

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis on Proposed Removal Action Alternatives for the Fast Flux Test Facility Complex

Fact Sheet

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INVOLVED**

Comment Period
May 22 – June 21, 2023

Send comments by
June 21 to
FFTFECA@rl.gov

Administrative Record
<https://bit.ly/3USmi7Q>



Questions?

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An aerial photo shows the decommissioned Fast Flux Test Facility (white dome) and support buildings in Hanford's 400 Area.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a 30-day public comment period on an Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that evaluates alternatives for non-time-critical removal actions for nine structures in the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) complex in Hanford's 400 Area.

Background

The 580-square-mile Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program. Waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at Hanford, currently focusing on treating tank waste through the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program and remedial cleanup on the Central Plateau and River Corridor, while also conducting site operations that enhance the safety of our workforce and the public.

About the FFTF Complex

The FFTF is a former nuclear research and test reactor built in the 1970's. It was shut down in 1993. Deactivation work was completed in 2009 and the FFTF was placed in a long-term surveillance-and-maintenance condition.

Most of the buildings and structures in the scope of this EE/CA have been unoccupied since the mid-2000s. The facilities are chemically and/or radiologically contaminated due to Hanford's past nuclear materials production mission and require a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) response action because of the potential for a release of hazardous substances.

In addition, emission units associated with the structures covered in this EE/CA will be transitioned from the Hanford [Air Operating Permit](#) to [CERCLA](#) authority. Those emission units air permits will be discontinued upon the Notice of Transition effective date, which will coincide with the onset of CERCLA field activities covered under this removal action.



30-Day Public Comment Period: FFTF EE/CA

Tier 1 and 2 Structures

Tier 1 structures, [as defined in Section 8 of the Tri-Party Agreement](#), played a key role in Hanford's production mission and are typically larger and more complex than Tier 2 structures.

The structures addressed in this EE/CA include the following:

- 403 Fuel Storage Facility
- 405 Reactor Containment Building (Tier 1)
- 408A Dump Heat Exchanger, East
- 408B Dump Heat Exchanger, South
- 408C Dump Heat Exchanger, West
- 491E Heat Transport System, East
- 491S Heat Transport System, South
- 491W Heat Transport System, West
- 4717 Reactor Service Building

Removal Action

Until a final remedial decision for the FFTF complex is implemented, a non-time-critical removal action is essential to minimize the hazards.

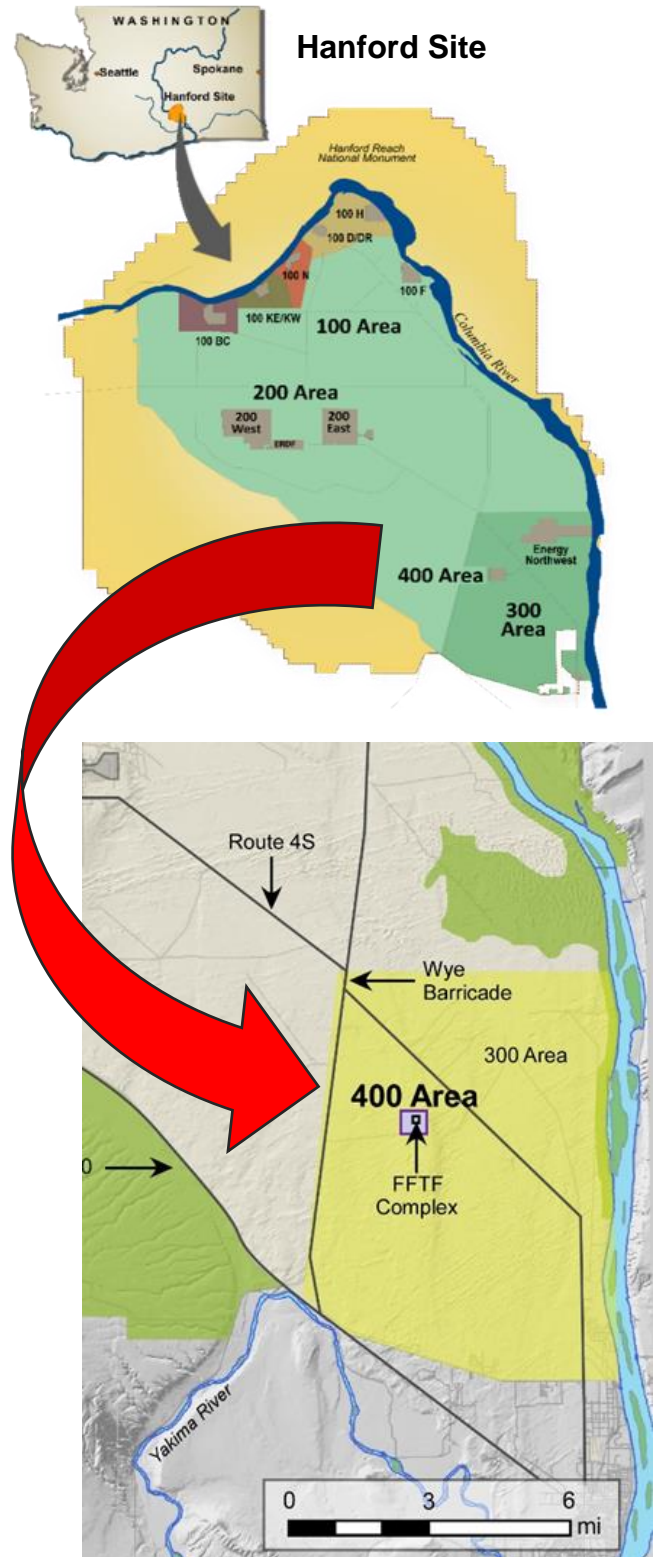
An EE/CA is required for any non-time-critical removal action. It is a comprehensive study that evaluates cleanup options to address environmental conditions and must be consistent with federal environmental laws and regulations. The study considers the cost, ability and effectiveness of implementing the different cleanup alternatives.

What does this EE/CA Evaluate?

This EE/CA evaluates alternatives for a non-time-critical removal action for the structures listed above, which are part of the FFTF complex in Hanford's 400 Area.

The EE/CA evaluates three removal action alternatives. Based on the comparative analysis of the removal action alternatives for the nine structures in the FFTF complex (see table on page 3), Alternative 3 is preferred.

For cost comparison purposes, a 10-year period of surveillance and maintenance was assumed in the EE/CA. However, the actual implementation period to initiate the hazard abatement of the structures is based upon environmental risk, funding priority and availability of resources.



30-Day Public Comment Period: FFTF EE/CA

Proposed Removal Action Alternatives for the FFTF Complex

Alternative	Removal Action Description	Present Cost
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No action	\$0
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Surveillance and maintenance of FFTF complex structuresHazard abatement of eight Tier 2 structures	\$67.8 million
3	Alternative 2 actions plus hazard abatement of 405 Reactor Containment Building (Tier 1 structure)	\$69.9 million

Bold signifies the recommended alternative

Why is Alternative 3 Preferred?

The analysis finds that Alternative 3 provides the best combination of actions to protect workers, the public and the environment while meeting the remedial action objectives. Alternative 3 is both technically and administratively feasible and supports future remedial decisions and characterization activities at the FFTF complex.

The complete EE/CA, including additional information on the removal action alternatives, can be found in the [Administrative Record](#).

Public Involvement

A 30-day public comment period will run from May 22 through June 21, 2023.

Copies of the EE/CA and supporting documentation will be available during the public comment period on the Hanford public involvement website at <https://bit.ly/3Lgs9AC>, in the Administrative Record at <https://bit.ly/3USmi7Q>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://bit.ly/3KQ2spn>.

Please submit comments by June 21 to FFTFEECA@rl.gov (preferred) or in writing to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Attn: Jennifer Colborn
P.O. Box 450, H5-20
Richland, WA 99352

After considering public comments, DOE will confer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to select an alternative. The selected alternative will be documented in a CERCLA action memorandum.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn, DOE, at Jennifer.Colborn@rl.doe.gov or (509) 376-5840.

Please email Jennifer.Colborn@rl.doe.gov to request disability accommodation. DOE makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests.

Para ver esta hoja informativa en español, visite el [Calendario de eventos de Hanford.gov](http://Calendario.de.eventos.de.Hanford.gov).



Public Involvement Opportunity

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