

THE HANFORD SITE

All Hanford Site Employees:

The Hanford Site is moving to an essential mission-critical operations posture by midnight March 24, 2020. This action comes in recognition of Gov. Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation that includes an order to close all non-essential businesses in Washington, except those required to stay open as they provide essential services during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

This essential mission-critical operations status means that ongoing projects at the Site are evaluated through a revised hazards safety analysis to determine which of them should and could safely continue based on need. Operations will be prioritized by national security, the protection of the public, workforce, and the environment, and addressing regulatory requirements.

The decision to move to this status means that we will be decreasing the number of employees on the Site to the absolute minimum needed to operate safety and security systems and provide utility and emergency services, as well as operate and manage the information technology systems supporting the thousands of staff members who are already teleworking. DOE is working on a mechanism for the majority of the Hanford Contractor employees to continue to receive paychecks while the Site is in the essential mission-critical operations posture.

We have been preparing for the potential of a significant reduction in normal activities and services over the past several weeks, as thousands of federal and contractor employees shifted to a telework status. Our decision on Sunday to move to a temporary operations planning status further prepared the Site to ensure the safety of the Hanford Site workforce and our community.

Federal employees who are on telework agreements and are not in mission essential positions with duties that must be performed in the physical workplace, may not report to their physical workplace to work without the specific authorization by EM-1. Contractor employees must follow the directions of your respective employer. Hanford Site employees will receive specific direction on time recording from their employers.

Moving ahead, I want to ensure you that my management team and I, in partnership with contractor leadership, are making decisions related to Site operations with the safety of every worker at the forefront. This is a challenging time for our nation, and we want to make sure that each of you continues to be mindful of CDC guidelines and guidance from state and local health authorities to protect yourself, your families, and your colleagues just as we are.

Continue to watch the Hanford Mobile app and check the Hanford website daily for updates, and I will continue to communicate with the workforce as new information is available.

Brian T. Vance
Manager
Richland Operations /
Office of River Protection

