

Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities

February 6 2008

Purpose

A key goal of public involvement is to obtain stakeholder perspectives on issues affecting the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) and to facilitate broad-based participation in the Hanford Site decision-making process. The TPA Agencies, U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) and Office of River Protection (ORP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), believe public involvement is essential to the success of Hanford Site cleanup.

The purpose of the Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities document is to provide on a quarterly basis an overview of anticipated public involvement opportunities for the coming months. It identifies the current forums and emerging opportunities to inform and involve stakeholders and the public. Stakeholders are described as individuals who see themselves affected by and/or have an interest in Hanford issues. They commit time and energy to participate in decisions. Hanford stakeholders include: local governments, local and regional businesses, Hanford workforce, local, regional and national environmental interest groups, local and regional public health organizations. The general public is comprised of those individuals who are aware of but may choose not to be involved in decisions. It is the responsibility of the agencies to provide the public with meaningful information on upcoming decisions so they can choose whether or not to become involved in Hanford decisions.

To access updated information on current and future Hanford public involvement activities (workshops, meetings, public comment periods) visit the Hanford website at www.hanford.gov/ under Hanford Events Calendar.

Hanford Site Public Meetings/Forums

The Tri-Party Agencies will conduct a series of regional public meetings/forums throughout CY 2008. Agency leadership from the U.S. Department of Energy's RL and ORP field offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 office and the Washington State Department of Ecology will meet with interested groups and the public throughout the region to discuss the current status of Hanford cleanup activities and the challenges for the future.

Public Involvement/Outreach Activities:

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board

January 31- February 1, 2008

Contacts: Karen Lutz, USDOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766; Erik Olds, USDOE Office of River Protection, (509) 372-0656; Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 376-8631; Sharon Braswell, Ecology, (509) 372-7895.

The following information describes current and upcoming public involvement activities for the next six months and identifies public involvement activities completed in 2008.

Current Public Involvement Opportunities

To support the decision-making process for final CERCLA remedial actions within the River Corridor, DOE-Richland is currently conducting a CERCLA remedial investigation (RI) including a baseline risk assessment for the River Corridor portion of the Hanford Site. The River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment (RCBRA) consists of three components - the 100 Area and 300 Area Component of the RCBRA, the Inter-Area Component, and the Columbia River Component. The 100 Area and 300 Area Component of the RCBRA and the Inter-Area Component will be integrated with groundwater into a series of final CERCLA remedial investigation (RI) reports for the operational areas of the River Corridor.

River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment (RCBRA)

The Department of Energy (DOE) Richland Operations Office and Washington Closure Hanford will hold workshops for the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment (RCBRA). The objective of the RCBRA is to assess the risk to human and ecological receptors using the river corridor. The purpose of these workshops is to solicit input, maintain an active dialog on the risk assessment approaches and seek ways to share project data with interested participants during the development of the risk assessment.

Public Involvement Activities

Workshops:

Discussion of resolution of comments on Draft A January 10-11 2008

Meeting logistics are available at: <http://www.hanford.gov/public/calendar/>

Contact: Karen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (509) 376-4766

Columbia River Component Risk Assessment (CRC)

The Columbia River Component is being prepared for characterizing hazardous substances released to the Columbia River from the Hanford Site and to assess the potential risks associated with those releases. The data quality objectives (DQO) process began in December to determine the scope of sampling needed to address data gaps identified earlier in the project scoping process. Information generated via the DQO process will be used to develop a work plan and accompanying sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for the Columbia River Component of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment. Once the work plan and SAP are approved and the sampling has been completed, a screening level risk assessment will be performed to determine if a baseline risk assessment will be required.

Public Involvement Activities

Workshops:

- Discuss the scope, schedule and input received from data quality objective interviews and upcoming activities; Location: Ecology, Richland Office. February 5-6, 2008
- Present and discuss the results of the DQO Summary Report and the Sampling & Analysis Plan; Location: Ecology's Richland Office. March 12-13, 2008
- Public comment on the draft Columbia River Component Work Plan. July 22-August (TBD)

Contact: Karen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (509) 376-4766

Draft Planning Report/Environmental Impact Statement Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study

The *Draft Planning Report/Environmental Impact Statement (PR/EIS) for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study* prepared jointly by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of Ecology, with U.S. Department of Energy as a cooperating agency, was issued January 29, 2008. The draft document examines alternatives to create additional water for the Yakima River basin for the benefit of threatened and endangered fish, improve irrigation water supply during dry years, and municipal water supply. The draft PR/EIS identifies seven alternatives but does not identify a preferred alternative.

Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Period:	January 29 – March 31, 2008
Public Hearings:	Yakima – February 27, 2008 Kennewick – February 28, 2008

Contact: David Kaumheimer, Bureau of Reclamation, (509) 575-5848 ext. 612; email: storagestudy@pn.usbr.gov

Public Comment Period on the Proposed Approval of the Transuranic Waste Characterization Program at the Hanford Site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a 45-day public comment period on the proposed approval of the radioactive, contact-handled (CH), transuranic (TRU) waste characterization program implemented at the Hanford Site. One condition of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Certification Decision requires EPA to conduct independent inspections at the U.S. Department of Energy's waste generator/storage sites of their TRU waste characterization capabilities. This activity is required before approving a site's program and the waste for disposal at the WIPP. EPA performed a baseline inspection of Hanford's CH TRU waste characterization activities. The inspection is to verify that the waste characterization program at Hanford for CH TRU, retrievably-stored debris and solid waste is technically adequate and meets the regulatory requirements of 40 CFR 194.24. The public comment period for the Baseline Inspection Report discussing the results of EPA's inspection runs from January 30 through March 17, 2008.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public comment period	January 30 – March 17, 2008
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Contact: Ed Cornfelt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Monthly Groundwater Remediation Open Meetings

Groundwater Remediation Project Monthly Open Meetings are held in the Fluor Building, 1200 Jadwin Ave., Richland, WA, First Floor Conf. Room; Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Badging is not required for the location of this meeting.

Public Involvement Activities:

Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month

Contact: Barbara Howard, Fluor Hanford Groundwater Remediation Project, (509) 373-3871 and/or visit the Groundwater Remediation Project website at <http://www.hanford.gov/cp/gpp/index.cfm>

Upcoming Public Involvement Activities

Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in the Federal Register February 2, 2006 its intent to prepare the Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (TC & WM EIS).

In addition to the analysis of alternatives that is currently being conducted for the preparation of the EIS for Retrieval, Treatment and Disposal of Tank Waste and Closure of the Single-Shell Tanks at the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (TC EIS), the TC & WM EIS will also address concerns regarding the analyses of Hanford's solid waste management operations conducted for the Final Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS, Richland, Washington (HSW EIS). These concerns were the subject of a recent Settlement Agreement among DOE, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the State of Washington Attorney General's office.

To implement the Settlement Agreement, the TC & WM EIS will provide a single, integrated analysis of groundwater at Hanford for all waste types addressed in the HSW EIS and the TC EIS. In order to provide an integrated presentation of currently foreseeable activities related to waste management and cleanup at Hanford, DOE plans to include the ongoing Fast Flux Test Facility Decommissioning EIS (FFTF EIS) in the scope of the new TC & WM EIS.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public comment period on the Draft TC&WM EIS

TBD

Contact: Mary Beth Burandt, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection, (509) 373-9160

Draft Deep Vadose Treatability Test Plan

The treatability test plan provides a strategy and framework to evaluate specific vadose zone remediation technologies and includes a comprehensive set of planned laboratory, modeling and field tests. Six technologies are identified for testing. They are: desiccation, in situ gaseous reduction, multi-step geochemical manipulation, grout injection, soil flushing and surface barriers.

Public Involvement Activities

Informal comment period

Ongoing

Workshop:

February 19, 2008

BC Controlled Area Waste Site Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

The Tri-Party Agencies plan to issue a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) non-time critical removal action engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate a removal action for contaminated soil on the northern part of the BC Controlled Area. This EE/CA will evaluate and discuss cleanup options to deal with contaminated soil in this area, which is located south of the 200 East Area (in what is commonly called the 600 Area) near the center of the Hanford Site. The BC Controlled area is part of the 200-UR-1 operable unit and is Hanford's largest waste site at approximately 13 square miles. The area addressed in the EE/CA is approximately seven square miles of the waste site. The southern part of the BC Controlled Area is not addressed by this EE/CA.

Animal intrusion and wind dispersion of contaminants originating in the BC Cribs and Trenches (waste sites that are not part of the BC Controlled Area waste site) resulted in shallow contaminated soil within the BC Controlled

Area. Potential contaminants of concern include Cesium-137 and Strontium-90. After this proposed removal action is complete, the CERCLA process for the 200-UR-1 operable unit will evaluate final cleanup alternatives for any remaining contamination in the BC Controlled Area.

Public Involvement Activities:

30-day public comment period

Winter 2008

Contact: Karen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (509) 376-4766

Budget Workshop/Regional Forums for FY 2010 Hanford Budget Process

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection are required to prepare an annual budget submittal that meets regulatory requirements and is consistent with the Tri-Party Agreement. As the Fiscal Year 2010 budget is being developed, it is important to the Tri-Party Agencies to hear how you would like cleanup dollars spent. With an annual budget of nearly \$2 billion significant cleanup progress has been accomplished.

The USDOE has a three-year budget process. USDOE is currently working to the 2008 allocated budget. The President recently released the 2009 budget request to Congress for review and approval. Based on 2008 and 2009 budget information and identified cleanup activities, USDOE will formulate its 2010 budget requirements.

It is important to the Tri-Party agencies to hear your issues concerning Hanford cleanup and what projects you think should receive funding so they can be considered in the development of the 2010 budget. DOE Headquarters compiles all DOE Environmental Management Field Site budgets and makes adjustments based on the strategic priorities of the Department.

Public Involvement Activities

Four regional public meetings are planned

TBD

Contacts: Karen Lutz, USDOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766; Erik Olds, USDOE Office of River Protection (509) 372-0656; Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 376-8631; Nolan Curtis, Ecology, (509) 372-7954.

Draft Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement (HCP-EIS) Supplement Analysis

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing a Supplement Analysis (SA) to the 1999 Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement (HCP-EIS). DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require periodic reviews of sitewide Environmental Impact Statements like the HCP-EIS. These periodic reviews are done to determine whether or not there were significant changes in the information, conditions and/or assumptions on which a sitewide EIS is based.

The HCP-EIS evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing a comprehensive land-use plan for the Hanford Site for at least the next 50 years. The Record of Decision (November 1999) adopted the DOE preferred land-use map to implement the DOE-Preferred Alternative using the policies and procedures described in Chapter 6 of the final HCP EIS.

Public Involvement Activities:

Informal feedback on document content
30-day informal public comment period
Informational Workshop

October 26 – November 30, 2007
March 2008
March 2008

Contact: Karen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (509) 376-4766

100 Area Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)

An Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) at Hanford's 100 Area will be issued for public comment regarding the addition of waste sites for sampling and/or remediation. The ESD will propose changes to two Records of Decision (ROD's), these include: the 100 Area Remaining Sites ROD and the 100-NR-1/2 ROD.

Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Period

Spring 2008

Contact: Karen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (509) 376-4766

Proposed Plan for the Remediation of the 200-ZP-1 Groundwater Operable Unit

The Proposed Plan identifies the preferred alternative for cleanup of contaminated groundwater within the 200-ZP-1 Operable Unit (OU). From 1940 through the 1980's liquids wastes from materials used and produced at Hanford (e.g., solvents, mixed fission products, process chemicals) were disposed in cribs and trenches, some of which are located in the Central Plateau. Some of these waste sites overlie the groundwater in the 200-ZP-1 OU. The chemicals, carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethylene, hexavalent chromium, nitrate, technetium-99, iodine-129, and tritium, were found in the groundwater within the 200-ZP-1 OU that exceed regulatory limits. In the 1990s the Tri-Party agencies implemented interim remedial actions, the soil vapor extraction and pump-and-treat systems, to cleanup the carbon tetrachloride in the soil and groundwater. Groundwater and soil vapor monitoring results show that carbon tetrachloride concentrations continue to decline in the soil and groundwater as a result of these interim actions. Three cleanup alternatives are identified and evaluated: 1) No Action, 2) Institutional Controls Supplemented by Monitored Natural Attenuation, and 3) Full-Scale Pump-and-Treat, Institutional Controls, Monitored Natural Attenuation, plus Groundwater Flow-Path Controls. After evaluation of these alternatives, based on CERCLA criteria, the preferred alternative proposed is Full-Scale Pump-and-Treat, Institutional Controls, Monitored Natural Attenuation, plus Groundwater Flow-Path Controls.

Public Involvement Activities

30-day public comment period

Spring 2008

Contact: Dennis Faulk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (509) 376-8631.

Sitewide Dangerous Waste Permit

The Washington State Department of Ecology is preparing to submit revision 9 of the Sitewide Permit for public review.

This is the overarching Dangerous Waste Permit under which Hanford operates its treatment, storage, disposal and closure activities for dangerous wastes. The comment period will be 60 days to allow public review of the extensive changes to this very substantial permit. The new revision incorporates all changes for the past ten years. It also brings all regulatory requirements up to date.

Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Period:

Summer 2008

Contact: Madeleine Brown, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 372-7936

300 Area Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)

A 300 Area Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) will be issued for public comment regarding recommendations on adding remediation sites to the 300-FF-2 Record of Decision.

Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Period

Fall 2008

Contact: Karen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (509) 376-4766

Proposed Plan for 200-PW-1, 200-PW-3, 200-PW-6 Operable Units

Seventeen past-practice, liquid-waste disposal sites make up the three Operable Units (OUs) known as 200-PW-1, 200-PW-3, 200-PW-6 OUs. These OUs are located in the 200 East and West Areas of the Central Plateau and are referred to as the Plutonium/Organic-Rich operable unit Group waste sites. In general, these are the wastes sites and soil that cover the 200-ZP-1 groundwater OU. Ten of these waste sites are cribs, two are settling tank, and one each of the following: tile field, French drain, injection/reverse well, covered trench and an unplanned release. The waste sites in the 200-PW-1 and the 200-PW-6 OU (in the 200 West Area) received liquid (water solution) process and laboratory wastes containing mostly americium and plutonium. The 200-PW-1 OU received organic wastes, primarily carbon tetrachloride, tributyl phosphate, and lard oil. The 200-PW-3 wastes sites (in the 200 East Area) received liquid wastes containing uranium, plutonium, fission products, and organics, primarily paraffin hydrocarbons, tributyl phosphate and butanol. Due to the complex and differing nature of the wastes, the configuration of the waste sites and soil composition that affected the migration of waste and worker health and safety concerns, the analysis and identification of remedial alternatives are very challenging. The Proposed Plan will discuss these challenges, identifies and evaluates different cleanup remedies and identifies different preferred alternatives for the different waste sites.

Public Involvement Activities

Pre-decisional workshop

Spring 2008

30-day public comment period

Fall 2008

Contact: Dennis Faulk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (509) 376-8631.

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting Regarding a Review of the U.S Department of Energy Regulatory Process for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's mission is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of radioactive material to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote common defense and security, and protect the environment. The NRC has been tasked with conducting a review of the DOE regulatory processes for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). This review will consist of an evaluation of DOE regulations, requirements, orders, and guidance for the Hanford WTP from the perspective of the NRC regulatory framework, which applies to commercial facilities. The review will be limited to safety and environmental programs and activities specific to the WTP.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public Meeting

February 13, 2008

Contact: Bret Leslie, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 301-492-3196

DOE-HQ – Office of Nuclear Energy: Public Comment Period on the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (GNEP PEIS).

The U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters (USDOE-HQ), Office of Nuclear Energy is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. The scoping process is an opportunity for the public to assist DOE in determining among other things, reasonable alternatives and issues for analysis. GNEP would recycle spent nuclear fuel and destroy its long-lived radioactive components.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public comment period	Spring 2008
Regional Public Meetings	Spring 2008

Contact: Debby Swichkow, Office of Nuclear Energy, 202-586-1616

Public Process on the Draft Manhattan Study of Alternatives.

The United States Department of the Interior will hold a public comment period and public meetings on the draft *Manhattan Project Study of Alternatives*. The recommendation for the B Reactor will be discussed in this report.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public comment period	Spring 2008
Public Meetings	Spring 2008

Postcard and Mailing List

DOE-RL and DOE-ORP will be sending out two postcards to members of the public who have expressed an interest in receiving Hanford cleanup information to verify/confirm they would like to remain on current Hanford mailing and listserv lists.

The first postcard will ask individuals if they would like to continue to be on the Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (TC&WM EIS) mailing list to receive information about the EIS, and if they would like to receive a copy of the draft TC&WM EIS.

The second post card will be sent to individuals on the recently compiled comprehensive Hanford mailing list. DOE is currently integrating four mailing lists – The Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS, the Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS, the TC&WMEIS and the Tri-Party Agreement mailing lists – they are being reviewed, integrated and cross checked to eliminate duplicate names. The post card will ask individuals if they would like to continue to receive Hanford cleanup information.

Completed Public Involvement Activities

Proposed Permit for Diesel and Propane Heaters for Waste Treatment Plant

Public Comment Period: October 8 to November 7, 2007

State of the Site Regional Meetings

More than 300 members of the public turned out to the November and December meetings in Kennewick, Seattle, Portland and Hood River. The issues discussed included worker health and safety, the cost and schedule for the Waste Treatment Plant, past tank leaks and tank integrity, waste transportation and possible importation to Hanford, TPA commitments, and other DOE initiatives. A listing of themes from the meetings is available on the Hanford website, at www.hanford.gov/ under Public Involvement - 2007 State of the Site Meetings

Seattle, Washington	November 27, 2007
Kennewick, Washington	November 29, 2007
Portland, Oregon	December 11, 2007
Hood River, Oregon	December 12, 2007