

Official Documents

CERCLA Five-Year Review

THIRD CERCLA FIVE-YEAR REVIEW ANNOUNCED

On March 8, 2010, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced its intent to conduct the third Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review Report for the Hanford site starting on April 12, 2010. The assessment and communication plan for the proposed review can be accessed by clicking on the title in the left column.

CERCLA requires that for all remedial actions taken that resulted in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at a site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure be reviewed every five years to ensure protection of human health and the environment. For completed actions the review will determine if the measures taken are still successful in protecting the worker, the public and the environment. For actions that haven't been completed but are in progress, the review will evaluate whether the measures to be taken will be protective when completed if there is sufficient information available to make that judgment.

DOE will conduct the CERCLA five-year review in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Washington Department of Ecology. EPA is ultimately responsible for certifying the review.

The scope of the review will cover all CERCLA actions on the Hanford Site, but will not include all activities covered by the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). For example, this review will not address *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) units (such as the radioactive waste tank farms) or past practice units regulated under RCRA except in some limited cases where a RCRA closure action was completed as part of a CERCLA removal or remedial action.

The five-year review will:

- Evaluate the performance of the selected removal and remedial cleanup actions for waste sites, including groundwater in the 100, 200, 300, 1100 Areas and other areas on the Hanford Site where CERCLA actions are being performed, e.g. the 400 Area, to determine whether they are protective of human health and the environment.
- Confirm that immediate threats have been addressed, or where a CERCLA response action is in progress that the selected remedy(ies) when complete will be protective of human health and the environment and compliant with state and federal laws.
- Confirm for sites that are in the Surveillance and Maintenance phases that the selected remedy remains protective and will remain protective for as long as the waste remains hazardous.
- Recommend actions to improve performance when the five-year review indicates that a remedy is not performing as designed.