

**GET INVOLVED**

**Comment Period Dates:**

Feb. 25 – April 26, 2026

**Meeting Information:**

March 24, 5:30 p.m. PT  
Richland Public Library

**Submit Comments to:**

<https://bit.ly/4rqodjJ>

**Administrative Record:**

<https://bit.ly/4tImVIA>

**Questions? Contact:**

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Effluent Management Facility at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

*The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in coordination with the Washington State Department of Ecology launches a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit. If approved, it will continue momentum in the Hanford waste treatment operations.*

**Background**

Managing radioactive and chemical waste stored in 177 underground tanks is a critical component of the mission at the Hanford Site. To address this, DOE is solidifying tank waste into glass through the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) Program. As of February, about 50,000 gallons of the waste has been treated, filling 34 containers.

**Overview**

DOE Hanford is advancing a regulatory permit change to better address material produced as a byproduct of solidifying low activity tank waste in glass. The biproduct material is known by technical experts as Effluent Management Facility (EMF) concentrate. The permit change will allow this byproduct material to be solidified in grout and shipped out of Washington state for disposal in commercial facilities instead of being solidified in glass. This will address the byproduct in a manner that is safe and efficient and will enable more actual tank waste to be solidified in glass – saving time and money.

Class 2 Permit Modification to Improve Method for Addressing  
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Byproduct Material

## Summary of Changes

The EMF concentrate is the residual liquid waste produced by the DFLAW off-gas treatment processes, after excess water is removed through evaporation. This concentrate may either be recycled back to the Low-Activity Waste Facility for vitrification or returned to the Tank Farms to be incorporated again into the DFLAW process.

This proposed permit modification will enable a shift from solidifying a portion of the concentrated byproduct in glass to solidifying it in grout locally and shipping it out of Washington state for commercial disposal.

Additional proposed changes include:

- Establishing a new sampling point and frequency
- Providing process information to describe transfer operations
- Enhancing administrative and engineering controls for spill prevention and leak detection
- Implementing updated inspection criteria for the EMF truck bay and sump

## Public Involvement

A 60-day public comment period runs Feb. 25 through April 26, 2026. Comments must be submitted by April 26, in writing to <https://bit.ly/4rqodjJ> or mailed to:

Washington State Department of Ecology  
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard  
Richland, WA 99354

A hybrid public meeting is scheduled for March 24 at 5:30 p.m. PT. The meeting will take place at the Richland Public Library, located at 955 Northgate Dr., Richland, WA 99352. Participants may also join virtually using Microsoft Teams. To join online, use the link: <https://bit.ly/4bVUR7R>. For audio-only access, please dial the toll-free number 1-833-633-0875 and enter Conference ID: 648 068 062#.

At the conclusion of the 60-day public comment period, the Washington State Department of Ecology will address public comments and make a final permit decision.

Copies of the permit modification and supporting documentation is in the Administrative Record at <https://bit.ly/4tImVIA> and the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://pdw.hanford.gov/page/PIRs>.

The permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Washington State Department of Ecology contact person.

*Please contact Dana Cowley at [dana\\_c\\_gribble@rl.gov](mailto:dana_c_gribble@rl.gov) or 509-961-5609 at least 10 working days prior to the event to request disability accommodation. DOE makes every effort to honor disability requests.*

