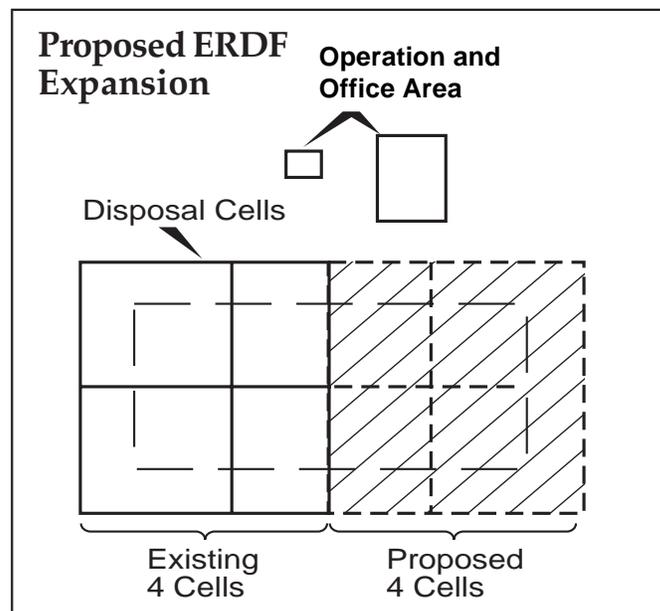


ERDF expanding with four more disposal cells

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By January 2005, it is estimated that the existing disposal cells at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility on Hanford's central plateau will reach their current capacity. As a result, the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency propose to add four more cells that will double the capacity of ERDF, which is now 5.2 million tons.

There is an estimated 10 million tons of waste along the Columbia River corridor. The Bechtel Hanford-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team has removed 3.2 million tons of contaminated soil and debris from the 100 and 300 Areas and safely disposed of the waste at the ERDF.



"We are proposing to amend the record of decision to support future Hanford Site cleanup activities by broadening use and operation of ERDF," said Dave Einan, the EPA project manager.

The proposed amendment has two components. The first component is to move forward with ERDF's Phase III that includes constructing four additional cells on an as-needed basis with approval from EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The new cells would be constructed using the current disposal design, and would be located within the area already designated in the record of decision.

The second component allows the option of staging remediation waste at ERDF before treatment and disposal. "Conducting staging activities at ERDF should increase efficiency, reduce costs and provide a secure location for the waste," said Vern Dronen, the Bechtel Hanford project manager for Remedial Action and Waste Disposal.

"The ability to stage waste at the ERDF will allow waste from the 300 Area burial grounds, as well as other locations, to be moved to a secure area away from the Columbia River while awaiting treatment and disposal," said Owen Robertson, DOE-RL project manager for Remedial Action and Waste Disposal.

A record of decision signed in January 1995 authorized construction of ERDF to support timely removal and disposal of contaminants from various locations at the Hanford Site by the ERC team. Based on public values, the agencies committed to expand ERDF on an as-needed basis.

The draft *Proposed Plan for an Amendment to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility Record of Decision* (DOE/RL-2001-44) is available for public comment from Oct. 29 through Nov. 27. To request a copy of the document, or for further information, contact Dave Einan at the EPA at 376-3883 or via e-mail to einan.david@epa.gov. ♦