

## Public Comment Period

# ***Proposed Changes for Cesium and Strontium Capsules, Bulk Sodium and 300 Area Special Case Waste***

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are seeking public input on proposed changes to [Tri-Party Agreement](#) (TPA) [Milestone M-092-00](#). This milestone addresses facilities to be used for treating and storing cesium and strontium capsules and bulk sodium at the Hanford Site. It also acknowledges completion of the milestone for disposal of the 300 Area Special Case Waste.

May 2018

## Background

The [Hanford Site](#) spans nearly 600 square miles along the Columbia River in southeastern Washington state. It was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project, to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at Hanford.

[The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order](#), also known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), is a legal agreement that identifies cleanup actions and schedules, called milestones. The TPA agencies have reached a *Tentative Agreement* on changes to acquire new facilities and effect modifications to existing facilities for the storage, treatment, processing and disposal of Hanford cesium and strontium capsules, bulk sodium and 300 Area Special Case Waste.

The agencies want your input on these proposed changes during a 45-day public comment period that runs from May 21 to July 6, 2018.

## Proposed Changes

Under TPA Milestone M-092-00, the agencies propose to complete work on new facilities, modification of existing facilities, and/or modification of planned facilities necessary for the storage, treatment/processing, and disposal of Hanford Site cesium and strontium capsules and bulk sodium no later than Dec. 31, 2047. A date had not previously been established in the TPA for this work.

Under proposed milestone change M-092-21, the agencies also propose to complete the transfer of the cesium and strontium capsules from the [Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility](#), known as WESF, to a new, permitted, interim safe storage facility by August 31, 2025.

An additional milestone (M-092-09) establishes a date of Dec. 31, 2026 for DOE to submit a conceptual design to Ecology for a facility or capability to convert bulk sodium into aqueous sodium hydroxide for use in the



### **What is a TPA Milestone?**

A legal agreement between DOE, Ecology and EPA that identifies a completion date for a specific cleanup action.

### **How do milestones affect work?**

Milestones set the schedule and priorities for what is cleaned up first.

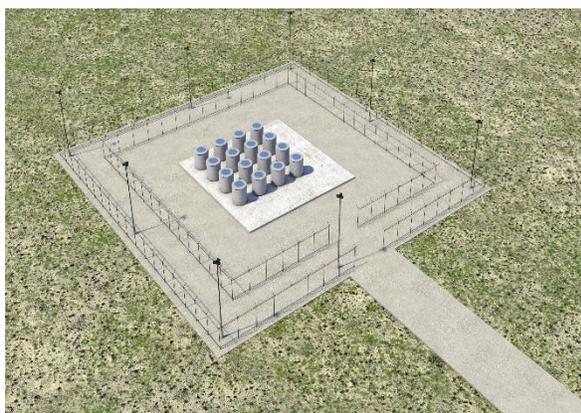
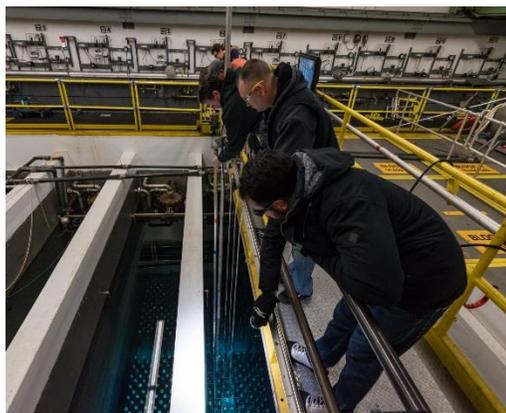
### **What is a Tentative Agreement?**

Agreement involving all three agencies on changes to the TPA, which is issued for public comment and finalized after resolution of any comments.

### **Why are the TPA agencies proposing changing milestones?**

The agencies change milestones when new work is identified, the scope or amount of work in an existing milestone is changed, or to reset a milestone that has been or will be missed.

[Hanford Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant \(WTP\)](#), which is expected to undergo hot start in 2033. The bulk sodium is currently in safe storage on the Hanford Site.



*The cesium and strontium capsules currently in underwater storage (left) will be moved to a dry storage, which is in the preliminary final design stage (right).*

The agencies also propose to remove reference to the 300 Area Special Case Waste from Milestone M-092, because that part of the work has been achieved. In 2014, the waste was disposed of in the Hanford Site landfill, the [Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility](#).

## Public Involvement

The agencies will consider all comments received during the 45-day comment period before incorporating the proposed changes into the TPA. A public meeting is not scheduled but if there is enough interest, the TPA agencies will consider holding one. If you have questions or would like to request a public meeting, please contact DOE’s Rich Buel, [Richard.buel@rl.doe.gov](mailto:Richard.buel@rl.doe.gov), (509) 376-3375 by June 1.



*Sodium is stored in Building 402, at the Sodium Storage Facility.*

The proposed TPA changes and supporting documentation are available for review on the [Hanford.gov Events Calendar](#) and also in the Administrative Record <https://go.usa.gov/xQ5Mz>

Milestone Summary Table			
Milestone	Purpose of Milestone	Proposed Change to Milestone	Proposed Milestone Date
M-092-00	Complete work for facilities needed to store, treat, process and dispose of Hanford Site cesium and strontium capsules, bulk sodium and 300 Area special waste.	A date had not been previously identified in the TPA for this work, proposal would set an overall due date for Dec. 31, 2047.	Dec. 31, 2047
Interim Milestone M-092-09	Establish milestones and/or target dates for facilities needed to store, treat, process and dispose of Hanford Site sodium.	Modify the due date, scope and establish milestones for achieving the capability to convert sodium into sodium hydroxide for use in the WTP.	Dec. 31, 2026
Interim Milestone M-092-021	Complete the transfer of the cesium and strontium capsules to a new, permitted, interim storage facility.	Add new milestone and establish three target milestones to track progress.	Aug. 31, 2025

## How to get involved...

A 45-day public comment period will run from May 21 to July 6, 2018. A public meeting is not scheduled, but if there is enough interest, the TPA agencies will consider holding one. If you have questions or would like to request a public meeting, please call 509-376-3375.

The DOE Richland Operations Office point of contact is Rich Buel, at [Richard.buel@rl.doe.gov](mailto:Richard.buel@rl.doe.gov) or 509-376-3375. The Ecology point of contact is John Price, at [JPRI461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:JPRI461@ECY.WA.GOV) or 509-372-7921.

Please submit any comments on the proposed milestone changes by **July 6** via email to [TPA@RL.gov](mailto:TPA@RL.gov).



or mail to:

Rich Buel, DOE-RL  
P.O. Box 550, H5-20  
Richland, WA 99352

To review documentation visit <https://go.usa.gov/xQ5Mz>

# Hanford Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from you on proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement!

Comment Period:  
May 21 to July 6, 2018



## *Tri-Party Agreement*

U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency