

**SITE NAME: Hanford**

**Description of site activity that needs to be completed**

By the end 2023, DOE-ORP will complete the LowActivity Waste (LAW) Facility, Balance of Facilities (BOF), and Analytical Laboratory (LAB) (collectively known as LBL, including direct-feed low-activity waste [DFLAW] and LBL facility services) to begin treating LAW.

The DFLAW approach will rely on a LAW pretreatment system known as the Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) pretreatment system that will allow tank waste supernatant to be treated and stored in AP Farm for subsequent delivery to the WTP LAW Facility.

Upgrades will also be completed at the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and Effluent Treatment Facility to allow receipt and treatment of the anticipated secondary liquid effluent from DFLAW operations.

DOE-ORP is also completing an Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) for high-level waste treatment to identify and evaluate a broad set of alternatives that meets the established mission need and to analyze the life-cycle cost, schedule, and risks associated with each alternative. I

DOE-ORP will continue tank waste retrieval activities in the SSTs. Work is currently underway in the A and AX tank farms.

In 2020, DOE will complete the demolition of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) , leaving it in slab-ongrade condition.

several below grade structures will be stabilized with grout to prevent potential surface subsidence.

324 Building will be placed in a minimum surveillance and maintenance configuration until remediation can be resumed at the underlying 300-296 waste site and the building can be demolished.

EM will continue to evaluate the transfer of cesium and strontium capsules currently stored in wet storage at the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility to safer dry storage.

Stabilization activities at REDOX and PUREX will place these facilities in a low-cost surveillance and maintenance configuration.

Active groundwater remediation systems will continue operating along the River Corridor, treating about 1 billion gallons of contaminated groundwater annually.

DOE-RL will complete critical infrastructure projects to support the Hanford mission.

## What does completion of this activity mean to the SSAB?

The beginning of tank waste treatment is long-awaited and a welcome impending success.

Completion of the TSCR system enables near-term DFLAW operation, which is a time-critical need. However, it does not solve the long-term need for a pretreatment system that has solved the cradle-to-grave generation, separation, and dispositioning of all tank waste constituents, including treatment byproducts (i.e., the ion exchange columns).

Completion of these systems allows near-term DFLAW operation. However, the total effluent treatment capacity infrastructure need is still not known with certainty given the multiple alternatives being considered to finish the Waste Treatment Plant. More and larger infrastructure may still be needed.

The beginning of tank waste treatment at Hanford is closer than it has ever been, but the end has never seemed farther away. We need DOE to not lose momentum on completing the full WTP capability to separate and treat HLW and LAW.

Continued retrieval of SSTs is critical to protecting the soil, groundwater, and Columbia River. The rate of retrievals will only need to increase as the mission progresses.

Completion of PFP demolition is a significant accomplishment toward reducing risk onsite and hotel costs associated with maintaining min-safe conditions on site.

Reducing on-site acute risks from aging infrastructure is an important effort. However, such interim actions should follow a more comprehensive public process and involve project-specific evaluations of alternatives to verify that interim actions will not preclude future removal of these sites and to prevent creating new problems in the future.

DOE should resume 324 Building remediation.

The pool storage of the capsules represents one of the single greatest acute risks at the site in the event of a catastrophic loss of pool integrity. The capsules should be moved into dry storage without any delay.

Demolition of these buildings is not a high near-term priority for the Board, but they represent opportunities to realize efficiencies if additional funding for DOE-RL were to become available.

This is one of the greatest success stories to date at Hanford. We think it would provide value to DOE and communities that use and depend on the river if DOE found new ways to reinforce the success that river plume cleanups have made.

Infrastructure upgrades are a necessary aspect of ensuring the multi-decade treatment of tank waste and cleanup of the remainder of the site can be successfully completed.

**How would the SSAB like to see DOE EM interact with local stakeholders/communities to reach the completion vision?**

Public engagement in the Direct Feed LAW effort that provides status updates, required comment periods for permit modifications, and early notice if the 2023 deadline is in jeopardy and why.

Engage the public regarding final dispositioning options for the TSCR ion exchange columns, including participation in or briefings from any dispositioning options workshops between DOE and the regulatory agencies. The Board wants to ensure these won't become another orphaned waste, and we urge DOE to proceed with utmost openness and transparency.

Public engagement of LERF and ETF through the lens of mass balance and how these facilities and waste generated through final treatment is part of the tank waste treatment mission. Include briefings on LERF and ETF upgrades, required comment periods for permit modifications, briefing the HAB on what is anticipated to be in the secondary liquid effluent from DFLAW and explaining how the upgrades are connected.

The Board would like to see greater engagement from the agencies than we are getting. We request public check-ins to inform us of progress and seek public advice on areas where the parties seem to be stuck in their holistic negotiations. We also request that all AOA-associated analyses be made publicly available without delay.

Public engagement for the broader public and HAB on SST waste retrievals, hurdles, and how information from the retrieval process is interfacing with the tank integrity program to improve leak detection and the speed at which DOE and its contractors can transfer the contents of a leaking tank.

Public engagement including early communication regarding remaining risks in the PFP complex. Within the next 10 years, engage the public in a conversation about the end state for the PFP complex.

Cease the use of time-critical removal actions under CERCLA and instead follow non-time critical removal actions, including development of Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses and adequate opportunities for public engagement and comment.

Regular communication with the public on this high-interest project including lessons learned from past worker exposure incidents that are being used to make the work safer.

Continued public engagement of timelines and opportunities DOE is leveraging to complete this work sooner than the milestone. DOE should clarify for the public what it means to "evaluate" the transfer of the capsules to dry storage. DOE's intentions regarding this project are not currently clear.

Continue to keep the public informed via existing channels.

DOE should reassure the communities that that budget is sacred and will not end until the cleanup of the [groundwater](#) on the river is completed. Clearly communicate the timelines necessary to achieve the current and projected groundwater cleanup goals, including facility upgrades that may be necessary.

Continue to keep the public informed via existing channels.

