



Comment Period

July 6 – Sept. 4, 2022

Public Meeting

Aug. 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. PT
(see details on page 3)

Send comments by

Sept. 4, 2022, to

<https://bit.ly/3NQyFg9>



Questions?

Jennifer Colborn, DOE

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Washington State

Department of Ecology

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The Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit. This proposed modification would increase the storage capacity for a radioactive hot cell in the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF) and update the Facility Personnel Training Plan.

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. Today, Hanford's primary mission is treating tank waste through the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program and risk reduction on the Central Plateau, while also conducting site operations that enhance the safety of our workforce and the public and reduce environmental risks.

The WESF is in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site. The facility houses 1,936 radioactive cesium and strontium capsules stored in an underwater basin. While the capsules are currently in safe storage in the basin, work is underway to install a system in WESF to transfer the capsules from the basin into engineered dry casks, and then transport them to a nearby concrete pad for safe interim storage.

Moving the capsules to dry storage not only eliminates a longer-term risk of a radioactive release in the unlikely event of a loss of water from the basin, but also will enable the planned deactivation of the aging WESF building and save as much as \$6 million in annual operating costs.



Public Comment Period for Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification for the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility

Overview

The Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit establishes requirements to ensure waste management activities protect human health and the environment. DOE is proposing a Class 2 permit modification pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [173-303-830](#), which requires a 60-day public review process that includes a public meeting, a newspaper advertisement announcing the comment period, and this fact sheet.

Summary of Changes

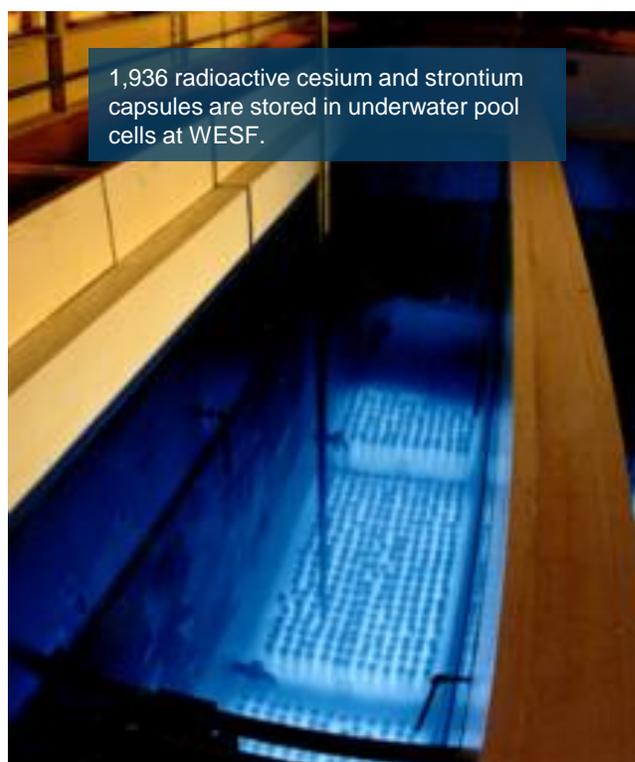
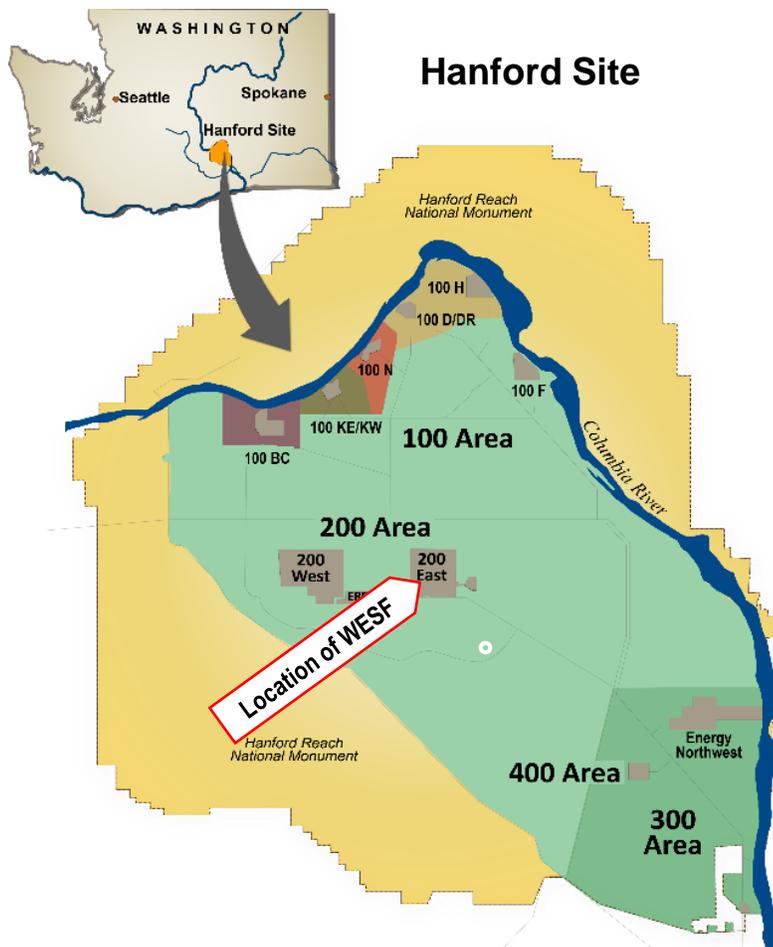
The DOE and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company are requesting a Class 2 modification to the WESF chapter of the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit to increase the storage capacity of G Cell — a radioactive hot cell inside WESF — from nine to 14 capsules.

Transfer of the capsules to the dry casks will go through G Cell. The proposed modification supports the move to dry storage by providing WESF more flexibility to safely manage the capsules during the transfer process.

Other proposed changes include updating permit Addendum G, “Training,” to add a facility personnel position.

A permit modification is required from the Washington State Department of Ecology to allow for these changes.

To learn more about the capsule transfer process, watch the animation video at <https://bit.ly/3FVi346>.



Public Comment Period for Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification for the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility

Public Involvement

A 60-day public comment period will be held from July 6 through Sept. 4, 2022. A public meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. PT on Aug. 16 at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive. The meeting will include a virtual option to allow participants to view the presentation, hear the speakers and ask questions. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

<https://bit.ly/3FZnwH5>

Join with a video conferencing device

197920091@teams.bjn.vc

Video Conference ID: 114 870 754 6

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 509-931-1284](tel:+15099311284) United States, Spokane

[\(833\) 633-0875](tel:+18336330875) United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 512 778 719#

All comments must be submitted by Sept. 4, 2022, in writing by mail or electronically (preferred) to:

Washington State Department of Ecology

3100 Port of Benton Boulevard

Richland, WA 99354

eComments (preferred): <https://bit.ly/3NQyFg9>

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Washington State Department of Ecology will address public comments and issue a final permit.

Copies of the proposed permit modification and supporting documentation will be available online during the public comment period on the Hanford public involvement website at <https://go.usa.gov/xVmew>, in the Administrative Record at <https://go.usa.gov/xJ8sf>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTS>.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn, DOE, at Jennifer.Colborn@rl.doe.gov.

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

To request disability accommodation, please contact Jennifer Colborn at Jennifer.Colborn@rl.doe.gov or (509) 376-5840 at least 10 working days prior to the event. DOE makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests.



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Public Comment Period for Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification for the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility

Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from you on the proposed changes to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit



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Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification for
the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450, H6-60
Richland, WA 99352