



Cleanup of the Hanford Site

Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan

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

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The U. S. Department of Energy (US DOE), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Washington State Department of Ecology, the Tri-Party Agencies, are inviting the public to comment on the draft *Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan for Hanford CERCLA Response Actions*. The proposed Institutional Controls Plan discusses the implementation and maintenance of administrative controls on the Hanford Site to provide protection for the health and safety of the public.

A 30-day public comment period is being held from March 18, 2002 to April 18, 2002. The draft *Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan* is available for review at the following locations: U.S. Department of Energy Reading Room Washington State University, Tri-Cities Richland, WA 99352 or visit this website:

<http://www.hanford.gov/tpa/announcements.htm>

The agencies will consider all public comments before the Hanford Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan is issued.

Please submit comments in writing or electronically to:

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Or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008

emphasized the need for a Hanford Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan. The purpose of this plan is to describe the implementation and maintenance of institutional controls to provide for the protection of health and safety of the public and the environment from hazards during cleanup and residual hazards following cleanup. A draft Plan has been prepared and is now available for public comment.

What are Institutional Controls?

Institutional Controls are administrative controls that prevent access to land, groundwater, surface water, and other areas that contain hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants above levels that would permit unlimited use or unrestricted exposure. Institutional controls include:

- 1 Warning notices, including signs and markers, that provide visual identification and warning of hazardous or sensitive areas.
- 1 Entry restrictions, including procedural requirements for access and fencing, that prevent, or limit, access by humans to particular areas.
- 1 Land use management controls, including land use and property controls and excavation permits, that ensure land use follows Site plans and prevents unplanned disturbance or infiltration of hazardous sites.
- 1 Groundwater use management including groundwater controls that ensure proper use of groundwater.
- 1 Waste site informational management including maintaining information on the location and nature of contamination at the Hanford Site.

Background

The Hanford Site is a 586 square mile Federal reservation located in the southeastern portion of the State of Washington along the Columbia River north of the city of Richland.

Among the Site's past missions was the production of weapons grade plutonium. In 1989 the Site was placed on the National Priorities List because of soil and groundwater contamination from past operations. Cleanup activities have proceeded under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liabilities Act of 1980 and other environmental regulations.

Records of Decision for cleanup of two NPL-listed waste site areas (the 100 Area Burial Grounds Interim Record of Decision and the 300 Area FF-2 Record of Decision) included a committed to develop a sitewide institutional controls plan. A CERCLA Five-Year Review (April 2001) further

Why are Institutional Controls Required?

As US DOE continues its mission at the Hanford Site, institutional controls have become a component of the cleanup approach. Institutional controls work along with the more active cleanup measures to protect human health and the environment during the cleanup process, as well as following completion of cleanup in areas where residual hazards remain.

Protective measures are needed to protect human health at waste sites where cleanup is being conducted. Controls also are needed at waste sites where complete restoration to levels acceptable for unrestricted human use and unlimited human exposure cannot be accomplished. The requirements for institutional controls are based on CERCLA decision documents, which present the selected cleanup actions for cleanup sites at Hanford.

As US DOE completes its cleanup objectives, the land will become available to support other uses. For land that is transferred to other entities, either through a change in ownership, management, or use, if cleanup has not been completed to an unrestricted use standard, it is intended that the Federal Government will monitor the institutional controls (or their equivalent) that US DOE has put in place. The institutional controls that will remain in place upon transfer of the land will be conveyed at the time of transfer.

Why is Public Input Necessary?

Institutional controls are planned to be established as described in the draft Plan. In some cases, these controls will be in place for many years and provide Site users and the local population with information and warnings about residual contamination and associated hazards. It is important that members of the public and community groups understand the planning for implementation and maintenance of institutional controls so that their existence can be factored into community and regional planning activities. Furthermore, public input will improve content and implementation of the Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan.

Is this a Long-term Stewardship Plan?

Although institutional controls are a critical component of conducting long-term stewardship at the Site, this Plan

is not the long-term stewardship plan. In addition to addressing the management of institutional controls, the Long-term Stewardship Plan is also expected to address the management of Site resources, (i.e., biological, natural, and cultural), long-term stewardship information management, the use of science and technology, and post-closure infrastructure. A long-term stewardship plan is also under development and it is anticipated that this broader plan may be issued in 2002. The Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan, a primary document under the definition of the Tri-Party Agreement, may become part of the Hanford Long-term Stewardship Plan. Two public workshops have been conducted to gather scoping comments for the Hanford Long-term Stewardship Plan.

Who should review the Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan?

Anyone interested in the management of the Hanford Site during and following cleanup should review this Plan. The Plan includes background information on the various National Priorities List sites, requirements for institutional controls for these sites, and the basis for additional planning for management of institutional controls after cleanup.

Other Related Documents

- 1 Washington State Department of Ecology, et. al, Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, 1996 as amended
- 1 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Region 10 Final Policy on Use of Institutional Controls at Federal Facilities," Memorandum, May 1999
- 1 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, et. al., 100 Area Burial Grounds Interim Record of Decision, September 26,2000
- 1 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, et. al., 300-FF-2 Record of Decision, April 5, 2001

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations:

PORTLAND

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn.: Michael Bowman (503) 725-3690

SEATTLE

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications
Attn.: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-1937

RICHLAND

U. S. Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Washington State University, CIC Room 101L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Terri Traub (509) 372-7443

SPOKANE

Gonzaga University Foley Center
E 502 Boone
Attn: Connie Scarpetti (509) 323-3839

Hanford Clean Up Line: 1-800-321-2008

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