

The logo for DOE NEWS. The letters 'DOE' are in a large, blue, serif font, and 'NEWS' is in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The text is positioned below a series of horizontal blue lines that resemble a set of musical staves.

DOE NEWS

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DOE Statement on Washington State's Threatened Legal Action To Hinder Cleanup of DOE Facilities

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Energy released the following statement today in response to the State of Washington's attempt to hinder cleanup activities throughout the Department of Energy complex:

"We are disappointed by the threatened legal action announced by Washington State. Our cleanup plans, Environmental Impact Statements and Record of Decision meet every environmental and regulatory requirement. We are keeping our cleanup commitments to Washington State and meeting the requirements of the Tri-Party Agreement.

"We have worked cooperatively with the State over the last year to address a number of complex issues related to the Hanford Site Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement (HSW EIS) and resulting Record of Decision (ROD). In fact, we had maintained ongoing discussions with the State and its Department of Ecology to keep them fully informed of actions to cleanup Hanford and steps we would take in finalizing these decisions."

"Our environmentally-safe cleanup plans address the comments of Washington State, the State of Oregon, the Environmental Protection Agency, stakeholders from around the region, and area tribal nations. In fact, DOE made major revisions to the HSW EIS, and in June made a number of key accommodations in the Record of Decision, including:

- Limiting the amount of waste to be shipped to Hanford to just 25% of the amount that we had previously analyzed (82,000 cubic meters);
- Immediately stopping the use of unlined trenches for disposal of low-level waste at Hanford and committing to a new, lined and permitted disposal facility for low-level waste disposal activities at Hanford starting in 2007;
- Making it clear the Department intends to continue comprehensive groundwater cleanup and monitoring, consistent with recently-signed regulatory commitments.