



Comment Period
Oct. 14 – Nov. 29, 2019

Administrative Record
<https://go.usa.gov/xV8RY>

Send comments by
Nov. 29, 2019



Questions?

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The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology – invite your comments on proposed changes to the TPA regarding coordinated closure. The TPA agencies want your input on these proposed changes during the 45-day comment period that runs from Oct. 14 to Nov. 29, 2019.

Hanford Site Background

The Hanford Site is in southeastern Washington state along the Columbia River. The 580-square-mile site was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at Hanford.

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy ([DOE](#)), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), and the Washington State Department of Ecology ([Ecology](#)), entered into the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). The TPA provides a framework for implementing many of the environmental regulations that apply to the Hanford Site. DOE manages the environmental cleanup of the Hanford Site, and EPA and Ecology provide regulatory oversight.

Overview

The TPA legally identifies cleanup actions and schedules, called milestones. The TPA agencies have reached a tentative agreement for implementing Coordinated Closure through revisions to the TPA. If approved, the agreement would integrate and streamline *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)* closures with *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)* actions to clean up Hanford's nuclear waste.

At Hanford, state and federal laws can overlap.

- RCRA – manages hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste
- CERCLA – responds to contamination from past practices at uncontrolled or abandoned facilities
- Atomic Energy Act – manages source, special nuclear, and byproduct material
- State Hazardous Waste Management Act – permits and closes areas that treat, store and dispose (TSD) of dangerous wastes in addition to applying corrective actions for soil and groundwater contamination from past practices at facilities with TSD permits

Section 5.5 of the TPA recognizes the need to coordinate the TSD unit closure or permitting activity with the past-practice investigation and remediation activity to move Hanford cleanup work forward efficiently. The proposed tentative agreement will add the needed details (see change summary table) to the TPA for better coordination and alignment of schedules for closure and past-practice cleanup actions.

Public Comment Period for Proposed Coordinated Closure Changes to the Tri-Party Agreement

Summary of Changes

The proposed changes would allow DOE to update the TPA sections pertaining to coordinated closure and align milestones to reduce redundancy between the CERCLA and RCRA regulatory processes for cleanup decision-making.

Change Summary Table	
Change Control Form	Title
P-03-19-01	Modify Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), Action Plan, Section 3.3, Past-Practice Units, to Reflect RCRA Closures as Part of CERCLA Actions
P-05-19-01	Modify Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), Action Plan, Section 5.5, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Units and Practice Units Interface, to Reflect RCRA Closures and Part of CERCLA Actions
P-06-19-01	Modify Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), Action Plan, Section 6.1, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Unit Process, Introduction
P-07-19-01	Modify Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), Action Plan, Section 7.4.2, RCRA Facility Investigation and Remedial Investigation
M-37-19-01	Modification of M-037 Series Milestones in TPA Appendix D

Public Involvement

A 45-day public comment period will begin Oct. 14 and continue through Nov. 29. No public meeting has been scheduled, but if there is enough interest, the TPA agencies will consider holding one.

All comments must be submitted by Nov. 29 to CoordinatedClosure@rl.gov (preferred) or in writing to:

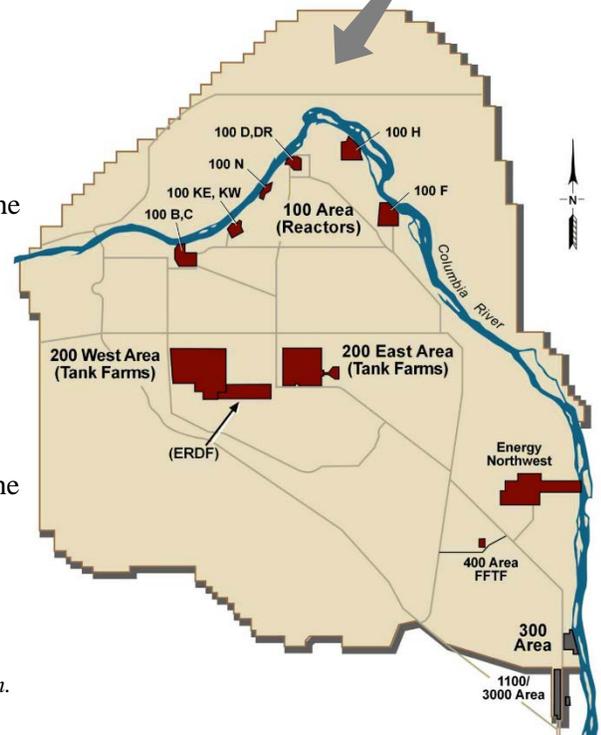
U.S. Department of Energy, Attn: Jennifer Colborn
 P.O. Box 450, H6-60
 Richland, WA 99352

The agencies will consider all comments received during the comment period before incorporating the proposed changes into the TPA. At the conclusion of the public comment period, the TPA agencies will address public comments and prepare a Response to Comment document.

If you have questions or would like to request a public meeting, please contact Jennifer Colborn at Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov or (509) 376-5840 by Oct. 25.

The proposed changes and supporting documentation will be available during the public comment period on the Hanford website at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTe>, in the Administrative Record at <https://go.usa.gov/xV8RY>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTS>.

If a meeting is held, please contact Jennifer Colborn at Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov or (509) 376-5840 at least 10 working days prior to the event to request disability accommodation.



Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear your comments on proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement



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