

Public Comment Period on changes to Hanford Permit for Operations at a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Unit

The U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) is holding a 60-day public comment period on proposed modifications to the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Permit. These Class 2 modifications involve changes to control room monitoring and liner performance monitoring equipment for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF)/ 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF). These modifications also include changes to several permit attachments and are necessary to respond to recent operational changes at the LERF/ETF due to decreased volumes in waste being processed at the ETF.

January 2014

U.S. Department of Energy

Background

These proposed Class 2 modifications are for the LERF/ETF Treatment, Storage, and Disposal unit in Part III (*Unit Specific Conditions for Final Status Operations*) of Hanford's Dangerous Waste Permit.

These proposed changes revise three parts of the LERF/ETF chapter of the Hanford Permit by changing the frequency at which specified alarms, leak detectors, and level/pressure indicators are monitored. Also proposed is a different method to monitor leachate (leakage through the primary LERF basin liner into a collection system).

The proposed changes affect the sections of the following addenda of the LERF/ETF permit chapter:

- Addendum C, Process Information
- Addendum F, Preparedness and Prevention
- Addendum I, Inspection Requirements

A temporary authorization (TA) request is included in this permit modification request to allow for the changes in control room alarm monitoring to be put into effect before the permit modification approval is complete. The resulting action on the modification request (approval, denial, or approval with changes) will supersede any TA approval.



Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility

What are Class 2 Permit Modifications? Updates or changes to the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Permit, which may be in response to new regulations, technological advancements, or variations in waste types or quantities. All Class 2 changes require approval from the Washington Department of Ecology.



Public Comment

DOE-RL wants your feedback on these proposed modifications. The public comment period will run from **January 20 through March 21, 2014**. A public meeting will be held February 11 at the Richland Public Library from 5:30-6:30 pm.

About LERF/ETF

The LERF/ETF unit is a wastewater storage and treatment system in the 200 East Area (in the center of the Hanford Site). The system receives process wastewater from the 242-A Evaporator, 200 West Area groundwater, and other Hanford remediation and waste management activities. The LERF consists of lined surface basins. Wastewater from LERF is pumped to ETF for treatment to remove contaminants.

In previous years, ETF treated wastewater on a continual basis, with only short operational breaks for maintenance or equipment repair. The operation of the 200 West Pump-and-Treat system in recent years has reduced substantially the volume of liquids sent to LERF/ETF. Therefore, for efficiency ETF will start to process wastewater on a campaign basis instead of continuously.

Summary of Proposed Changes

This modification request proposes to revise three addenda of the LERF/ETF Hanford Facility RCRA Permit by changing the frequency at which specified alarms, leak detectors, and level/pressure indicators are monitored. In addition, modifications are proposed that allow for an additional monitoring method to be used to calculate the leakage through the primary liner of the LERF basins.

The proposed changes to the monitoring of specified alarms and indicators are to reduce the continuous, 24-hour a day monitoring to daily **only** when ETF is in standby mode, and no waste processing or waste transfers are occurring. During waste processing and/or aqueous waste transfers, including any liquid transfers to or from LERF, the monitoring will remain the same as the current permit requirements (24-hour continuous monitoring). These changes will allow personnel to focus on other activities at the unit when ETF is not transferring or processing waste.

The proposed changes to the leachate monitoring method will allow a second method to be used to calculate the action leakage rate of the liners. The action leakage rate monitors the liner performance. Due to the historically low leachate levels, the current leak detection equipment has not worked well. Therefore, a second method to calculate the leakage rate is proposed in this permit modification.

Temporary Authorization (TA) Request

The Permittees are requesting a TA to prevent disruption of ongoing waste management activities. The TA is specific to the reduction in the monitoring of the specified alarms and indicators as noted above and does not include changes to the leachate monitoring method. If approved, the TA will allow operators to monitor daily rather than continuously when there is no waste processing or transfers. This would make personnel available to focus on more critical environmental and operational work during the facility downtime planned for February thru April 2014.

The DOE-RL contact person for this permit change is Kim Ballinger, (509) 376-6332. The Washington State Department of Ecology contact person is Rick Bond, (509) 372-7950.

The permittees' compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Washington State Department of Ecology contact person.

Copies of the proposed permit modification and supporting documentation are available at the Administrative Record, 2440 Stevens Drive, Richland, WA and at the information repositories listed below.

How you can become involved

A 60-day public comment period on *proposed Class 2 modifications to Part III of Hanford's Dangerous Waste Permit* will run from **January 20 through March 21, 2014**. A public meeting will be held February 11 at the Richland Public Library from 5:30-6:30 pm. **Please submit comments by March 21, 2014 to:**



Rick Bond
 Washington State Department of Ecology
 3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
 Richland, WA 99354
 Email: Hanford@ecy.wa.gov



Hanford Public Information Repositories and review locations

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Portland State University Government Information Branford Price Millar Library 1875 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97207-1151 Attn: Claudia Weston (503) 725-4542 Map:http://www.pdx.edu/map.html</p> | <p>University of Washington Suzzallo Library Government Publications Dept. Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Attn: Hilary Reinert (206) 543-5597 Map: http://tinyurl.com/m8ebj</p> | <p>US. Department of Energy Public Reading Room Washington State University, Tri Cities Consolidated Information Ctr., Rm. 101-L 2770 Crimson Way Richland, WA 99352 Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443 Map:http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/campusmaps/campusmap.pdf</p> | <p>Gonzaga University Foley Center Library East 502 Boone Avenue Spokane, WA Attn: John Spencer (509) 313-6110 Map:http://tinyurl.com/2c6bpm</p> | <p>Ecology Nuclear Waste Program Resource Center 3100 Port of Benton Blvd. Richland, WA 93354 Attn: Valarie Peery 509-372-7950 Online: www.ecy.wa.gov/program/nwp/commentperiods.htm</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|

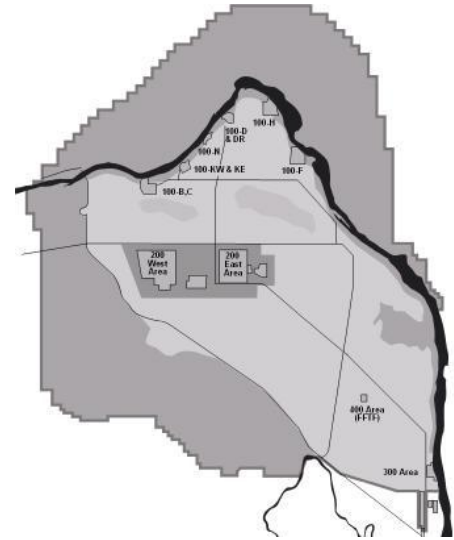
Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:

Address: 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA.

Phone: 509-376-2530 **Web site address:** <http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/>

Hanford Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from you on the proposed permit modifications for the Hanford Site!



Class 2 Permit Modification Fact Sheet
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, A7-75
Richland, WA 99352