

Department of Ecology

May 2024 - Agency Update

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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 15 vacancies.
- Two vacancies are 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

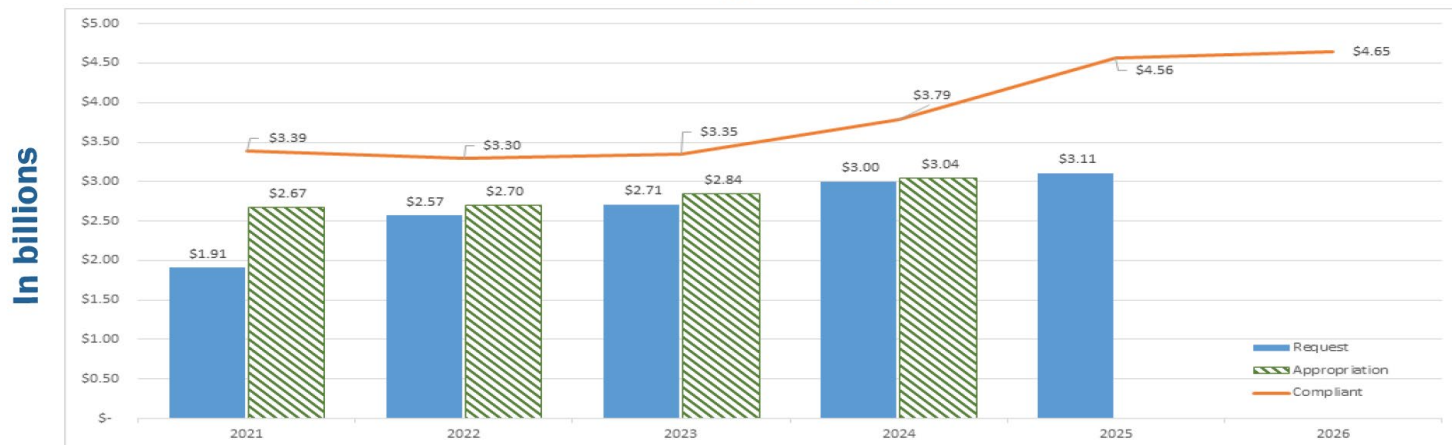
- 2024: Six events reaching more than 750 people.
- One Let's Talk About Hanford event.
- Most recent events included:
 - March 27: Let's Talk About Hanford – NPS.
 - April 15-16: Salmon Summit, ~350 students
 - April 20: Earth Day at the REACH, ~120 kids and parents
 - April 25: PNNL Kids' Day at Discovery Hall, ~90 students
- Contact Hanford@ecy.wa.gov if you'd like us to come talk to your organization!



Hanford Site Fiscal Year 2024-25 funding

- The FY24 budget for the Hanford Site was a record \$3.04B (\$3.79B compliant).
- This was 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 advocating for FY25's budget. The President's requested budget is \$3.11B (\$4.56B compliant).
- Ecology has contracted with Van Ness Feldman Solutions in Washington D.C. to boost our federal advocacy work.

Hanford's budget at a glance



*Compliant budget refers to amount needed to meet Tri-Party Agreement cleanup milestones



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

Tri-Party negotiations

- On April 29, 2024, the Tri-Parties and the U.S. Department of Justice announced the holistic agreement. The public involvement process for changes to the Tri-Party Agreement and the Consent Decree will begin on May 30, 2024.
- The Tri-Parties are updating soil, groundwater, and facility milestones which are currently held in Abeyance. These discussions are anticipated to be completed in June 2024.

Ecology compliance activities

February 2024 to April 2024

Compliance reports issued:

- February 8, 2024 - Single Shell Tank with Waste Generator
- March 21, 2024 - Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) & 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF)
- April 18, 2024 - 400 Area Waste Management Unit

Ecology compliance activities

February 2024 to April 2024

Inspections conducted:

- 325 Hazardous Waste Treatment Units – February 5, 2024
- 200 Area Ponds, Cribs, Trenches, and Ditches, Non-Radioactive Waste Landfill, 300 Area Process Trenches, and Low-Level Burial Grounds – Green Islands Groundwater Inspections – February 13, 2024
- 222-S Laboratory – February 21, 2024
- PUREX Tank TK-40 Inspection – February 29 and March 4, 2024
- 242-A Evaporator – April 24, 2024
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard – April 30, 2024

Opportunities for public involvement

Unit	Public Comment Period
Proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement and Consent Decree	May 30 – Aug. 2, 2024
Integrated Disposal Facility – Agency Initiated Permit Modification	June 3 - July 19, 2024
NUCON Research, Development and Demonstration Permit	Aug. 26 – Oct. 10, 2024

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 Operating, Closure, and Post-Closure unit groups and two Corrective Action unit groups, standard conditions, attachments and supporting documents. It will be approximately 20,000 pages. We are complete with 25 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, 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?

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