



# Department of Ecology

February 2025 - Agency Update

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# Outline



Outreach and Education



Tri-Party Negotiations



Compliance Activities



Public Involvement Activities



Hanford Sitewide Permit update

# Outreach & Education

- Most recent events included:
  - River's Edge High School Fall Expo
  - Nez Perce STEM Fair
  - Tri-Cities Sportsman Show
- Upcoming events
  - March 1 Sunnyside High School Science Fair
  - March 1 Kids Engineering Day at Mark Twain Elementary
  - March 19 River's Edge High School Extravaganza Fair
- Contact [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov) if you'd like us to come talk to your organization!



*Stephanie talking to the public at the Ecology table at the Tri-Cities Sportsman Show*

# Holistic Agreement, Recap and Next Steps

- In January 2025, Ecology, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a landmark agreement that outlines a realistic and achievable course for cleaning up millions of gallons of radioactive and chemical waste from large, underground tanks at the Hanford Site.
- The [final agreement](#) comes after the agencies sought and considered public and Tribal input in 2024 on proposed new and revised cleanup deadlines in the Tri-Party Agreement and Washington v. U.S. Dept. of Energy consent decree.
  - All final Holistic Agreement documents can also be found on [Ecology's website](#).

# M-15, M-16, M-85 milestone negotiations

- M-15 covers the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study investigation process for all non-tank farm, non-canyon operating units. (Due 2026)
- M-16 covers the remedial actions for non-tank farm, non-canyon operating units. This includes both soil and groundwater. (Due 2042)
- M-85 covers all response actions for the canyon facilities and associated operating units, except for U Plant and T Plant. (Due date TBD)
- The Tri-Parties signed an Agreement in Principle in December to negotiate these milestones. Under the AIP the parties will continue to work together to update soil, groundwater, and facility milestones which are currently held in abeyance.

## Agreed Order Update: Tanks B-109, T-111, and T-101

- Ecology and Energy continue to complete required actions identified in the Agreed Order (issued in 2022) and its Addendum (issued in 2024).
- Ecology and Energy are near completion of resolving comments on the draft Leak Response Plan that will be incorporated into the Hanford Sitewide Permit.
- Ecology signed milestones that establish retrieval dates for B-109, T-111, and T-101.
  - The milestones acknowledge the evaluation completed in the TPA required System Plan
  - It also requires Energy to further evaluate the dates in future system plans.
- Ecology and Energy also signed a milestone that requires Energy to identify and retrieve 3 assumed leaking tanks among the 22 tanks required to be retrieved under the Holistic Agreement.

# Ecology compliance activities

November 2024 to January 2025

Compliance reports issued:

November 14, 2024 – T Plant Complex

November 15, 2024 – Double-Shell Tank System

December 4, 2024 – Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility

January 17, 2024 – Tank-Side Cesium Removal/Low-Activity Waste Pretreatment System



# Ecology compliance activities

November 2024 to January 2025

Six inspections were conducted.



Compliance inspections routinely include determining the facility's compliance with the following regulated areas:

- Waste Analysis Plan
- Process information
- Groundwater monitoring, where applicable.
- Security
- Preparedness and prevention
- Personnel training
- Closure plan, where applicable
- Operating record
- Generator requirements, where applicable

# Public Involvement Opportunities



**Jan. 13 – Feb. 12, 2025**

Tri-Party Agreement  
Public Involvement  
Survey



**Jan. 13 – Mar. 14, 2025**

Waste Treatment  
Plant's Low-Activity  
Waste Facility export  
bay Class 2 permit  
modification



**Jan. 27 – Mar. 14, 2025**

Draft Renewal for the  
Perma-Fix Northwest  
Dangerous Waste  
Permit



**Feb. 6 – Mar. 24, 2025**

Draft Supplemental  
Environmental Impact  
Statement for Perma-  
Fix Northwest

# Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal status

- The 120-day public comment period is scheduled for 2025. When we get closer to finalizing all the unit groups, we will provide early notification of the public comment period dates.

(Note under WAC 173-303-840(3)(d), a renewal public comment period is 45-days, however, we have scheduled additional days to provide the public enough time to review the draft renewal.)

- The Hanford Sitewide Permit, Rev. 9A Renewal will include:
  - 52 Operating, Closure, Post-Closure, and Corrective Action unit groups.
  - Standard conditions, attachments and supporting documents.
- It will be about 20,000 pages. We are complete with 33 Unit Groups.
- Staff from both Ecology and the permittees are working very hard and are making progress on completing the remaining portions of the draft renewal. We're also completing responses to public, Tribal Nation and permittee comments.



# Questions?

Follow Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program on Facebook, Instagram, and our website [Ecology.wa.gov/Hanford](https://ecology.wa.gov/Hanford)

Don't forget to take the TPA public involvement survey!



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