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**DOE ANNOUNCES RECORD OF DECISION ON HANFORD TANK CLOSURE
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) expects the first in a series of Records of Decision (ROD) for Tank Closure and Waste Management at the Hanford Site to appear in the Federal Register on December 13, 2013. This ROD is being issued pursuant to the *Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington*, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The decision includes retrieval of 99 percent of the waste currently stored in Hanford’s 177 underground storage tanks, landfill closure of the single-shell tank farm systems, and operation and maintenance of the tank farms. For the Fast Flux Test Facility, above-grade structures would be removed and below-grade structures would be entombed. To improve waste management at the site, existing facilities would be upgraded, low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste from Hanford would be disposed of in an Integrated Disposal Facility, and an additional disposal facility for tank closure waste would be constructed, as needed. DOE will continue to defer the importation of offsite waste at Hanford, at least until the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant is operational.

“The completion of this Record of Decision is a significant step toward achieving the cleanup mission at Hanford,” said Ken Picha, DOE’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tank Waste and Nuclear Material. “We appreciate the support we received from the Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection Agency as cooperating agencies on the environmental impact statement.”

“As a cooperating agency, the Washington State Department of Ecology congratulates DOE and its contractor for completing this comprehensive document, which will guide cleanup and waste management activities at Hanford for decades to come,” said Suzanne Dahl, Ecology’s Tank Waste Treatment Section Manager. “The state looks forward to starting work on the permitting of treatment, closure and disposal activities with a better understanding of the associated environmental risks.”

The Hanford Site is located in southeastern Washington State along the Columbia River, and is approximately 586 square miles. From early 1940 through 1980's Hanford's mission included defense-related nuclear research, development, and plutonium production for nuclear weapons. Hanford's mission now is focused on the cleanup and ultimate closure of Hanford.

Additional information about the Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement and ROD will be found [HERE](#). Information about the ongoing cleanup mission at Hanford can be found [HERE](#).

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