



# STATE OF THE HANFORD SITE

Public Meetings, March 2011

## **What is the State of Hanford Cleanup?**

Hanford cleanup schedules and activities are set by the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – TPA agencies – will host State of the Hanford Site meetings in three Northwest communities. These meetings provide an opportunity for the public to discuss a wide range of Hanford cleanup issues with top managers from the TPA agencies.

Although progress is being made at Hanford, cleanup will be decades long. The public plays an important role by helping set cleanup priorities and providing input on TPA cleanup commitments.

Each meeting will include an open house and moderated town hall. The TPA agencies are interested in answering questions and hearing the public's views on a wide range of Hanford cleanup issues and activities:

- ✓ Ensuring worker safety and health
- ✓ Protecting the Columbia River
- ✓ Shrinking the Active Footprint of cleanup
- ✓ Closing Hanford Tank Farms, and
- ✓ Accelerating groundwater cleanup
- ✓ Overall priorities for cleanup

## **Who are the Regulators?**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate DOE's activities at the Hanford Site. The regulatory agencies divide authority for different aspects of Hanford Site cleanup.

Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program is responsible for oversight of tank waste treatment and storage, waste management activities and implementation of the state's cleanup regulations. EPA has lead oversight for the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup activities.

After 20 years of cleanup, considerable progress has been made, reducing the risk the site poses to the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment.

## **Who Manages the Hanford Site?**

The DOE operates and manages the Hanford Site. There are two DOE offices associated with Hanford cleanup. The Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) oversees the projects associated with cleaning up reactors, soil, groundwater, solid waste burial sites as well as managing the demolition of facilities on the Hanford Site.

The Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) is tasked with managing nuclear and chemical waste currently stored in 177 underground tanks. DOE-ORP is also responsible for constructing the Waste Treatment Plant, which will combine the tank waste with glass making materials in a process called vitrification. Vitrification will solidify the waste, making it more stable and suitable for disposal.

Each year DOE-RL and ORP are required to prepare an annual budget submittal that is consistent with the TPA.

DOE has a three-year budget process. DOE is currently working to a Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget. The President released his FY 2012 budget request to Congress on February 14, 2011. Based on the 2011 and 2012 budget information, cleanup priorities, and input from the public, regulatory agencies, tribes, Hanford Advisory Board and others, DOE is formulating its FY 2013 budget requirements. For more information on Hanford's budget visit DOE's website: [www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/budgetPresentations](http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/budgetPresentations)



Tri-Party Agreement

U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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## *What is Hanford Cleanup?*

Hanford is a 586-square-mile site in southeastern Washington State created in 1943 for the Manhattan Project. The goal of the Manhattan Project was to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The government eventually built nine nuclear reactors along the banks of the Columbia River as the defense mission continued throughout the Cold War years.

The weapons material production mission ended in the late 1980s and Hanford's mission shifted from nuclear material production to environmental cleanup. More than 40 years of plutonium production created an enormous challenge of dealing with hundreds of square miles of contaminated soil and groundwater, and millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste stored in underground tanks.

Today, waste management and environmental restoration are the main missions at the Hanford Site. Completing Hanford's cleanup will take several more decades and will require the sustained investment of significant resources. It will also require continued open dialogue between decision-makers and Hanford stakeholders.



*Demolition of N Reactor's fuel transfer bay building*



*Removal of overburden from Burial Ground*

## HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

*Join the dialogue at this year's meetings.  
You can make a difference. . . . get involved!*

### STATE OF THE HANFORD SITE PUBLIC MEETINGS

-  Open House with Displays – 6:00 p.m.
- Hanford Story Video – 6:45 p.m.
- Town Hall Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### ***March 16, 2011 – Richland, Washington***

Red Lion Hanford House  
802 George Washington Way

#### ***March 29, 2011 – Seattle, Washington***

Seattle Center, Olympic Room (Northwest Building)  
305 Harrison Street.

#### ***March 31, 2011 – Portland, Oregon***

Jantzen Beach Red Lion Hotel  
909 N. Hayden Island Drive

Have a specific topic you'd like to discuss? Please take a minute to give us your input at: [Stateofsite11@rl.gov](mailto:Stateofsite11@rl.gov).

We invite your organization to participate in one or more of the Open House forums by providing a display or other materials featuring your organization's perspective on cleanup challenges and progress.

For more information, please contact Sharon Braswell at 509-376-9292 or [Sharon M Braswell@rl.gov](mailto:Sharon_M_Braswell@rl.gov)