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## **Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released For Review**

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) has completed and released for public review and comment the draft Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A 90-day public comment period will end approximately August 23, 2002.

The draft EIS was prepared following a public scoping process which began in October 1997, that assisted DOE in defining issues to be considered, alternatives to be evaluated, and environmental impacts to be addressed. The draft EIS is coupled with DOE's February 2000 decision from the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, naming Hanford as one of two sites for disposal of low-level wastes and mixed low-level wastes from any DOE generators if Hanford Site waste acceptance criteria are met.

The Hanford Site Solid Waste Program manages several types of solid wastes at the Hanford Site, including low-level, mixed low-level, transuranic and mixed transuranic, and hazardous wastes as well as contaminated equipment. Mixed wastes contain radioactive and hazardous components. This draft EIS is designed to provide necessary information to assist in future decisions regarding long-term management of low-level wastes and mixed low-level wastes on the central plateau of the Hanford Site in Southeastern Washington State.

Public meetings will be held in several locations including Hood River, Oregon, July 14, La Grande, Oregon, July 23, Portland, Oregon, July 24, Richland, Washington, August 6, and Seattle, Washington, August 7 (tentative). Locations and times will be announced at a later date.

Copies of the draft EIS are available for public review at the DOE Public Reading Room located in the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities. A copy of the draft EIS may be obtained by calling 1-800-426-4914 or (509) 376-6536 or by writing to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
Attention: HSW EIS  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A6-38  
Richland, WA 99352

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RL 02-031

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