

The Department of Energy remains committed to protecting workers, the public and the environment. Minimizing risks to workers, including chemical vapors in the tank farms, is something the Department and its contractors strive for each day at Hanford. Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) developed a plan to address the recommendations of the independent Tank Vapors Assessment Team in two phases, with the second phase being highly dependent on the outcome of the first phase activities.

The Office of River Protection (ORP) has directed WRPS to implement the Phase 1 activities. ORP has also established an expert panel to provide independent assurance that actions identified in the plan are effective in protecting workers from potential exposures. The panel includes members of the Tank Vapors Assessment Team as well as experts in industrial hygiene/worker protection, vapor flow, engineering, technology, meteorology, medical care, regulatory process, and health physics.

The Department of Energy recognizes that reducing the potential for exposures to vapors will require sustained action, continuous improvement, and institutionalization of lessons learned. The Department will ensure that its federal oversight capabilities are robust and provide long-term institutional knowledge, and evaluate options for incorporating chemical vapors into the next tank farms procurement process. The Department recognizes that the IP will be updated as activities are completed and new information becomes available, and will determine which specific activities will be implemented in Phase 2 based upon the Phase 1 review and analysis.

Read the ORP letter directing WRPS to continue implementing the vapor resolution program [here](#).

Read WRPS' press release here and Implementation Plan [here](#).

Read the WRPS IP transmittal letter to ORP [here](#).