 modifications require two public participation opportunities:



1.) Permittee Comment Period: (Happening now)

A minimum 60-day public comment period on the permit modification request, including a public meeting.

2.) Ecology Comment Period: (To occur at a later date)

A minimum 45-day public comment period on the permitting decision.



WTP Direct Feed LAW Process

How You Can Get Involved

A 60-day public comment period on *proposed Class 3 modification to Part III, Operating Unit 10 of Hanford's Dangerous Waste Permit* will run from **November 28, 2016 through January 27, 2017**. A public meeting will be held **December 14, 2016**, at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive in Richland, WA.

Please submit comments via email (preferred) or mail by January 27, 2017 to:



Dan McDonald
 Washington Department of Ecology
 3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
 Richland, WA 99354
 Email: Hanford@ecy.wa.gov
 Phone: (509) 372-7950

The Permittees' compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Washington Department of Ecology. Contact Dan McDonald at dmcd461@ecy.wa.gov.

Hanford Public Information Repositories

The proposed modification and supporting documentation will be available during the public comment period at <http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/index.cfm/viewDoc?accession=0073833H> and <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm>. Copies may also be viewed at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below.

<p>Portland State University Government Information Branford Price Millar Library 1875 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97207-1151 Attn: Claudia Weston (503) 725-4542</p> <p>Map: www.pdx.edu/map.html</p>	<p>University of Washington Suzzallo Library Government Publications Dept. Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Attn: Hilary Reinert (206) 543-5597</p> <p>Map: www.tinyurl.com/m8ebj</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room Washington State University, Tri- Cities Consolidated Information Ctr., Rm. 101-L 2770 Crimson Way Richland, WA 99352 Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443</p> <p>Map: www.tricity.wsu.edu/campusmaps/campusmap.pdf</p>	<p>Gonzaga University Foley Center Library East 502 Boone Avenue Spokane, WA 99258 Attn: John Spencer (509) 313-6110</p> <p>Map: www.tinyurl.com/2c6bpm</p>	<p>Ecology Nuclear Waste Program Resource Center 3100 Port of Benton Blvd. Richland, WA 99354 Attn: Valarie Peery 509-372-7950</p> <p>Online: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm</p>
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Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:
Address: 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA.
Phone: 509-376-2530 **Web site:** www2.hanford.gov/arpir/

Hanford Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from you on the proposed modifications for the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Dangerous Waste Permit!

Comment Period: Nov. 28, 2016 – Jan. 27, 2017
Public Meeting: Dec. 14, 2016 at the Richland Public Library

