

Revised Solid Waste EIS draft released by DOE

On April 11, the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office will release a new draft of the Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. The comment period will last 45 days.

DOE needs to provide capabilities to treat, store or dispose of existing and anticipated quantities of solid low-level waste, mixed low-level waste, transuranic waste and immobilized low-activity waste. These capabilities are needed to protect human health and the environment while enabling DOE-RL to clean up Hanford and assist other DOE sites in completing their cleanup programs.

DOE's proposed actions will ensure that the department complies with local, state and federal laws and meets other legal obligations such as those contained in the Tri-Party Agreement.

- To address anticipated needs for waste-management capabilities, DOE proposes to do the following:
- continue to operate most of its existing treatment, storage and disposal facilities
 - construct the WTP and additional disposal capacity for low-level, mixed low-level and immobilized low-activity wastes
 - develop new capabilities both to treat mixed low-level waste and to certify most transuranic waste for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico
 - close on-site disposal facilities when they are no longer needed and initiate long-term stewardship activities.

The HSW EIS was prepared after a public scoping process that began in October 1997, assisting DOE in defining issues to be considered, options to be evaluated, and environmental impacts to be addressed. The first draft was issued for public review and comment in April 2002. Based on several factors, including comments received during the public review, DOE decided to prepare and issue this Revised Draft HSW EIS.

Copies are available at the DOE Public Reading Room in the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities, or on the Web at www.hanford.gov/eis/eis-0286D2/index.cfm. Hard copies or compact disks of the draft and the summary may be obtained by calling 376-6536 or 1-800-426-4914.

You may also send e-mail to HSWEIS@rl.gov or write to Michael Collins, NEPA Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 550, Mailstop A6-38, Richland, WA 99352. ■