



# Department of Ecology

Agency Update  
December 2019

Suzanne Dahl, Tank Waste Treatment Section Manager



# Outline

- TPA and Consent Decree
- T-Plant and CWC closure plans
- New face at Ecology

# TPA M-91 TRUM

- M-91 Negotiations
  - We had hoped to start public comment July 2019
  - DOE and Ecology did not reach agreement (DOE would not commit to start shipping date)
  - DOE shipping dates proposal due 9/30/2020
    - Public comment would follow
- USDOE continues to meet schedules (M-91-52-T01) for repacking TRUM waste boxes stored outside of its Central Waste Complex

# Holistic negotiations

- Ecology Director Maia Bellon proposed holistic negotiation of tank waste retrieval, treatment: May 29
  - Parties met numerous times and this week agreed to scope
  - Parties agree on a Department of Justice mediator to help us
- ORP notified Ecology of “serious risk” to Consent Decree milestones: Sept. 4
  - Ecology is still waiting for a response to our letters of September 25, 2019 and October 25, 2019 letters requesting a Consent Decree-required written recitation of the factors that led to DOE’s “serious risk” notification

# Ecology compliance activities Sept. 2019 to Oct. 2019

## Inspections conducted

- LERF/ETF - 11/10/2019
- Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility - 9/19/2019
- 222-S Laboratory - 9/25/2019
- 241-CX tank system - 11/5/2019
- T Plant Complex - 11/18/2019
- Single Shell Tanks *generator activities* - 11/21/2019

# Ecology Compliance Activities Sept 2019 to Nov 2019

## Compliance Reports Issued

- 325 Building – 10/24/2019

# Closure plans for T-Plant and CWC

- Ecology is issuing a draft permit modification to close seven container storage areas at T Plant and Central Waste Complex.
- 6 of the 7 closing units were identified by EPA's June 2016 Consent Agreement and Final Order (Docket No.: RCRA-10-2013-0113).
- Waste has not been stored in these areas since November 2010.
- Future waste storage is not authorized.
- Public comment period runs from December 16, 2019, through February 7, 2020.

# Opportunities for public involvement

Unit	Comment Period
Capsule Interim Storage – Class 3 permit modification	Nov. 4, 2019 – Dec. 20, 2019
Closure Plans at T-Plant and Central Waste Complex – Class 3 permit modification	Dec. 16, 2019 – Feb. 7, 2020
Contingency plan and Hanford Emergency Management Plan – Class 3 permit modification	Jan. 27, 2020 – March 13, 2020
Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility – Class 3 permit modification	Feb. 3, 2020 – March 19, 2020
Low-Activity Waste Facility and Effluent Management Facility – Class 3 permit modification	Feb. 3, 2020 – March 19, 2020



# Opportunities for public involvement for other permits

Unit	Dates
State waste discharge permit – ST0045514 – 200 Area Evaporative Sewage Lagoon permit renewal	Final permit issued 12/1/2019 Effective 1/1/2020
State Waste Discharge Permit – ST0004500 – State-Approved Land Disposal Site permit renewal	Public comment period TBD
Air – DE18NWP-001 Notice of Construction - AW tank farm stack extension	Potential issuance December 2019
Air – DE05NWP-001 Notice of Construction Revision – Remove AW tank farm due to new permit DE18NWP-001	Potential issuance December 2019
Air – De16NWP-001 Notice of Construction - Increase exhauster flow rate for retrievals of A and AX tank farms	Public comment period TBD (potentially December 2019)

# Work Force Management

- Working with DOE on recruitment
  - Tri-Cities Connect, October 22, 2019, at the Three River Convention Center
  - Coordinate on other activities and job fairs
- Encourage internships to increase interest in working for state agencies – especially the Nuclear Waste Program
  - Reviewing and revising internship program
- Succession planning
  - Retain institutional knowledge
  - Smooth transitions for incoming personnel

# New Employees

Naoko Schiffern



Non-Hanford  
(project position)

# Questions?

Follow Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program  
on Facebook, Twitter and our website



@EcologyWAHanford



@ecyHanford



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

Nuclear Waste Program  
509-372-7950  
[Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov)

