

REACH

A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees



Record of Decision for 300 Area completed

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency have signed a Record of Decision, or ROD, for Hanford's 300 Area, thus completing the plan for soil cleanup in the Columbia River corridor.

The interim ROD outlines how DOE and its contractors will remove contaminated soil, structures and associated debris from 47 waste sites and nine burial grounds — including the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds north of the 300 Area. The ROD is the last of three for the 300 Area, and is the result of a cooperative effort by the three agencies to analyze waste locations and develop strategies for cleanup.

"This action gives us a clear blueprint for cleanup work in the 300 Area to meet our goal for restoring the Columbia River corridor," said Michael Schlender, DOE-RL's deputy manager for Site Transition. "We now have the final piece of the regulatory process complete for soil cleanup, and can move forward on a more defined path to completion."

The contaminated soil will be removed, treated as necessary and disposed of in Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico and other regulator-approved facilities. The excavated areas will ultimately be backfilled, re-contoured, re-vegetated and re-surfaced if necessary.

"We are pleased this ROD has been signed because it lays out a specific pathway for 300 Area cleanup actions to meet the Tri-Party Agreement cleanup milestones," said Doug Sherwood, EPA's project manager for Hanford. "It's a critical piece of the overall Hanford cleanup picture and especially important because of the 300 Area's proximity to the Columbia River and the city of Richland."

"This Record of Decision and the one we signed last September for the 100 Area burial grounds are significant because they set the cleanup direction for a significant portion of the Columbia River corridor," said John Price, Ecology's project manager for environmental restoration. "The department now is committed in writing to clean up all soil contamination in the 100 and 300 Areas."

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Record of Decision for 300 Area completed, cont.

Cleanup of the Hanford 300 Area is divided into three pieces. Two of those cleanup actions are already under way, and the last is now in the planning stages. DOE's strategy is to complete all 300 Area cleanup work by 2012, with the exception of the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds, which will require additional study and regulatory consultation before a cleanup plan can be prepared.

Cleanup of the 300-FF-2 Operable Unit is estimated to cost \$512 million and must be completed by the Tri-Party Agreement milestone of Sept. 20, 2018. Soil and cleanup standards were developed consistent with the anticipated future use of the land for industrial purposes, and to meet groundwater and river protection standards.

The Record of Decision can be downloaded or viewed at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/webpage/Hanford.+Washington> under "Cleanup Information". ♦

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