



Hanford Update

October
2002

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

New Hanford Public Involvement Calendar

In response to requests from Hanford stakeholders and the public, the Washington State Department of Ecology has developed a "calendar-style" format for upcoming Hanford public involvement activities. The new format lays out upcoming activities in a monthly calendar, making it easier for the public to see upcoming events and comment periods at a glance.

The calendar is available on Ecology's Web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/calendar/.

The U.S. Department of Energy's calendar website (www.hanford.gov/calendar/) provides the same information in a running list format.

Public Involvement Opportunities

September 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Comment Period on new FFTF closure milestones						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Comment Period on new FFTF closure milestones						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Comment Period on new FFTF closure milestones						
	6:00 AM Hanford Reach National Monument Open					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Comment Period on new FFTF closure milestones						
	6:00 PM Updated: Yakima FFTF		6:00 PM Seattle FFTF public meeting			
29	30					
Comment Period on new FFTF						

----- Wednesday, August 28, 2002 -----

Comment Period on new FFTF closure milestones
 August 28-October 6
 The Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy are asking for your feedback on draft changes to the Tri-Party Agreement that will revise the schedule for closure activities at FFTF. The comment period runs from August 28th to October 14, 2002
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/pdf/fftchange2.pdf>

----- Tuesday, September 17, 2002 -----

Hanford Reach National Monument Open House
 ▶ 6:00 AM-9:00 AM

----- Tuesday, September 24, 2002 -----

Updated: Yakima FFTF public meeting
 ▶ 6:00 PM-10:00 PM (Yakima Convention Center)

----- Thursday, September 26, 2002 -----

Seattle FFTF public meeting
 ▶ 6:00 PM-10:00 PM (Mountaineers Club)

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.



Getting Waste Out of Single-Shell Tanks

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Washington State Department of Ecology, want your feedback on proposed new milestones for retrieving wastes from single-shell tanks and demonstrating and/or testing the best possible methods for closing the aging underground tanks at the Hanford Site.

These new milestones lay out a process for testing retrieval equipment to determine the most efficient and safe ways to empty radioactive wastes from the tanks. The information gathered from these tests will also help the agencies to clearly outline the requirements for future tank closure activities.

The proposed milestone changes include the following:

- Establishing deadlines for retrieving waste from and closing three single-shell tanks considered “high-risk” due to their highly radioactive contents
- Conducting closure demonstration activities for tank C-106, including retrieving waste and evaluating risk data
- Developing closure plans for three current “demonstration retrieval” tanks.

These milestones do not constitute a final decision on all tank-closure activities – they only represent retrieval and closure demonstrations of 3 of the 149 single-shell underground storage tanks. Final decisions on specific tank and tank farm closures will be made on a case-by-case basis as part of the closure plan process. This will include a broad and inclusive public participation process for individual decisions related to tank and tank farm closures.

This 45-day public comment period will run from October 9 - November 25, 2002. The proposed changes are available at <http://www.hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm>.

No public meetings are planned at this time. However, if you are interested in a public meeting in your community, please contact Mary Anne Wuennecke at (509) 736-3036.

For more information, please call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

Warning Signs Posted Along Columbia River and Hanford Site

Beginning this fall, bright yellow signs with black lettering will be posted along the shoreline. The 4-foot by 8-foot signs in English and Spanish will be posted where hazards are known to exist or cleanup is underway. The signs will warn river users that portions of the Columbia River shoreline along Hanford’s 100 and 300 Areas may contain hazardous soil or water seeps. An information sheet is available to interested parties by calling the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Communications at (509) 376-7501. The signs read:

**WARNING
HAZARDOUS AREA
DO NOT ENTER**
Area May Contain Hazardous Soil and Water Seeps
For information call: (509) 376-7501

River users along the Hanford Reach are reminded that overnight camping along the shore is not permitted, nor is shoreline access above the high-water mark.

New signs are also being placed along main roads in the 100 and 300 Areas to warn the public that the areas may contain contaminated soil and only authorized personnel are allowed.

Bechtel Hanford, Inc. is posting the signs at the direction of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Richland Operations Office and as a requirement of the *Site Wide Institutional Controls Plan for Hanford CERCLA Response Actions*, issued in July 2002. The plan identifies institutional controls for Hanford’s *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Record of Decision* cleanup actions.

Institutional controls are designed to protect workers and the public from potentially hazardous substances. They include restrictions on activities and access to land, groundwater, surface water, waste sites, waste disposal areas and other areas that may contain hazardous substances.

For more information contact Jamie Zeisloft, DOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 372-0188

Get Involved

The next **Hanford Advisory Board** meeting will be held in Kennewick Washington at the WestCoast Hotel (formerly Cavanaugh’s) on November 7-8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day. 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 Hanford Site cleanup. For more specific information on the Board meeting, please contact Yvonne Sherman at 376-6216.

Copies of past 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)-942-190.

Status of the Draft Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office concluded a 90-day public comment period (May 24 - August 23) on the draft *Hanford Site Solid Waste (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement, Richland, Benton County, Washington* (HSW-EIS). Over 500 individuals participated in the six public meetings that were held in LaGrande, Portland, and Hood River, Oregon and in Seattle and Richland, Washington. Based on the feedback from those meetings and written comments, the Richland Operations Office has decided to provide additional information to the HSW-EIS that more fully explains the waste program at Hanford and how it fits with the larger waste management program across the U. S. Department of Energy complex. This Supplemental package will be complete in early 2003. When released, the package will be part of the National Environmental Policy Act process, and DOE-RL will hold a 45-day comment period and regional public meetings. For more information about the EIS, contact:

Michael Collins
DOE, Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550 (A6-38)
Richland, WA 99352
FAX (509) 372-1926
e-mail: solid_waste_eis_-_doe@rl.gov.

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze Tank Waste Disposal

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of River Protection is proposing modifications to the tank waste program. The proposed changes include the following:

1. Vitrify low-activity tank waste as monoliths (a single encased piece of glass) rather than cullets (gravel-sized pieces of glass).
2. Permanently dispose of the vitrified (glass) monolith in six regulatory compliant trenches versus long-term storage in concrete vaults.
3. Locate the vitrified low-activity waste in the 200 Area versus just in the 200 East Area.

A 49-day public comment period to scope the draft proposal began on July 8 and ended on August 26, 2002. A public scoping meeting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was held on August 20, 2002 in Richland. Two informal meetings were also held in Seattle and Portland.

The Office of River Protection is developing the draft Supplemental EIS and will be incorporating the comments received during the scoping process. The draft Supplemental EIS should be available for public comment early in 2003. For more information contact the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-0018.

Proposed FFTF Shutdown Schedule

The Tri-Party Agreement Agencies (U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology) are concluding a 45-day (August 28 - October 14, 2002) comment period on a proposed schedule to shutdown Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). Four public meetings were/are scheduled (Yakima, WA - September 24; Seattle, WA - September 26; Portland, OR - October 9 and Richland, WA - October 10) for the public to provide comments on the proposed TPA milestones and target dates for FFTF shutdown. The proposed changes, meeting times and locations are available on the web at www.hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm.

Comments can also be submitted in writing, by fax or email to:

O.A. (Al) Farabee
U.S. DOE-RL
P.O. Box 550 (N2-36)
Richland, WA 99352
Fax: 509-376-0177

Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 West 4th Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336
Fax: (509) 736-3030
e-mail: lcus461@ecy.wa.gov

Comments will be accepted until October 14, 2002.



Background:

The U.S. Department of Energy 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 for the cleanup work so that Hanford can meet current environmental standards.

Schedule and Cost Estimate Changes for the In Situ Redox Manipulation at Hanford's 100-HR-3 Operable Unit



Internet Addresses

The Interim Action Record of Decision Amendment for the 100-HR-3 Operable Unit, signed by the Tri-Party Agencies in October 1999, specified the implementation of In Situ Redox Manipulation to treat a specific chromium-contaminated groundwater plume.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (Tri-Party Agencies) are preparing an Explanation of Significant Difference to the Interim Action Record of Decision Amendment. This document addresses changes to the project schedule and cost estimate identified in the amendment and is required to modify the original Record of Decision.

The In Situ Redox Manipulation groundwater treatment system uses a chemically reactive treatment zone established within the groundwater. As groundwater naturally flows through this zone on its way to the Columbia River, toxic chromium is chemically converted to a less toxic form. The treated groundwater then continues to flow through the zone and discharges into the river.

The Record of Decision included a cost estimate and schedule for the work to be completed based on what was known about the technology and the groundwater plume at that time. As installation of the treatment barrier has progressed over the past two years, actual costs and schedule are greater than identified in the Record of Decision Amendment.

The specific changes in the Explanation of Significant Difference include the following:

- * A revision to the In Situ Redox Manipulation construction schedule extends the project completion from September 2002 to June 2003.
- * Revisions to the In Situ Redox Manipulation cost estimates increase the 20-year life-cycle costs by about \$9.0 million as compared to the cost listed in the Record of Decision Amendment, from \$4.6 million to \$13.6 million. For more information contact John Morse, DOE Richland Operations Office at (509) 376-0057.

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

Ecology:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/index.html

EPA:

www.yousemite.epa.gov/rl0/cleanup.nsf/webpage/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

NEPA documents

<http://www2.hanford.gov/ARPIR/search/simple.cfm>

Construction Underway on Hanford Waste Treatment Plant

The first phase of construction on the Waste Treatment Plant that will vitrify – turn into glass – millions of gallons of Hanford's highly radioactive tank waste began in July 2002. After thoroughly reviewing and considering all of the comments received on the draft permit during the public comment period earlier this summer, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a temporary authorization allowing the U.S. Department of Energy to move forward with construction of the basement floor and walls of one of the three buildings that will make up the treatment facility. Ecology has since documented and responded to the comments and issued the permit in late September 2002. The permit goes into effect 30 days after being issued. Future permit modification will also undergo public participation processes. The next phase of permit modifications will include conditions for construction of additional sections of the facility and is tentatively scheduled to be ready for public review in October 2002. For more information, contact the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.



Calendar of Events

Tank Waste Remediation System Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Meeting

January: TBD
Location: TBD

Hanford Advisory Board Meetings

November 7-8, 2002
WestCoast Hotel
1101 N. Columbia
Center Blvd
Kennewick, WA

December 5-6, 2002
Radisson Hotel
1441 NE 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR

Fast Flux Test Facility Public Meetings

October 9, 2002
Radisson Hotel-Mt Hood Rm.
1441 NE 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR

October 10, 2002
Red Lion Hanford House,
802 George Washington Way,
Richland, WA

Public Comment Periods

- Shutdown schedule of Fast Flux Test Facility. 45-day public comment period August 28 - October 14, 2002.
- New milestones proposed for retrieving tank waste. 49-day public comment period October 9 - November 25, 2002.

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

Department of Energy
P.O. 550 MSIN A7-75
Richland WA, 99352