

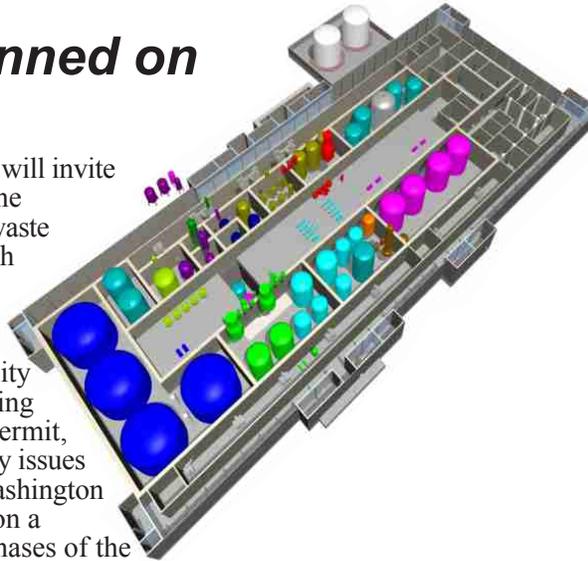
Hanford Update

April 2002

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Public Comment Planned on Vit Plant Permit

The Washington State Department of Ecology will invite the public to comment on the first phase of the dangerous waste permit for the Hanford tank waste treatment facility this spring. The facility, which will treat hazardous wastes stored in underground tanks through a process called vitrification, will be permitted in phases to allow construction on one portion of the facility to begin while design on other portions is being finalized. Along with the dangerous waste permit, Ecology will issue permits related to air quality issues associated with the treatment facility. The Washington State Department of Health is also working on a radiological permit for the facility. Future phases of the permits will be available for public comment prior to the permits being issued. For more information, contact Mary Anne Wuennecke, (509) 736-3036, or call the Hanford Cleanup Line, 800-321-2008.



Public Comment Periods

- ✓ **Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) TPA Change Package**
May 15 - June 30, 2002 Tentative
Pg. 1
- ✓ **Final Version of Hanford Site Permit Modification E**
May 1 - June 14, 2002 Tentative
Pg. 5
- ✓ **Tri-Party Agreement Changes Proposed to Revise Hanford Tank Waste Treatment Construction Schedule**
March 18 - May 1, 2002
Pg. 6
- ✓ **Hanford's 200 Area Central Plateau Waste Site Cleanup**
February 25 - April 12, 2002
Pg. 3
- ✓ **Hanford Site Institutional Controls Plan**
March 18 - April 18, 2002
Pg. 2
- ✓ **Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement**
April 30 - July 1, 2002, Tentative

Hanford Cleanup Line

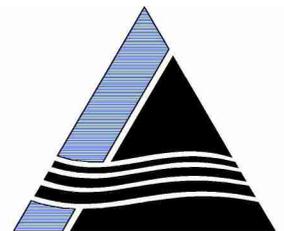
1-800-321-2008

Call the Hanford Cleanup Line to request information about Tri-Party Agreement cleanup and compliance activities at the Hanford Site.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) - TPA Negotiations

The Tri-Party Agencies are nearly finished with negotiations and have drafted a proposed change package that covers transition and selected disposition activities for the PFP. A public comment period on the draft change package is tentatively planned for May 15 through June 30, 2002. The proposed changes to the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (Tri-Party Agreement) will add deadlines for cleaning up and decommissioning the facility. The baseline plan for PFP is contained in the *Integrated Project Management Plan for Decommissioning of the PFP* (HNF-3617, Revision 1). To view the executive summary of this document, please visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PFPexecsum.pdf>. For more information, contact Laura Cusack, Ecology, (509) 736-3038 or Larry Romine, USDOE-RL, (509) 376-4747.

In addition, the Agreement in Principle for the Tri-Party Agreement Negotiations on the PFP is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PFPAIP300.pdf>.

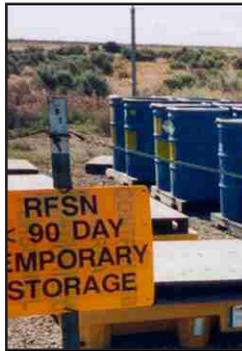


Tri-Party Agreement

Hanford's Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology (the Tri-Party Agencies) are inviting the public to comment on a draft Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan for Hanford.

Institutional controls are administrative controls that prevent access to areas that contain hazardous substances above levels that would allow unlimited use. These controls may be required during cleanup to ensure that site conditions do not contribute to increased contamination of the environment. They may also be required after cleanup is complete if hazards remain above levels that would not permit unlimited use.



Control Marker

Institutional controls may take different forms:

- Signs and markers to warn of hazardous or sensitive areas
- Entry restrictions to limit access to selected areas
- Land use controls to prevent unplanned disturbance of hazardous sites
- Groundwater use controls to prevent access to contamination
- Information on the nature and location of contamination.

A public comment period is being held March 18 - April 18. The draft *Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan for Hanford* is available for review at the following location:

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room, Washington State University
Tri-Cities, Richland, WA 99352 or visit our website at: <http://www.hanford.gov/tpa/announcements.htm>.

For more information contact James L. Daily, USDOE-RL, (509) 376-7721

Tri-Party Agreement Letter of Intent

After nearly a year of working together to find solutions to cleanup challenges and constraints and to ensure adequate funding, the Tri-Party Agencies have signed a letter of intent to accelerate Hanford cleanup.

Additionally, the letter of intent documents how results of the Cleanup Constraints and Challenges Team (C3T), the Top-to-Bottom Review, and other improvements will be used to accelerate cleanup, develop integrated planning and funding requests, and meet commitments under the Tri-Party Agreement. It also represents a transformation in Hanford Site cleanup, with the objective of accelerating completion from a timeframe of 2070 to 2035 and possibly as soon as 2025. It establishes a basis for action and continuous improvement throughout the cleanup.

The C3T effort has been aggressively looking for opportunities to accelerate the cleanup and make cleanup efforts more effective at Hanford. To date this effort has identified 42 specific targets of opportunity for improvement and has demonstrated a receptiveness to better ways to complete cleanup.

The Top-to-Bottom Review identified a range of Environmental Management (EM) challenges, noted many areas needing improvement, and issued several calls to action to accelerate cleanup at EM sites. The Bush Administration is prepared to increase site-specific budget as sites demonstrate how they plan to change their approach in order to speed up cleanup, thereby reducing environmental risks and saving taxpayer dollars in the long run. DOE has been actively engaged in changing how it conducts its business through contract and internal management processes at Hanford.

The constructive working relationships among the C3T parties have already resulted in accelerated cleanup activities (such as those reflected in the proposed TPA change packages for the River Corridor and Central Plateau Waste Sites Cleanup milestones), strategies, work practices and commitments, and a framework for addressing other issues.

The Tri-Party Agreement was originally envisioned and has evolved as a living document that can be modified as experience and new technologies are developed. For example, if a new technology was developed and proven, the Tri-Party Agencies would be expected to take this information into consideration when updating the Tri-Party Agreement.

Seven specific C3T initiatives focus on accelerated cleanup and demonstrate a change to the way business is being conducted:

- The Central Plateau Strategy and Vision
- Accelerated Tank Waste Retrieval and Closure Demonstration
- Hanford Tank Waste Treatment Strategy
- Integrated Groundwater Monitoring, Assessment and Protection
- Cesium/Strontium Capsule Disposition
- Improved Waste Management and Accelerated Waste Disposal Options
- DOE Work Practice Reform

For more information, contact Wade Ballard, USDOE-RL (509) 376-6657.

Transition of Central Plateau Work

The Department of Energy is in the final process of reviewing and approving the plan to transfer all work associated with the Central Plateau from Bechtel Hanford Inc. (BHI) to Fluor Hanford, Inc. (FH) beginning July 1, 2002. The transfer is the first of a two-part transition that will align Hanford cleanup contracts with DOE's outcome-focused plan that divides the site into two major sections - the Central Plateau and the Columbia River Corridor.

The Central Plateau lies near the center of the Hanford Site and includes the 200 East and West Areas. Waste treatment, storage and disposal operations in the Central Plateau are expected to last for decades. The River Corridor includes both BHI and FH work in the 100 and 300 Areas; i.e., remediating most sources of radiological and chemical contamination that threaten the air, groundwater or Columbia River.

BHI and FH jointly developed the Central Plateau transition plan, which defines the scope, schedule and budget estimates to implement the transition. The transfer of the Central Plateau work scope will affect about 300 Environmental Restoration Contract employees. BHI activities in the Central Plateau that will transfer to FH include the following:

- 200 Areas Remedial Action Project;
- Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project, including all pump and treat operations;
- Surveillance and maintenance of inactive facilities;
- 233 S facility;
- Some of the buildings and waste sites in the 600 Area, and

- Management of site-wide database systems, including the Hanford Environmental Information System and Waste Information Data System.

The second phase of the transition for the remainder of the Environmental Restoration Contract scope and FH's 300 Area scope will occur in the fall when DOE awards the new River Corridor contract. DOE issued a Request for Proposal for the contract on March 6, 2002.

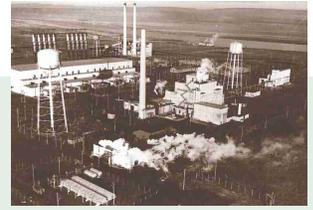
For more information, contact Kevin Bazzell, DOE, Richland Operations Office, 509-373-0463.

Hanford's 200 Area Central Plateau Waste Site Cleanup

The Tri-Party Agencies have proposed changes to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) that will set schedules for cleaning up non-tank-farm-related soil waste sites on Hanford's Central Plateau, also known as the 200 Area. There are over 700 soil waste sites that fall within nine major waste categories (e.g., process waste, landfills). The waste sites are grouped into 22 operable units based on combinations of the major waste categories and contaminant sources. For the remedial investigation/feasibility study process, the waste site grouping can be narrowed to 12 distinct waste site/contaminant source combinations (based on similarities between contaminant sources). This reduction of the number of waste site groupings allows for substantial savings by reducing the number of reports necessary to address all of the waste sites, while still providing the information needed to achieve effective cleanup.

A public comment period is being held from February 25 through April 12, 2002 and the proposed changes were discussed with the public at a meeting held in Hood River, Oregon on March 6. A comment and response document will be issued in May 2002.

For more information, please contact Bryan Foley, USDOE-RL, 509-376-7087



Historical Note:

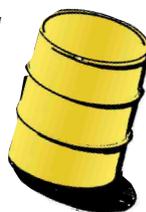
The DOE manages the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. Hanford was established during World War II as part of the top secret Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Weapons material production was halted in the late 1980s. The Hanford Site is now engaged in the world's largest cleanup effort to deal with the legacy of radioactive and hazardous wastes that resulted from the plutonium production era. Hanford's cleanup program is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology under a long-term compliance contract called the Tri-Party Agreement. This agreement sets the framework and timelines on the cleanup work so that Hanford meets current environmental standards.

Publications

A continuing goal of the Tri-Parties is to improve the readability of Hanford site publications. These publications include the *Hanford Update* newsletter, fact and focus sheets, and other summary publications. The Tri-Parties understand that providing accurate, up-to-date and descriptive information is fundamental for active participation by the public in Tri-Party Agreement decisions.



Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement



Waste Drums

The draft *Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement* (HSW EIS) is tentatively scheduled to be available for a 60-day public comment period by April 30 through July 1. The draft HSW EIS addresses a range of alternatives for the management of radioactive and mixed waste at the Hanford Site through 2046. The waste types evaluated include solid Low-Level Waste (LLW), Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) and Transuranic (TRU) waste. The waste management activities evaluated in this draft HSW EIS are storage, treatment, and disposal.

Class 2 Modification of the Hanford Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) have requested a temporary authorization to add storage capacity at 325 Hazardous Waste Treatment Units. The temporary authorization would add an adjacent room (Room 524) for waste storage and increase the container storage capacity of the unit by 2000 liters (approximately ten 55-gallon drums). The Washington State Department of Ecology is reviewing the request and will issue a decision in early April. If the temporary authorization request is approved, it would be valid for 180 days. The proposed Class 2 modification to make the changes permanent will be developed and sent out for a 60-day public comment period and a public meeting will be held. For more information, contact Michelle Anderson-Moore, Ecology, (509) 736-5714; or Theresa Aldridge, USDOE-RL, (509) 372-4508.



Hanford Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

April 4-5
Red Lion Hanford House,
Richland, WA

June 6-7
Best Western Hood River,
Hood River, OR

July 10-11
Red Lion Hanford House,
Richland, WA

September 5-6
Location TBD
Seattle, WA

November 7-8
West Coast Hotel,
Kennewick, WA

December 5-6
Radisson Hotel,
Portland, OR

Get Involved

The next meeting of the Hanford Advisory Board will be held in Richland at the Red Lion Hanford House on April 4-5. Public comment periods are provided two times during each day of the meeting. The Board encourages the public to attend its meetings and would like to hear from you about the issues and concerns you have about cleanup at Hanford. For more specific information on the Board meeting, please contact Yvonne Sherman at 376-6216.

Copies of consensus advice from the Hanford Advisory Board are available on the Hanford web page at : <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/advice/adviceindex.htm> or by contacting EnviroIssues at (509)-942-1906.

Hanford FY 2004 Budget Public Meetings

The U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office and the Office of River Protection once again welcome your participation at their annual budget meetings. The fiscal year (FY) 2004 budget meetings will be held throughout the northwest this spring. Using the FY 2003 budget request and accelerated cleanup strategy as a foundation, the Tri-Party will provide background on the FY 2004 budget submission and Draft Work Plan. The goal of the accelerated cleanup strategy is to streamline operations by working with states and regulators to clearly target and reduce the greatest health and environmental cleanup risks. Regulators and stakeholders will be able to offer their perspectives on the Richland Operations Office and the Office of River Protection budgets at these meetings. Public comment will be requested.



The dates, times, and locations of these meetings will be announced shortly. For additional information, please contact Yvonne Sherman, USDOE-RL, (509) 376-6216.

Tri-Party Agreement Changes Proposed to Revise Hanford Tank Waste Treatment Construction Schedule

On March 18, 2002, public comment began on a proposed "recovery plan" that would align the Tri-Party Agreement with the tank waste treatment facility construction schedule. The 45-day public comment period ends May 1st.

What is the Recovery Plan?

The proposed Recovery Plan and its associated modifications of Tri-Party Agreement milestones lays out the detailed work schedules necessary for USDOE's Office of River Protection to construct the treatment complex in time to meet the 2007 deadline for initial operations.

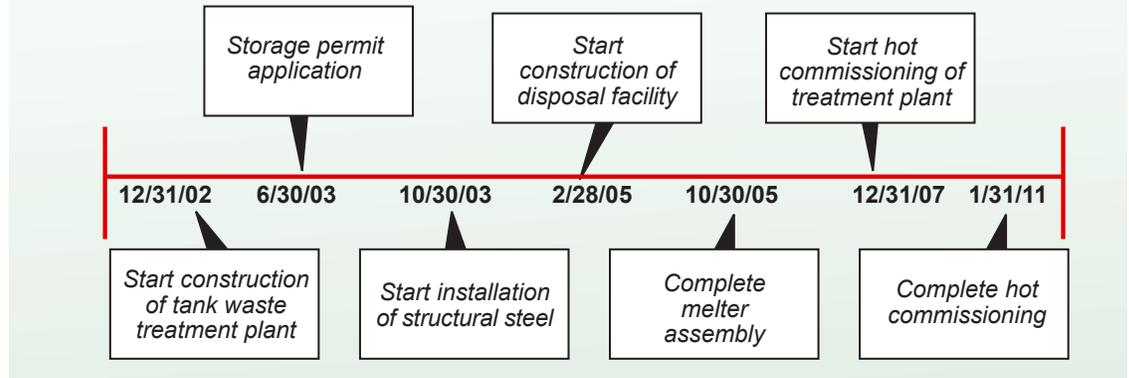
The USDOE Recovery Plan documents schedules and technical activities needed to meet the Tri-Party Agreement requirements to begin commissioning the nation's largest radioactive waste treatment facility. Along with the technical information, the state required budget and cost information to ensure USDOE's commitment to fund the treatment complex in fiscal year 2002.

For more information contact: Roger Stanley, Ecology, (360) 407-7108, rost461@ecy.wa.gov, or Mary Beth Burandt, USDOE-ORP (509) 373-9160, mary_e_burandt@rl.gov; or visit the website at: <http://www.hanford.gov/orp/index.html>; or call 1-800-321-2008.

Public comment to be requested on final version of Hanford Sitewide permit modification

The Tri-Party Agencies will request public comment on the new draft Dangerous Waste Permit conditions for Modification E of the Hanford Sitewide permit. The agencies are targeting May 1, 2002 as the potential start date for the 45-day public comment period. The original public process on Modification E was conducted in the fall of 1999. Following public comment, the Department of Ecology issued the final permit, which was appealed. The agencies have settled the issue through dispute resolution and negotiations, and have developed revised permit conditions. After the public process, the agencies will consider the comments, make any necessary revisions, and Ecology will issue a final permit modification. For more information on the permit, please contact Laura Ruud, Ecology, (509) 736-5715.

Proposed Recovery Plan Tri-Party Agreement Dates



Internet Addresses



Internet web sites are updated regularly with information that include schedules for public involvement and Hanford Site activities.

Ecology:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/htm

EPA:
www.yousemite.epa.gov/rl0/cleanup.nsf/web/page/Hanford,+Washington

USDOE:
www.hanford.gov/pubinvolve.html

Hanford Advisory Board:
www.hanford.gov/hab/

Community Relations Plan:
www.hanford.gov/crp/toc.htm

Hanford Happenings:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/pdf/happenings.pdf

Hanford Update:
www.hanford.gov/rl/programs.asp.html

Link to Stakeholder Addresses:
www.hanford.gov/misc_info/stakehld.htm

Tri-Party Agreement:
www.hanford.gov/tpa/tpahome.htm

Clean Up Schedule for Waste Sites and Facilities Along the Columbia River

A public comment period on proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agency schedule for cleaning up Hanford's Columbia River Corridor was held from January 28 through March 14, 2002 and a public meeting was held in Hood River on March 6. The agencies received several comments were received from interested public and will issue a comment and response document in late April, 2002.

The proposed changes are the result of a tentative agreement between the Tri-Party Agencies on cleanup actions along the Columbia River. The draft agreement sets deadlines for all near-term waste removal actions in the 100 and 300 Areas and sets deadlines for reactor interim safe storage (cocooning) activities in the 100 Area and final disposition of surplus facilities in the 300 Area. The proposed cleanup actions are:



Cleanup of Waste Sites Along the Columbia River

- Setting a date for completion of all near-term removal actions for the 100 Areas, excluding groundwater, as December 2012. The scope of these changes includes cleanup of over 400 soil waste sites contaminated with radioactive and other hazardous chemicals in the 100 Area.
- Completing all reactor-cocooning activities by placing eight of the nine reactors, excluding the historic B Reactor, into interim safe storage by December 2012.
- Setting a deadline for completion of all interim cleanup in the 300 Area, excluding groundwater, as September 2018. The cleanup schedule includes 13 structures and 18 soil waste sites by December 2012 and an additional 135 structures and 36 soil waste sites (including the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds) by September 2018.
- Completing the final disposition of surplus facilities in the 300 Area by September 2018. Some facilities in these areas are part of the Hanford Site infrastructure and those facilities would remain in use after 2018.

For more information contact Chris Smith, USDOE-RL, 509-372-1544.

If you are interested in receiving this and other Hanford materials electronically, rather than in the mail, please contact the Hanford cleanup line **1-800-321-2008**

Department of Energy
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Richland WA, 99352