

# PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

## Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis on Proposed Alternatives for the 200 West Area Tier 2 Buildings/Structures Removal Action

*Fact Sheet*

**GET  
INVOLVED**

### Comment Period

March 15 – April 16, 2021

Send comments by  
April 16, 2021 to  
[Tier2EECA@rl.gov](mailto:Tier2EECA@rl.gov)

### Administrative Record

<https://go.usa.gov/xspW3>



### Questions?

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[Jennifer\\_M\\_Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov)



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a 30-day public comment period on an Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that evaluates three alternatives for non-time-critical removal actions for the seven aging Tier 2 buildings/structures in Hanford's 200 West Area.

### Background

The 580-square-mile Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup, including protection of the Columbia River, are Hanford's primary missions.

### About 200 West Area Tier 2 Buildings/Structures

Tier 1 facilities are not included in this action and include the reprocessing plants, or canyons. Tier 2 facilities are buildings or structures that are chemically and/or radiologically contaminated due to Hanford's past nuclear materials production mission and require a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) response action because of the potential for a release of hazardous substances.

Built between the mid-1940s and mid-1980s, the Tier 2 buildings/structures in the scope of this EE/CA are contaminated to different degrees with chemical and radioactive substances as a result of their missions. The seven buildings/structures addressed in this EE/CA are located throughout Hanford's 200 West Area and include the following:

- 213W Waste Compactor Building
- 231Z Materials Engineering Laboratory
- 242S Evaporator Facility
- 242T Waste Disposal Evaporator Building
- 242TB Vent House
- 292S Jet Pit House
- 292T Fission Products Release Laboratory



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## Removal Action

Removal of these buildings will reduce risk of a release of hazardous substances and lower overall Hanford surveillance and maintenance costs. The 231-Z Materials Engineering Laboratory, located within the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) access control and monitoring boundary, is planned to undergo deactivation, decommission, decontamination, and demolition first to allow trained hazard removal and demolition crews to continue their critical risk-reduction work on the Central Plateau.

An EE/CA is required for a Non Time-Critical Removal Action and is a comprehensive study prepared consistent with federal environmental laws and regulations that evaluates cleanup options to address environmental conditions.

The study evaluates the cost, ability to implement and effectiveness of different cleanup alternatives.

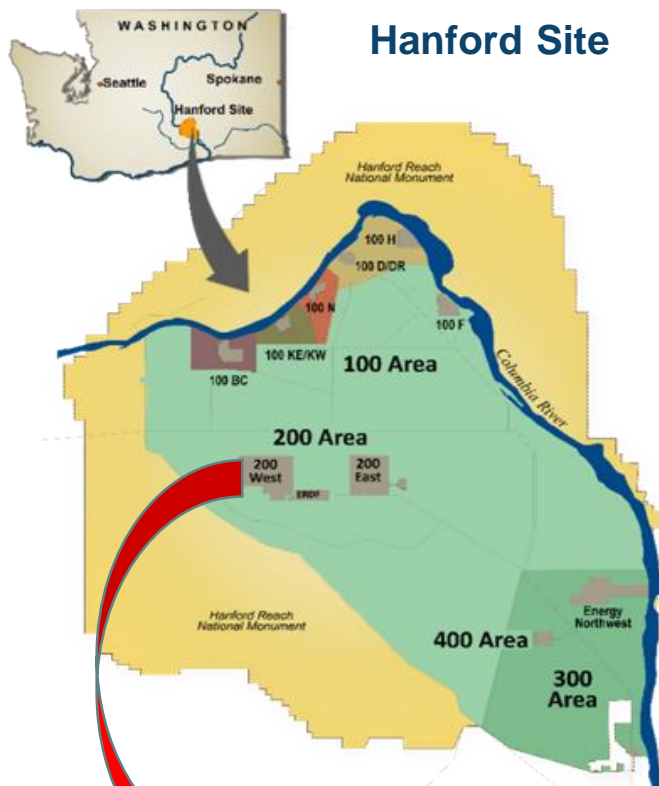
## What does this EE/CA propose?

This EE/CA evaluates alternatives for a non-time-critical removal action for the seven 200 West Area Tier 2 buildings/structures.

Emission units associated with the buildings/structures covered in this EE/CA will be transitioned from the Hanford [Air Operating Permit](#) to [CERCLA](#) authority. Those emission units will be removed from the Air Operating Permit based on the Notice of Transition effective date, which will coincide with the onset of CERCLA field activities covered under this removal action.

The EE/CA evaluates three different removal action alternatives. Based on the comparative analysis of the removal action alternatives, the recommended removal action for the seven buildings/structures is Alternative 3 (see table on page 3).

For cost comparison purposes, a five-year period of surveillance and maintenance was assumed in the EE/CA for Alternative 3. However, the actual implementation period to initiate the deactivation, decommission, decontamination, and demolition of the buildings/structures is based upon environmental risk, funding priority and availability of resources.



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## Proposed Alternatives for the 200 West Area Tier 2 Buildings/Structures Removal Action

Alternative	Removal Action Description	Present-Worth Cost
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No Action</li></ul>	\$0
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued surveillance and maintenance (for at least 15 years) of the 200 West Tier 2 buildings/structures with facility life-cycle upgrades (e.g., roof repairs)</li><li>Future deactivation, decommission, decontamination, and demolition of the 200 West Area Tier 2 buildings/structures</li></ul>	\$149.2 million
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued surveillance and maintenance of the 200 West Area Tier 2 buildings/structures</li><li>Near-term deactivation, decommission, decontamination, and demolition of the 200 West Area Tier 2 buildings/structures</li></ul>	\$135.2 million

### Why is Alternative 3 preferred?

The analysis indicates that Alternative 3 provides the best combination of actions to protect workers, the public and the environment while meeting the remedial action objectives. Alternative 3 is both technically and administratively feasible and supports future remedial decisions.

An Administrative Record documenting the complete EE/CA, including additional information on the removal action alternatives, can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xspW3>.

## Public Involvement

A 30-day public comment period will run from March 15 through April 16, 2021.

Copies of the EE/CA and supporting documentation will be available online during the public comment period on the Hanford public involvement website at <https://go.usa.gov/xVmew>, in the Administrative Record at <https://go.usa.gov/xspW3>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTS>.

Please submit comments by April 16, 2021 to [Tier2EECA@rl.gov](mailto:Tier2EECA@rl.gov) (preferred) or in writing to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Attn: Jennifer Colborn  
P.O. Box 450, H6-60  
Richland, WA 99352

After considering comments received from the public, DOE will confer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to select an alternative. The selected alternative will be documented in a CERCLA action memorandum.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn at [Jennifer\\_M\\_Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov) or (509) 376-5840.

Please contact Jennifer Colborn at [Jennifer\\_M\\_Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov) or (509) 376-5840 to request disability accommodation. DOE makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests.



## **Public Involvement Opportunity**

**Comment Period:**

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