

Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities

September 5, 2007

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 and Office of River Protection, 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.

Hanford Site Public Meetings/Forums

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The Tri-Party Agencies will conduct a series of regional public meetings/forums throughout CY 2007. Agency leadership from the U.S. Department of Energy's two Hanford 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:

TRIDEC Economic Outlook Forum	January 24, 2007
Port of Benton - 300 Area Status Briefing	February 14, 2007
Hanford Retirees Association - Status of the Hanford Cleanup	February 15, 2007
Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board	March 29-30, 2007
	July 12 – 13, 2007
Columbia Center Rotary	June 7, 2007
Network Tri-Cities Membership Luncheon – State of DOE	July 25, 2007
Benton-Franklin County Fair	August 21-25, 2007
Third Annual Vancouver Peace and Social Justice Fair	September 8, 2007

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 2007.

Current Public Involvement Opportunities

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. A scoping comment period was held from February 2 - April 10, 2006.

Public Involvement Activities:

EIS Workshop

September 17, 2007

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

Public Scoping Process for Greater than Class C Low-Level Waste Disposal

The U.S. Department of Energy will conduct a public scoping process to evaluate disposal options for Greater than Class C low-level radioactive waste generated from the decommissioning of nuclear power plants, medical activities, and nuclear research. The Notice of Intent includes a list of preliminary disposal options for analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), describes the inventory of waste to be analyzed and identifies dates and locations of public meetings.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public Comment Period: July 23 through September 21, 2007.

Scoping meetings will be held in August and September at the following locations:

August 13 Carlsbad, NM

August 14 Los Alamos, NM

August 22 Oak Ridge, TN
August 23 North Augusta, SC
August 27 Troutdale, OR
August 28 Pasco, WA
August 30 Idaho Falls, ID
September 4 Las Vegas, NV
September 10 Washington, D.C.

Contact: James Joyce, DOE Document Manager 301-903-2151

400 Area Waste Management Unit

Washington State Department of Ecology will hold a 45-day public comment period for a new treatment, storage, or disposal unit to the Hanford Sitewide Permit. The new unit is for two mixed waste storage areas at the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) that is 10 miles north of Richland in a part of the Hanford Site called the 400 Area. The formal name for this permit modification is the “400 Area Waste Management Unit.”

Mixed waste resulting from FFTF’s shutdown consists of metallic sodium, sodium hydroxide, and sodium-contaminated debris such as piping and equipment will be stored in this area. The sodium is in solid form and is stored under inert gas. The waste will be stored in containers like drums and boxes

This modification will add a new section to the Hanford sitewide permit. It will appear in Part III (unit-specific conditions) as Operating Unit 16. The new section adds permit conditions that apply specifically to the 400 Area Waste Management Unit. The conditions cover topics like waste management, training, preparedness and prevention, monitoring and closure.

Public Involvement Activities

A 45 day comment period runs from August 27 through October 11, 2007. Ecology does not plan to hold a public hearing at this time. But if the public expresses interest one can be scheduled.

Send all comments in writing by Thursday, October 11, 2007 to:

Jeff Ayres
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
509-372-7971 – Fax
Jayr461@ecy.wa.gov

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

100 Area Burial Ground Record of Decision Explanation of Significant Difference

The Tri-Party Agencies are requesting public review and input on the balancing factors that will be part of the Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). The ESD identifies proposed changes to the 100 Area Burial Grounds Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD addresses solid wastes and contaminated soils associated with forty-five 100 Area burial ground sites throughout the 100 Area of the Hanford Site. This ESD addresses remediation efforts at the 118-B-1 Burial Ground located in the 100-B/C Area. The process allows for considering “balancing factors” in determining how much additional cleanup is necessary where contamination remains at depths greater than 15 feet (4.6 meters).

The ROD language states that a public comment period will be required before making any determination to invoke balancing factors. The proposed balancing factors are described in the fact sheet: *Changes to Hanford Cleanup Decisions for the 118-B-1 Burial Ground located in the Columbia River Corridor*. Public comments will be considered before the ESD is finalized.

Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Period: August 27 – September 27, 2007

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

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.

Upcoming Public Involvement Activities

Central Plateau Ecological Risk Assessment Workshops

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office will hold workshops for Phase IV of the Central Plateau Ecological Risk Assessment. Phases I through III focused on the development of ecological sampling requirements as outlined in the Ecological Risk Assessment Guidance Data Quality Objective process. In Phase IV a final Ecological Risk Assessment Report will be developed. This document will be used in the Central Plateau remedial investigation, feasibility study, and proposed plan process.

Public Involvement Activities

Workshop;

Review Phase III Central Plateau Ecological Risk Assessment and discuss
Phase IV Data Quality Assessment schedule and future meeting plans.

September 19, 2007

Contact: Karen Lutz, DOE-RL, (509) 376-4766

100 Area and 300 Area Component of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment

The Department of Energy (DOE) Richland Operations Office and Washington Closure Hanford will hold workshops for the 100 and 300 Area Component of 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:

Comment Resolution Workshop

October 31, 2007

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

Hanford Integrated Groundwater and Vadose Zone Management Plan

The Hanford Integrated Groundwater and Vadose Zone Management Plan will be issued in the Spring/Summer timeframe. This document describes the consolidation of groundwater modeling across the Hanford Site, the coordination of the groundwater and vadose zone activities under the Groundwater Remediation Project, and the integration of the groundwater, vadose zone, and source area cleanup decisions. The objective of the document is to provide information on DOE's commitment to centralize and strengthen the responsibility for groundwater and vadose zone cleanup under the DOE-RL Groundwater Remediation Project.

Public Involvement Activities:

Consultation with Tribes and feedback from ODOE and HAB on Draft Report
June 29 – September 7, 2007

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

Proposed Permit for Diesel and Propane Heaters for Waste Treatment Plant

Washington State Department of Ecology will hold a 30-day public comment period for a Notice of Construction. The proposed permit approval would allow the use of diesel and propane heaters at the Waste Treatment Plant for concrete pours, special coating application, and worker comfort.

The heaters are needed to allow workers to pour concrete and apply special coating in cold weather to meet high quality specifications. This will allow construction at the Waste Treatment Plant to go on during cold weather.

The permit approval is needed because diesel generators and propane heaters pollute the air. The permit approval will impose operating conditions and emission limits that meet federal and state clean air regulations.

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: October 8 to November 7, 2007 (tentative)

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

State of the Site

The purpose of these meetings is for decision makers from the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to share the most current Hanford cleanup and budget priority information and hear the public's priorities and concerns.

Public Involvement Activities

State of the Site Meetings Fall 2007

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

Comment Period: TBD, after December 2007

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

Completed Public Involvement Activities

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

Public comment period January 4 - June 4, 2007 (comment period extended from April 4, 2007)

Scoping Meetings

February 13	Oak Ridge, TN
February 15	North Augusta, SC
February 22	Joliet, IL
February 26	Hobbs, NM
February 27	Roswell, NM
March 1	Los Alamos, NM
March 6	Paducah, KY
March 8	Piketon, OH
March 13	Pasco, WA
March 15	Idaho Falls, ID
March 19	Washington, DC
March 26	Hood River, OR

Workshop on an Integrated Approach to Address One Area of Groundwater and Vadose Contamination – 200-ZP-1 Operable Unit is a groundwater operable unit, and 200-PW-1 is a vadose zone operable unit.

Workshop: February 7 and 8, 2007

Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement

(The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) is providing guidance to Science Application International Corporation on the development of the groundwater model.)

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a meeting on **Model Calibration** February 5, 2007

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a closeout meeting on **Model Calibration** February 8, 2007

Alternatives and Cumulative Analysis Workshop February 15, 2007

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a meeting on Vadose Zone and Groundwater workshop including stakeholder concerns April 16, 2007

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a meeting on **Field Data Comparison** April 23, 2007

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a closeout meeting on **Field Data Comparison** April 26, 2007

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a meeting on **Model Sensitivity** June 11, 2007

The Model Technical Review Group (MTRG) a closeout meeting on **Model Sensitivity** June 14, 2007

Groundwater Science and Technology Needs Workshop

Workshop March 27, 2007

Surface Barrier Test in the T Tank Farm

Public Comment Period: April 5 – May 7, 2007

Hanford's Integrated Disposal Facility Permit Change

Public Comment Period: April 23 – June 8, 2007

Budget Workshop/Regional Forums for FY 2009 Hanford Budget Process

Hanford Communities – Budget Briefing March 23, 2007
Richland Budget Workshop May 9, 2007
Seattle Public Meeting June 4, 2007
Spokane Public Meeting June 6, 2007
Hood River June 12, 2007
Portland June 13, 2007

Replacing Emergency Diesel Pumps for Hanford's Water Supply

Public Comment Period: May 14 – June 13, 2007

Phase III Central Plateau Ecological Risk Assessment

Workshop May 15, 2007

Hanford Site Air Operating Permit Changes

Public Comment Period June 11 – July 13, 2007
Public Hearing July 12, 2007

Plutonium Finishing Plant Sub-grade Structures Engineering Evaluation/Environmental Analysis

Briefing to the HAB River and Plateau Committee June 20, 2007

Setting New Air Quality Standards in Hanford's Tank Farms

Public Comment Period June 25 – July 25, 2007

100 and 300 Areas Groundwater Workshop

July 24, 2007

DOE-HQ Environmental Management Workshops – Office of Engineering and Technology

External Technical Review Lessons Learned Workshops July 24 – 26, 2007

300-FF-5 Operable Unit Update Workshop (Groundwater)

August 29, 2007

100 Area and 300 Area Component of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment

Workshops:
Data summary September 20, 2006
Human health and ecological risk assessment methodology (data) October 18, 2006
Data teleconference November 15, 2006
Methodology teleconference December 14, 2006
Nature and extent of contamination and other data questions March 21, 2007
Draft results and other data analysis questions. May 16, 2007
Data Gap Analysis June 5-6, 2007
Discuss Draft Report July 25, 2007

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant 2+2 Melter Configuration Permit Modification

Public Comment Period: October 9 - January 5, 2007
Public Hearing November 9, 2006

Proposed Tri-Party Agreement Changes to the 200 Area Non-Tank Farm Waste Site and Groundwater Remediation Milestones (M-15)

Public Comment Period: October 23 – December 7, 2006

DOE-HQ Environmental Management Workshops – Office of Engineering and Technology

Tank Closure Workshop	March 27 -28, 2006 (Atlanta, Georgia)
Cementitious Materials for Waste Treatment, Disposal Remediation and Decommissioning Workshop	December 12 – 14, 2006 (Aiken, South Carolina)
Aluminum/Chromium Leaching Workshop	January 22 – 24, 2007
NAS Roadmap Workshop	March 13, 2007
Columbia River Workshop	March 27-28, 2007