

Spring 2007

Hanford Update

Special Edition
Cleanup
Priorities



Tri-Party Agreement

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

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

Join us for a Hanford Cleanup Priorities Discussion

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) and Office of River Protection (ORP) are required to prepare an annual budget submittal that meets regulatory requirements and is consistent with the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, also known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). The TPA is the regulatory framework between the USDOE, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the Tri-Party Agencies) that guides cleanup at the Hanford Site.

As the Fiscal Year 2009 budget is being developed, it is important to the Tri-Party Agencies to hear how you would like us to spend cleanup dollars. With an annual budget of nearly \$2 billion significant cleanup progress has been accomplished. However, more challenging work remains.

Meetings are scheduled around the region. Please join the Tri-Party Agencies for a discussion on cleanup priorities.



May 9, 2007 (see details inside)

Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
1515 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington
Public Workshop - 12:00 noon - 4:45 p.m.
Public Meeting - 5:00 p.m. (start time)

June 6, 2007

Spokane Council Chambers
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, Washington
7:00 p.m. (start time)

June 13, 2007

Oregon State Office
Building
800 NE Oregon
Portland, Oregon
7:00 p.m. (start time)

June 4, 2007

Mountaineers Club
303 3rd Ave. West
Seattle, Washington
7:00 p.m. (start time)

June 12, 2007

Best Western Inn
1108 E. Marina Way
Hood River, Oregon
7:00 p.m. (start time)

Background

The USDOE has a three-year budget process. Fiscal Year budgets run from October 1 through September 30. USDOE is currently working to the 2007 allocated budget. The President recently released the 2008 budget request to Congress for review and approval. Based on 2007 and 2008 budget information and identified cleanup activities, USDOE is formulating its 2009 budget requirements.

*It is important to the Tri-Party agencies to hear your issues concerning Hanford cleanup and what projects you think should receive funding so they can be considered in the development of the 2009 budget. Written and online comments submitted by **June 13, 2007** will be considered in the development of **DOE's Richland Operations Office (RL) and Office of River Protection (ORP) Fiscal Year 2009 budgets**. DOE Field Sites (RL and ORP) are required to submit their budgets to DOE Headquarters on June 15, 2007. DOE Headquarters compiles all DOE Environmental Management Field Site budgets and makes adjustments based on the strategic priorities of the DOE.*

DOE Headquarters submits the final budget to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on September 7, 2007. Therefore, DOE RL and ORP will continue to seek input on values and priorities from our regulators, Tribes, stakeholders and members of the public through August 31, 2007. The input will be collected and provided to DOE Headquarters for consideration in the final budget submittal.

DOE's current priorities reflect years of dialogue with and input from the regulatory agencies, tribal governments, stakeholders and the public to cleanup the Site and reduce risks to the public, workers and the environment. Today, the Hanford cleanup strategy is focused on removing contamination that impacts the groundwater to further reduce risk to the Columbia River, building new facilities to safely treat and dispose of liquid tank waste, and meeting regulatory commitments.

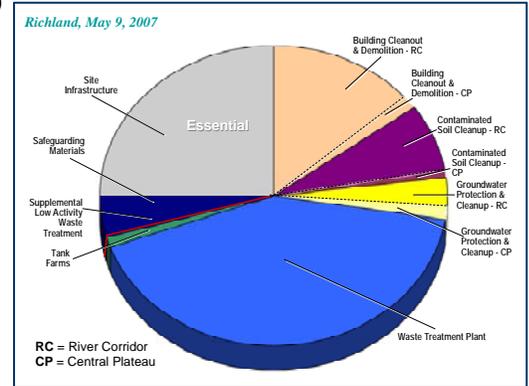
This year the Tri-Party agencies, based on input from Hanford stakeholders, developed the Hanford Cleanup Priorities Pie Chart and a related exercise to obtain feedback to see if cleanup work proposed to receive funding in 2009 continues to accurately reflect the public's priorities (i.e., what cleanup work does the public believe is important to be funded). The Hanford Cleanup Priorities Pie Chart (see page 3) shows how DOE is proposing to spend 2009 cleanup dollars. The pie chart is divided into 11 different segments, each representing a distinct set of work scope (work activities), e.g., contaminated soil cleanup in the Central Plateau, Waste Treatment Plant construction, etc. The size of each segment represents the proportion of the 2009 budget (approximately \$2 billion) DOE proposes to spend on that piece of cleanup work.

The exercise consists of a piece of paper with a copy of the DOE Cleanup Priority pie chart and a table listing work scope segments and two columns labeled "More Focus" and "Less Focus" and 12 stars (six blue and six red). Using the pie chart as a point of reference, meeting participants are asked to indicate their agreement with how DOE is planning to divide its 2009 budget. If they feel some work scopes (activities) should have a greater cleanup focus, they are asked to place a blue star or stars (as many as six) in the "More Focus" box. Since this exercise is based on the assumption that funding (total dollars) is constant and not expected to increase, participants are asked to place one red star in the "Less Focus" column for each blue star placed in the "More Focus" column. For example, if five blue stars appeared in the "More Focus" column then five red stars need to appear in the "Less Focus" column. Also, participants can identify other work activities to receive more or less focus in addition to the 10 listed.

The Tri-Party Agencies tested this exercise at the Richland, Washington May 9th public meeting that was attended by approximately 31 members of the public and representatives from DOE, regulatory agencies and Hanford contractors. The goal was to obtain feedback on the public's priorities, this exercise and identify ways to improve it. Here are some of the suggestions received:

- Link the DOE presentations to the actual exercise

- Communicate concepts, (e.g., target budget, over target budget)
- Provide two separate pie charts – one for Richland Operations Office and one for the Office of River Protection- for the Cleanup Priorities Exercise
- Provide examples of budget tradeoffs
- Provide project-specific information on the pie-chart
- Clarify the “safeguarding materials” pie-chart segment
- Add a multiple choice question, e.g., “If DOE were to receive more money, where should it be spent. Circle three and indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd priorities.”



Proposed Hanford 2009 Cleanup Priorities

Based on this feedback, the Agencies are making changes to both presentation materials and the Cleanup Priorities Exercise, which will be conducted at the four regional meetings.

To obtain additional information on the DOE budget process or view summary results of the Cleanup Priorities exercise from the Richland public meeting, visit the DOE Hanford website at www.hanford.gov/ under Public Involvement, Hanford Site Budget.

Budget Comments



Susan Leckband, Chair

Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board is only part of the “public” who are affected by activities on the Hanford site. This year everyone has an opportunity to learn the proposed budgets for future cleanup and the work planned that will spend that money. I encourage you to attend any of the Budget Workshops scheduled for May and June to take advantage of your chance to tell the federal government what you think are the most important cleanup activities. What are your priorities?? Do you recreate on or near or does your drinking water

These are just a few examples of activities all of us are paying for. Please come to the Hanford Budget meeting. Every voice counts – let’s hear yours!

come from the Columbia River? Many of the cleanup activities are specifically aimed at protecting the river – should they be funded first? What about completing the Waste Treatment Plant – tens of millions of gallons of nuclear waste will be processed through that plant and put in a safer form – is that a priority for you? These are just a few examples of activities all of us are paying for. Please come to the Hanford Budget meeting. Every voice counts – let’s hear yours.

The Hanford Advisory Board is an independent, non-partisan, and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected by Hanford cleanup issues. The primary mission of the Board is to provide informed recommendations and advice to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) on selected major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford site. For more information on the Hanford Advisory Board, visit www.hanford.gov/ under Public Involvement.



It is important to the Tri-Party agencies to hear what Hanford cleanup projects are important to you and should be considered as priorities in the development of the 2009 budget. To provide an electronic comment on your budget priorities and/or how we should spend Hanford cleanup dollars, go to www.hanford.gov/ under Public Involvement, Hanford Site Budget. Comments can also be submitted in writing to:

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