

### **300 Area Record of Decision Issued**

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) – have issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater along the Columbia River in the 300 Area of the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state.



This is the first of six RODs being put in place for cleanup on Hanford's 220-square-mile River Corridor. Cleanup actions to date have occurred under interim RODs.

The ROD, prepared under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, describes the cleanup options and selected remedial action for this area of Hanford.

Hanford's 300 Area covers about 40 square miles along the Columbia River and is in the southeast corner of the Site, just north of the city of Richland. Operations began in the 300 Area in 1943, when fuel for Hanford's nine plutonium reactors was manufactured. It was also home to experimental and laboratory facilities, including six small-scale nuclear reactors. Past operations resulted in liquid waste containing nitrate, uranium, other metals, and organics being discharged to soils in some locations of this area.

The 300 Area includes two soil Operable Units (300-FF-1 and 300-FF-2) and one groundwater Operable Unit (300-FF-5). This CERCLA ROD provides remedial plans for 130 waste sites (3 waste sites in 300-FF-1 and 127 waste sites in 300-FF-2) and groundwater contamination in 300-FF-5. Since the 1990s, 52 of these 130 sites have been remediated under interim cleanup decisions. The ROD addresses the area's remaining soil and groundwater contamination.

The ROD identified the following cleanup approaches for the operable units in the 300 Area:

#### **300-FF-2 Operable Unit**

- Remove, treat and dispose (RTD) at waste sites
- Temporary surface barriers and pipeline void filling
- Enhanced attenuation of uranium using sequestration in the vadose zone, periodically rewetted zone and top of the aquifer
- Institutional Controls

#### **300-FF-5 Operable Unit**

- Monitored natural attenuation
- Groundwater monitoring
- Enhanced attenuation of uranium at the top aquifer
- Institutional Controls

#### **300-FF-1 Operable Unit**

- Enhanced attenuation of uranium using sequestration in the vadose zone, periodically rewetted zone and top of the aquifer

The agencies considered public input received during the 60-day public comment period in selecting these cleanup approaches. The comment period, scheduled to run from July 15 to August 16, 2013, was extended to September 16 in response to stakeholders' requests. During the comment period, public meetings were held in Richland and Seattle, Washington, and in Hood River, Oregon. The responses to the comments received during the period are included in the responsiveness summary, which is Appendix B of the ROD. No major changes were made to the selected remedy based on public comment.

The Record of Decision <http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/index.cfm/viewDoc?accession=0087180> is available on the Administrative Record. Supporting documents (the [Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study](#) (RI/FS) and [RI/FS Addendum](#)) are also available on the Administrative Record. Additionally, the Proposed Plan is available for review at the Public Information Repositories (PIRs) and at <http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/>.