

# Department of Ecology

February 2023 - Agency Update

David Bowen, Nuclear Waste Program Manager

# Outline

- Recruitment
- Outreach and Education
- Hanford Site funding
- Tri-Party Negotiations
- Tri-Party Agreement Compliance Activities
- Compliance, Permitting, and Public Involvement Activities
- Hanford Sitewide Permit update

# Recruitment

## Priorities:

- We have gone from a high of 31 vacancies in July of 2022 down to 14 vacancies.
- One vacancy is in active recruitment, with others at various stages of the hiring process.
  - Offer made, reference checks, interviews, recruitment posted, recruitment in development.
- Knowledge transfer and mentoring the next generation of our team continues to be critical for long-term success.

If you know anyone who may be interested in a job with Ecology here is a link to our current openings:

[State of Washington Job Opportunities | Locations: benton county | Departments: Dept. of Ecology | Sorted by Posting Date descending | Work that Matters \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

# Outreach & Education

- 2023: 33 events reaching more than 1,700 people.
- Four Let's Talk About Hanford events.
- Most recent events included:
  - Nov. 1: Let's Talk About Hanford – Insects.
  - Nov. 6: Jefferson Elementary Science Night, ~100 students and parents.
  - Nov. 8: Roosevelt High School in Seattle, three combined classrooms, ~120 students.
  - Dec. 7: Nez Perce STEM Fair in Idaho, ~120 students.
- 2024: A lot on the horizon!
- Contact [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov) if you'd like us to come talk to your organization!

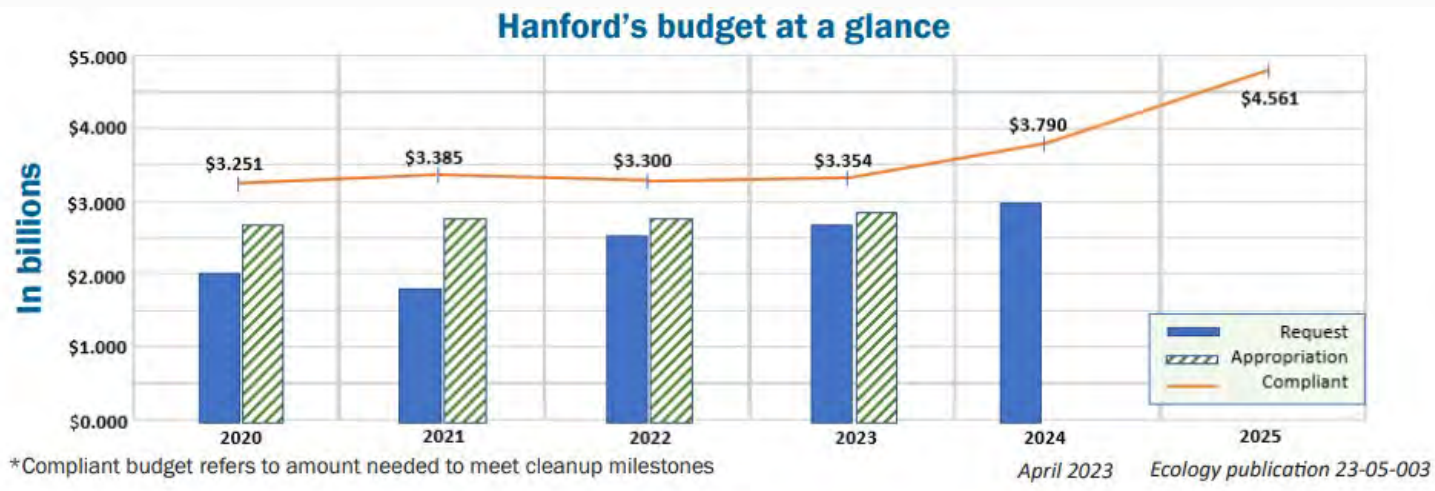


# Hanford Site Fiscal Year 2023-24 funding

- The FY24 President, Senate, and House budgets for the Hanford Site are all about a record \$3B. The current Continuing Resolution lasts until March 1, 2024.
- If passed, this would be an increase from \$2.84B in FY23 and \$2.7B in FY22.
- This was the result of many voices united calling for adequate funding.
- We are already hard at work advocating for FY25's budget.
- Ecology has contracted with Van Ness Feldman Solutions in Washington D.C. to boost our federal advocacy work.



*Ecology Director Laura Watson, NWP Manager David Bowen at Washington D.C. in 2022.*



# Tri-Party negotiations

- Holistic Negotiations: the Tri-Parties and the U.S. Department of Justice reached conceptual agreement and are working through agreed changes.
- The Tri-Parties are anticipating negotiations on the M-15, M-16, and M-85 milestone series beginning in early 2024.

# Ecology compliance activities

## October 2023 to January 2024

### Compliance reports issued:

- Central Waste Complex (CWC) Flood Contamination Incident – Oct. 17, 2023
- 216-B-3 Main Pond – Oct. 26, 2023
- 325 Building Hazardous Waste Treatment Units – Nov. 2, 2023
- 242-A Evaporator – Nov. 9, 2023
- 400 Area Waste Management Unit – Nov. 20, 2023
- T Plant Complex – Nov. 30, 2023
- Hexone Storage and Treatment Facility – Dec. 18, 2023

# Ecology compliance activities

## October 2023 to January 2024

### Inspections conducted:

- 241-CX Tank System – Oct. 19, 2023
- Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) & 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) – Oct. 24, 2023
- 400 Area Waste Management Unit – Nov. 28, 2023
- Central Waste Complex (CWC) and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility (WRAP) – Dec. 5, 2023
- Low Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31 and 34 – Dec. 5, 2023
- Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System (LAWPS) – Dec. 13, 2023

# Ecology compliance activities

## October 2023 to January 2024

### Air Operating Permit Discharge Point Inspections Conducted

Inspection Date	Discharge Point Number	Discharge Point Name
1/24/2024	1.4.44	2720-EA
	1.4.45	Rattle Snake Barricade
	1.4.72	251W Substation Emergency Backup Engine

# Opportunities for public involvement

Unit	Public Comment Period
NUCON Research, Development and Demonstration Permit	Spring 2024
2,000-Gallon Test Bed Initiative Research, Development and Demonstration Permit	Estimated March to April 2024
Tri-Party Agreement Public Involvement Survey Read more information and access the <a href="#">survey on our Ecology blog</a> .	Open now! Jan. 3 – Feb. 16

# Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal status

- The 120-day public comment period is scheduled for 2024. 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 49 unit groups and two Corrective Action unit groups, standard conditions, attachments and supporting documents. It will be approximately 20,000 pages.
- Staff from both Ecology and the permittees are working very hard and are making progress on completing the remaining portions of the draft Renewal, as well as completing responses to public, Tribal Nation and Permittee comments.

# Acronyms legend

HFSW: Hanford Facility Site Wide

LAWPS: Low Activity Waste Pre-Treatment

LERF-ETF: Liquid Effluent Retention Facility-Effluent Treatment Facility

242-A: 242-A Evaporator

WTP: Waste Treatment Plant

IDF: Integrated Disposal Facility

400 Area WMU: 400 Area (Fast Flux Test Facility)

Waste Management Units

CIS: Cesium Interim Storage

WESF: Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility

WTP: Waste Treatment Plant

MHF: Material Handling Facility

PUREX: 221-A Building aka PUREX Plant complex

Attachment 4A: attachment to the permit “Building Emergency Directors/Building Wardens

SWOC: Solid Waste Operations Complex includes T Plant, Central Waste Complex, Waste Receiving and Processing facility

SST: Single-Shell Tank

DST: Double-Shell Tank

324: 324 Building

325: 325 Building

CWC: Central Waste Complex



# Questions?

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



@EcologyWAHanford



@ecyHanford



Nuclear Waste Program  
509-372-7950  
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov