



# Department of Ecology

September 2024 - Agency Update

Stephanie Schleif, 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 11 vacancies.
- Two vacancies are in active recruitment, with six 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: 11 events reaching more than 1,237 people.
- Most recent events included:
  - Return to the River Salmon Festival
  - Leadership Tri-Cities Hanford Day
  - Chiawana High School
  - Navarro ATL Lunch and Learn
  - Let's Talk about Hanford – Pollinators
  - Visit from Kazakhstan delegates
- Contact [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov) if you'd like us to come talk to your organization!



# Ecology's Comms faces at the HAB!



Annagrisel Alvarez  
Communications Consultant



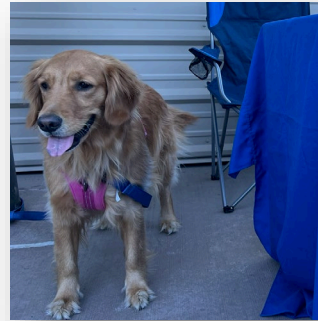
Ryan Miller  
Communications Manager



Benjamin Prueitt  
Outreach and Engagement Specialist



Daina McFadden  
Permit Communications Specialist



Maggie  
Adorable Assistant

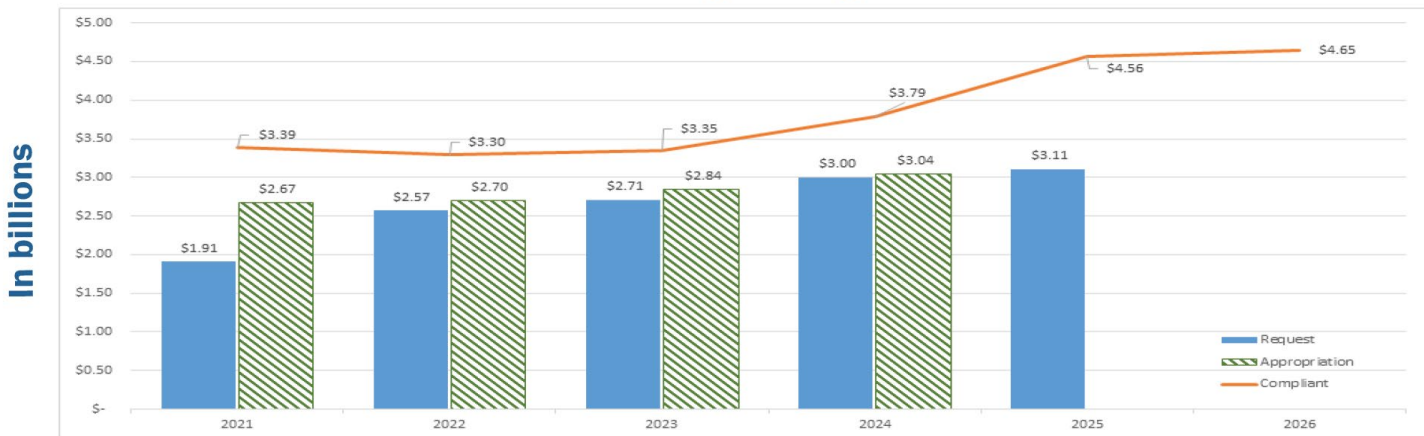


Starting soon!  
Community Outreach and Environmental  
Education Specialist

# 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 and House budget are \$3.11B, Senate is \$3.35B (\$4.56B compliant).

Hanford's budget at a glance



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



High-level waste facility in 2019. Following increased funding design and construction has recently resumed.

# Tri-Party negotiations

- On April 29, 2024, the Tri-Parties and the U.S. Department of Justice announced the Holistic Agreement. The public comment period for changes to the Tri-Party Agreement and the Consent Decree was held May 30 through Sept. 1, 2024.
  - Public meetings were held in Richland, Olympia, and Hood River, OR.
  - The agencies are now considering and drafting responses to the comments received.
  - Consultation was held with Yakama Nation on Sept. 4, 2024.
- The Tri-Parties are updating soil, groundwater, and facility milestones which are currently held in Abeyance.

# Tank T-101 Update

- Energy formally notified Ecology on Aug. 15 that Tank T-101 has been declared an “assumed leaker” and is likely actively leaking.
- Ecology is working with Energy to determine appropriate leak response actions.
- Based on current information, Ecology does not believe this tank poses immediate risk to workers or the public.

# Ecology compliance activities

Quarter 2: May 2024 to July 2024

## Compliance reports issued:

- May 3, 2024 - Central Waste Complex, Waste Receiving and Packaging Facility, Low Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31 and 34
- May 9, 2024 - Low Activity Waste Pre-Treatment System
- June 13, 2024 - Centralized Consolidation/Recycling Center
- June 27, 2024 - 325 Hazardous Waste Treatment Units
- July 18, 2024 - 216-A-29 Ditch, 216-A-37-1 Crib, 216-A-36B Crib, 216-B-63 Trench, 216-S-10 Pond and Ditch, 216-B-3 Main Pond, 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins, 300 Area Process Trenches, Non-Radioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill, and Low-Level Burial Grounds - Green Islands.
- July 18, 2024 - 222-S Laboratory

# Ecology compliance activities

May 2024 to August 2024

## Inspections conducted:

- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard – May 29, 2024
- B Plant Complex – June 6, 2024
- T Plant Complex – June 17, 2024
- Double Shell Tank System – June 18, 2024
- Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility – June 25, 2024
- Hexone Storage and Treatment Facility – July 30, 2024
- Energy Northwest – Columbia Generating Station – August 8, 2024
- Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System (LAWPS) - August 22, 2024

# Opportunities for public involvement

| Unit   | Public Comment Period    |
|--|--------------------------|
| Class 2 Permit Modification for Low-Activity Waste Pretreatment System (LAWPS) Hose-in-Hose Transfer Lines life extension.                         | July 22 – Sept. 20, 2024 |
| NUCON Research, Development and Demonstration Permit for the construction and operation of a Thermal Oxidation System.                             | Aug. 26 – Oct. 10, 2024  |
| Class 2 Permit Modification for the LAWPS for the Tank Side Cesium Removal Mechanical Connection issues.   | Fall 2024                |
| Class 2 Permit Modification for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant to add an existing room in Low-Activity Waste Vitrification Facility. | To be determined         |
| Draft Renewal for the Perma-Fix Northwest Dangerous Waste Permit.  | Late January 2025        |

# Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal status

- The 120-day public comment period is scheduled for early 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:
  - 53 Operating, Closure, and Post-Closure unit groups and
  - Two Corrective Action unit groups,
  - Standard conditions, attachments and supporting documents.
- It will be about 20,000 pages. We are complete with 30 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.

# 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  
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[Ecology.wa.gov/Hanford](http://Ecology.wa.gov/Hanford)



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