



Hanford's 200 Area Central Plateau Waste Site Cleanup

Proposed Schedule Changes for

U.S. Department of Energy • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Washington State Department of Ecology



The Tri Party Agencies need your input on the proposed schedule for work being done in the 200 Area Central Plateau of the Hanford Site.

The public comment period on the draft change packages will be held from February 25 through April 12, 2002.

U.S. Department of Energy
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The agencies responsible for Hanford cleanup want your input on proposed changes to the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (Tri-Party Agreement) that will set schedules for cleaning up soil waste sites, not associated with tanks, on Hanford's Central Plateau, also known as the 200 Area (see map).

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (USDOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) conducted a thorough review of the current cleanup approach and identified improvements to accelerate cleanup of these waste sites.

The agencies have reached a tentative agreement that sets the schedules for completing waste site investigations and for evaluating cleanup options.

A risk-based approach to prioritizing work will be applied to the waste site cleanup. Following completion of these negotiations, the Tri-Party Agencies are committed to conducting timely discussions on how the USDOE will meet existing commitments to clean up groundwater.

What we are proposing...

There are over 700 soil waste sites that fall within 9 major waste categories (e.g., process waste, landfills). The waste sites are grouped into 22

operable units based on combinations of the major waste categories and contaminant sources. For the remedial investigation/feasibility study process, the waste sites can be further consolidated to 12 distinct groupings (due to similarities between contaminant sources). This reduction of the number of waste site groupings allows for substantial savings by reducing the number of reports necessary to address all of the waste sites, while still providing the information needed to achieve effective cleanup.

As a result of the negotiations, four change packages have been issued that propose the following:

- Streamlining the approach for investigating (or characterizing) the contamination contained within waste sites located on the Central Plateau and grouping similar waste sites together in order to be more efficient in the investigation and decision-making process. The existing milestone date for completing the work plans describing these investigations would be accelerated by one year to December 2004.
- Retaining the existing milestone to complete all non-tank farm site investigations by December 2008, while modifying interim milestones to streamline and focus the investigation process, the feasibility study, and proposed plan/permit modification. A new interim milestone has been proposed to evaluate cleanup of high-priority waste sites suitable for applying a surface barrier and monitoring its performance.

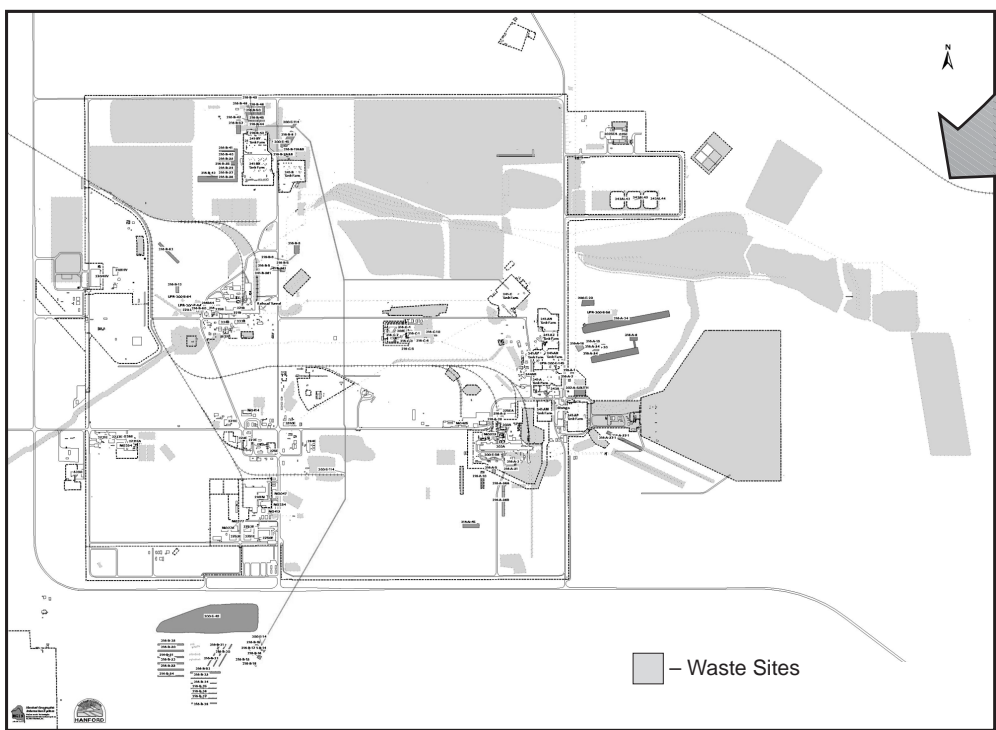
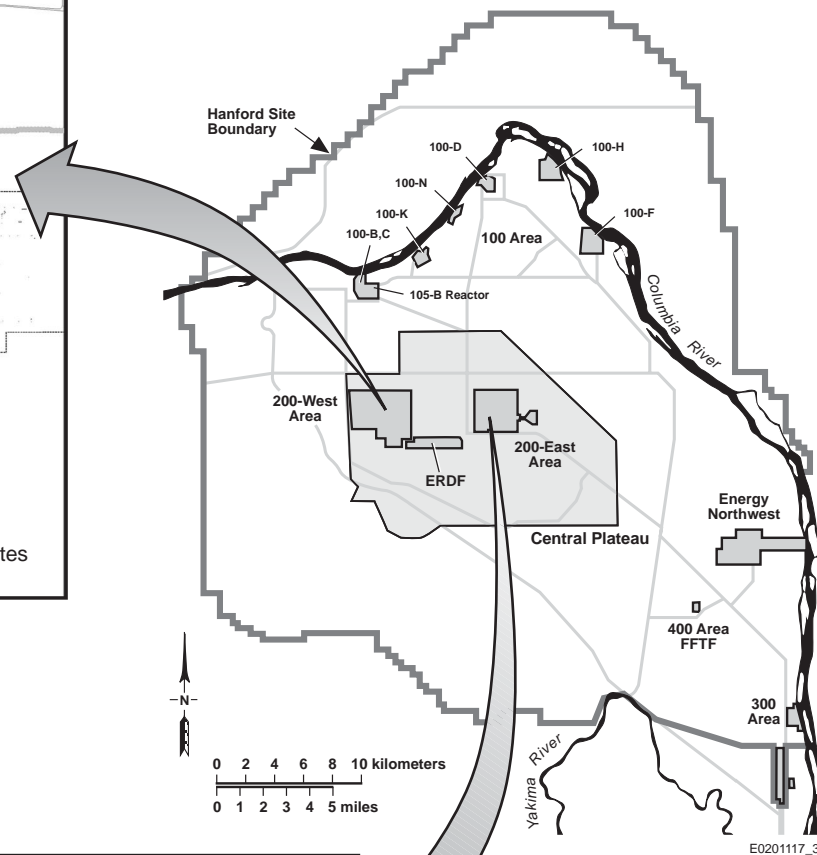
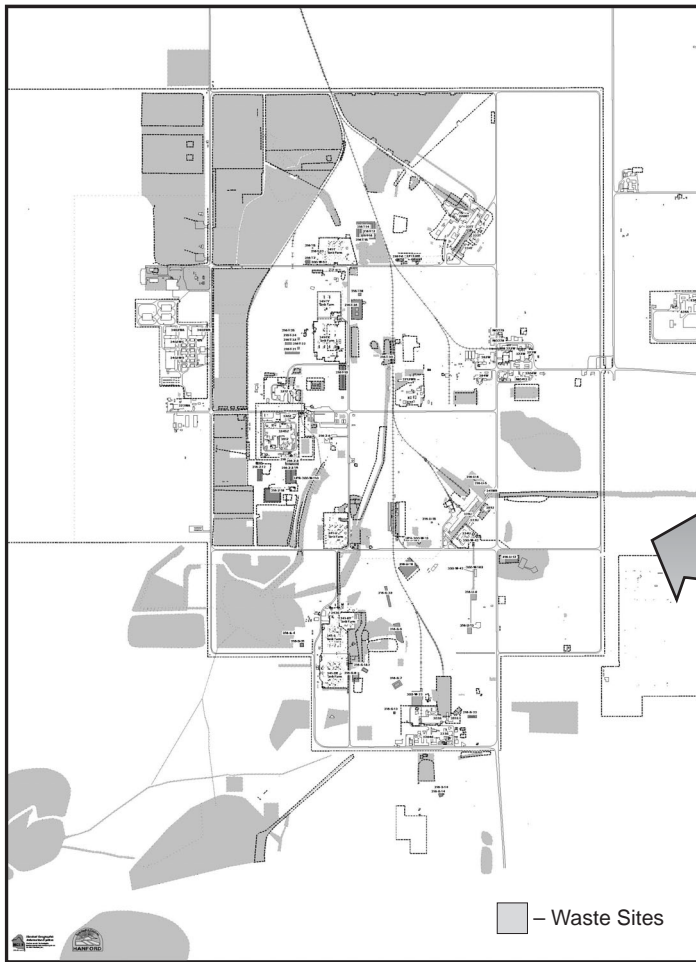


Figure 1. Hanford Site Map.

- Completing all closure and postclosure plans for treatment, storage, and disposal units by December 31, 2008. The closure and postclosure plans will be coordinated with completion of the feasibility studies and proposed plans/permit modifications for the 200 Area waste sites. This extends the current milestone date by 4 years; however, by having the submittal of the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* (CERCLA) (known as “Superfund”) proposed plan and *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) plan coincide, it allows consistency in the decision-making process.
- Extending the final cleanup schedule for all Central Plateau waste sites to coordinate with the single-shell tank closure in 2024.

Why are these changes being proposed?

The milestone changes provide a logical approach for prioritizing the investigations (characterization) of waste sites using “lessons learned” from cleanup in the 100 and 300 Areas at Hanford. The reduction in the number of reports will save money by eliminating redundant activities. These proposed changes will make the 200 Area waste site cleanup more effective and focused on reducing health risks and expediting the environmental restoration of the Central Plateau.

How you can become involved...

A public comment period on the draft change packages will be held from February 25 through April 12, 2002. The Tri-Parties need your comments on these proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. Your comments will provide feedback that could influence the final decision on these proposed changes. The agencies will consider all public comments before the proposed changes are made final.

To submit comments or request a copy of the change package, please contact:

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The change packages are also available on our web site at www.hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations

Portland
 Portland State University
 Branford Price and Millar Library
 934 SW Harrison
 Attn: Michael Bowman (503) 725-3690

Seattle
 University of Washington
 Suzzallo Library
 Government Publications Division
 Attn: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

Richland
 U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
 Washington State University, Tri-Cities
 Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
 2770 University Drive
 Attn: Terri Traub (509) 372-7443

Spokane
 Gonzaga University Foley Center
 East 502 Boone
 Attn: Sarah Nelson (509) 323-6548

Information Repository web site address:
<http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/>
 Or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008