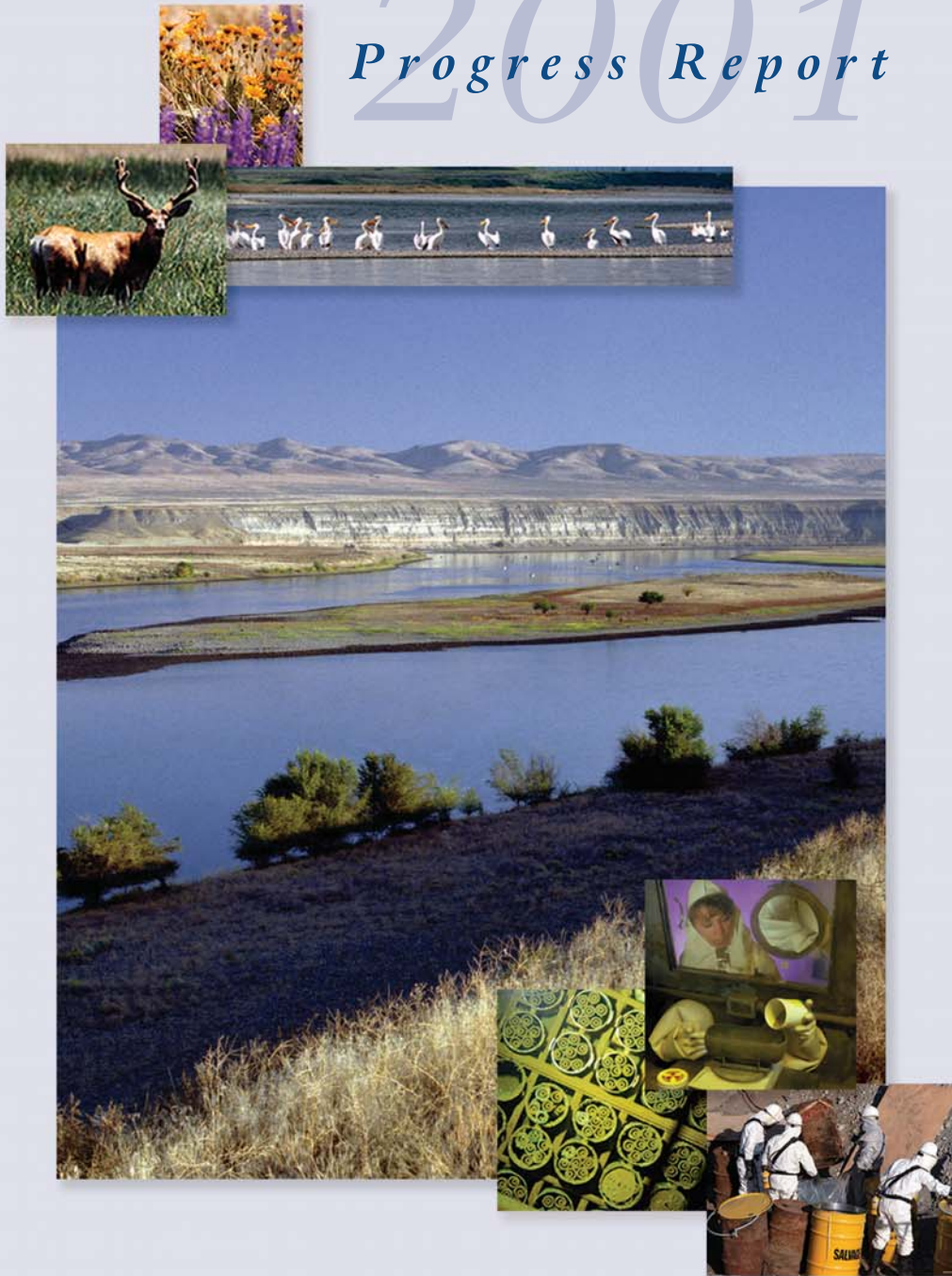


# HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

## 2001 *Progress Report*



*Providing Advice on Site Cleanup and Waste Management to the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology*

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# Mission Statement

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) is an independent, non-partisan, and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected by Hanford cleanup issues. The primary mission of the HAB is to provide informed recommendations and advice to the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology on major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site.

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The background photograph, "The Hanford Stretch; 1992-1993" was taken by photographer Mark Ruwedel, and is provided courtesy of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (purchased through a gift of Jane Reed).

# The Spirit of the Tri-Party Agreement

The Hanford Advisory Board views itself as the keeper of Hanford Federal Facility Compliance Agreement, better known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). In other words, the Board aims to ensure that the Tri-Party Agreement is a comprehensive, credible, enforceable document. Moreover, the Board works to maintain the health of the TPA's spirit — a spirit of cooperation, coordination and synergy — to efficiently and effectively clean up Hanford.

### Cooperation

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) serve as regulators of the Hanford cleanup. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is the party responsible for cleanup. The regulated/regulator relationship is often naturally adversarial. In the late-1980s, the potential for an adversarial relationship at Hanford was exacerbated by the extent to which DOE was out of compliance with environmental laws. Despite the potential for antipathy between the agencies, the TPA was signed in 1989 in a spirit of cooperation to provide a framework to bring Hanford into compliance. The TPA was critical in initiating cleanup without extensive, lengthy regulatory enforcement actions.

### Coordination

In many environmental remediation efforts, a mechanism is not present to mediate the different strategic goals of the regulated and the regulator. At Hanford, the TPA serves that role. By mandating a structured negotiation

and dispute resolution process, the TPA is important in supporting constructive resolution of agency disputes and forcing proactive decision-making. Because of the TPA, Hanford has largely avoided cleanup gridlock created when agencies disagree and go to court. Embedded in the TPA is the assumption that lengthy court action is a last — and largely unsatisfying — resort.

### Synergy

In addition to the TPA's requirements of agencies to talk to one another, the TPA provides mechanisms to collect public input. TPA negotiations are accompanied by solicitation of public comment. In addition, the Board advises all three agencies on TPA activities. By providing a focal point for cleanup decision-making, and the processes by which to make decisions, the TPA serves to exponentially increase the momentum behind the cleanup. The TPA gives the Northwest a focus to get its collective arms around the complex, daunting challenge that is Hanford cleanup.

## The Board's Work and the **Tri-Party Agreement**

**F**or much of 2001, the Board was frustrated with a lack of agency support for the TPA. In short, the Board was gravely concerned about the TPA's health and urged the regulators to take enforcement action if TPA commitments were missed.

This concern peaked in June with the following passages from HAB Advice #120, adopted June 8, 2001:

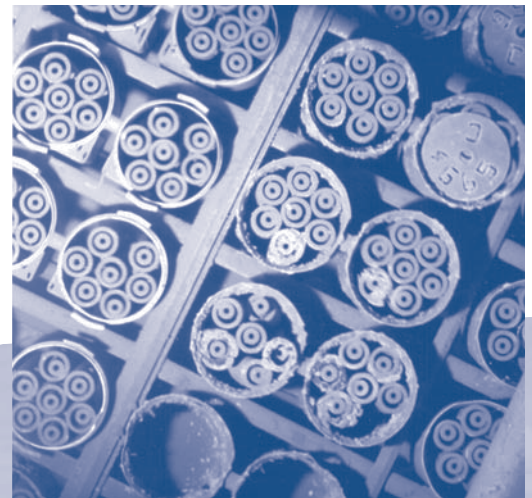
*"The TPA, this region's cleanup master plan, is in serious, perhaps irreparable, trouble. DOE must not unilaterally and illegally suspend work towards any TPA milestones... The TPA must continue to drive work plans and schedules...The HAB insists the EPA and Ecology carry out their enforcement responsibilities to restore cleanup progress to the pace committed to in all TPA milestones."*

Fortunately, as 2001 came to a close, agency negotiations are breaking the gridlock at the heart of the Board's concerns. The agencies are moving positively toward cleanup decisions in the River Corridor and Central Plateau.

Moreover, agency support for a HAB-recommended Exposure Scenarios Task Force has focused energy on stakeholder values surrounding reasonable future human and environmental exposures to Hanford wastes. This task force will hopefully poise the Northwest to make important, sound decisions guiding the direction of Hanford cleanup in 2002.

The agencies' newfound cooperation is also evidenced by a letter forwarded to the Board outlining nine items on which the agencies would appreciate Board input in 2002 (see Board Focus in 2002, page 25). This will serve as a useful 'measuring stick' for Board progress from the agencies' perspective.

2001 was a tumultuous year for the Board and the Hanford community. Despite the difficulty of this year, the Board has emerged strong and prepared to continue its fight to ensure that such TPA milestones are credible, comprehensive and receive appropriate priority.



## **Hanford Advisory Board Statement of Principles**

**Presented to Jessie Roberson,  
Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management**

*August 15, 2001*

### ***Long-Term Vision***

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The Hanford Site will become a clean, accessible, and healthy environment by:

- Protecting the health and safety of communities and workers.
- Protecting the Columbia River and the environment.
- Moving resolutely forward to site cleanup through use of existing technologies and resources where solutions exist, and through focused research and development of solutions where they do not. (Get on with it.)
- Respecting treaty rights of affected Native American Indian Tribes.
- Embracing the Tri-Party Agreement, which has widespread and deep public support in the Northwest, as the basic framework and blueprint for the Hanford cleanup.
- Preparing the site for future productive uses and transitions from the dominance of U.S. Department of Energy-funded activities to more privately-sponsored activities.
- Fostering economic prosperity through scientific research and innovation in the development and testing of waste management approaches and cleanup technologies that have benefits locally and worldwide.

### ***Near-Term Needs***

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- Reduce the footprint of future stewardship needs by cleanup and waste stabilization.
- Maintain integrity of the Tri-Party Agreement. Meet milestones.
- Design, construct, and operate a tank waste vitrification plant.
- Remove spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins.
- Decontaminate and stabilize the Plutonium Finishing Plant.
- Complete cleanup along the Columbia River.
- Protect workers. Improve and enhance their morale and productivity.

## ***Issues of Concern:***

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### **Tri-Party Agreement compliance**

- Secure new tank waste milestones

### **Tank waste retrieval and vitrification**

- Implement a technically sound, fiscally and financially responsible, and doable project

### **Removal of spent fuel and sludge from the K Basins**

- Meet schedule and budget

### **Protection of the Columbia River and groundwater**

- Complete cleanup along the river
- Contain and remove groundwater plumes
- Understand the vadose zone
- Eliminate and contain source terms

### **Cleanup of high-risk facilities**

- Focus on decontamination of Plutonium Finishing Plant complex

### **Management for results**

- Clear, streamlined decision-making
- More cleanup for the dollars
- Clear path forward, schedule, and accountability
- Resolve interface between Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection

### **Predictable and adequate cleanup budgets**

- Pay now or pay more later

### **Protect worker safety, the public, and the environment**

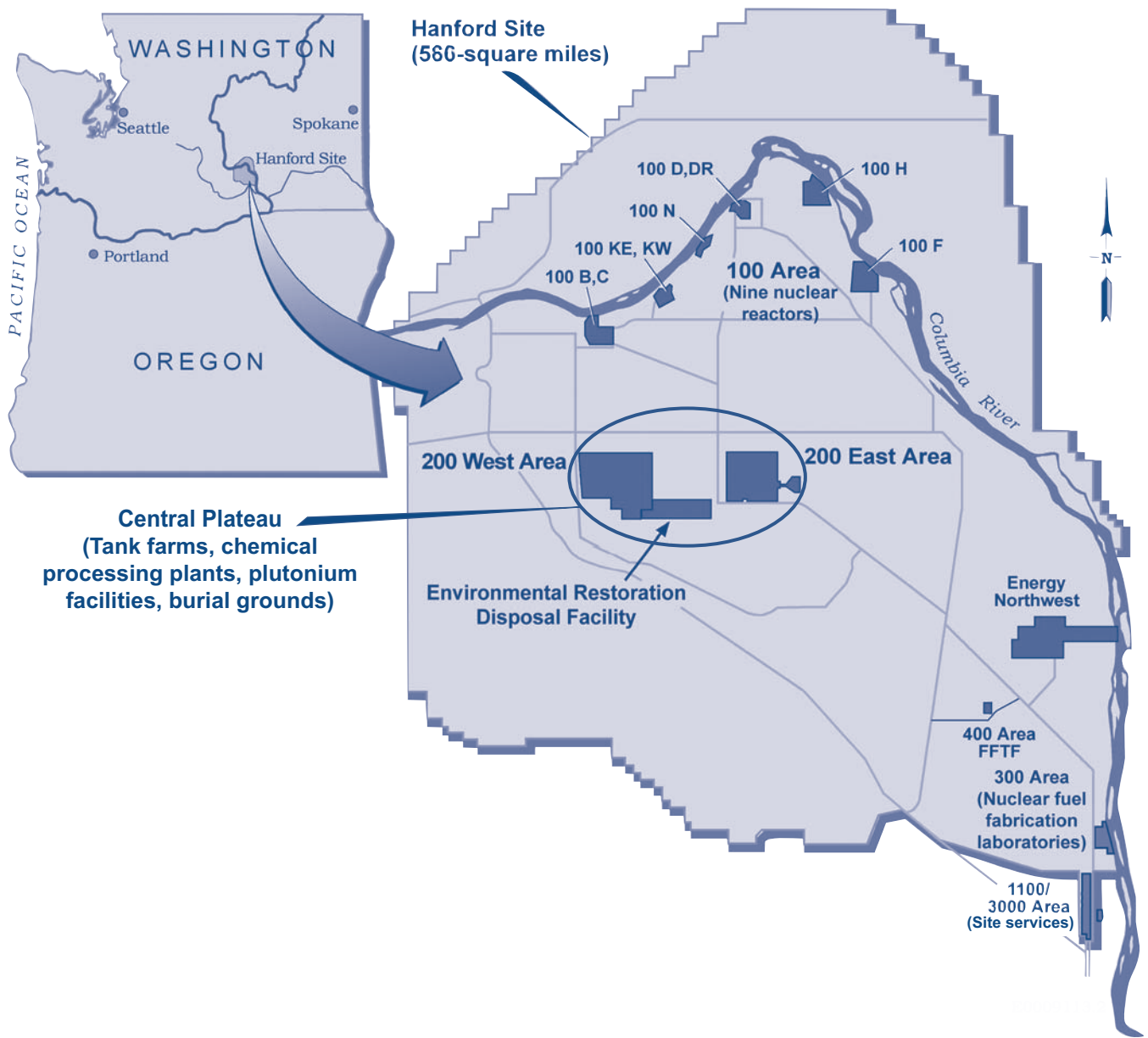
- Maintain and improve worker morale in light of re-organizations

### **Maintenance of strong and effective public involvement**

- Don't cut back

Originally prepared for and presented to Carolyn Huntoon,  
Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management  
September 20, 1999

# Map of the Hanford Site





# History of Hanford

**F**our decades of plutonium production at the Hanford Site helped win World War II and the post-war nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union. Over the years, production provided jobs for tens of thousands of Hanford workers and spurred economic development and growth in Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick - the Tri-Cities. But it left a legacy of hazardous and radioactive waste.

Most of Hanford's waste volume was generated by the chemical processing of irradiated nuclear fuels. The resulting high-level waste slurry was piped into underground storage tanks. Other contaminated waste streams also were discharged to the ground near reactors and processing facilities. Large and concentrated volumes of waste were created by nuclear fuel fabrication and irradiation work.

Between 1944 and 1988, a witch's brew of millions of gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste was pumped into 149 buried single-shell tanks and 28 buried double-shell tanks. Sixty-seven single-shell tanks have leaked over a million gallons of waste and contaminated groundwater, which is moving towards the Columbia River, leaving approximately 53 million gallons of waste to retrieve and treat.

Monitoring wells have detected leaks from tanks into the groundwater. Also, monitors

in some tanks have detected worrisome accumulations of gases that pose explosive potential and serious risk to workers, the public, and the environment. Radioactivity's capacity to impact human health and safety and the environment for tens, hundreds, or thousands of years makes cleanup and stabilization an extremely complex and costly job.

During production years, Hanford handled enormous volumes of contaminated process water. More than 450 billion gallons of low-level wastewater were piped to drain fields called cribs. Cribs were engineered to allow soil layers to filter contaminated wastewater, and trap radionuclides before the wastewater reached groundwater. But the natural filters did not work. Large amounts of contamination reached the groundwater.

Highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel from production reactors is stored near the river and some of the fuel is damaged and corroding. DOE continues to store plutonium at the Plutonium Finishing Plant. Huge volumes of low-level waste and transuranic waste remain elsewhere on the site. In some cases, wastes are not well quantified, inventoried, or mapped.

The Columbia River has been tainted by Hanford's contaminated groundwater. Contamination in the reactor and waste

disposal areas still holds the river at risk. Old production facilities, although quieted by the mission change, must be made ready for decommissioning, demolition, and disposal. Even shut down, the facilities are costly to maintain in a safe status and still pose risks for workers.

Hanford's contaminated soil and groundwater areas were placed on the Superfund National Priority List in 1989. That same year, the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) was signed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). DOE manages the site and is responsible for the cleanup; EPA regulates under federal statutory requirements; and Ecology regulates under state statutory requirements where Congress and EPA have

delegated the authority. The TPA established milestones and a schedule for cleanup and restoration of the Hanford Site over a 30-year period. There have been a number of revisions to those milestones and schedules based on new technical understanding, schedule delays, additional workscope, and funding constraints.

## ***The Hanford Advisory Board***

Based on experiences with two previous advisory groups, the Department of Energy, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Environmental Protection Agency agreed to form a standing site advisory board. The Board provides comments and values to guide the agencies in shaping the direction of Hanford cleanup. The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) was convened in January 1994. It provides a forum for seeking a regional consensus on Hanford cleanup activities and works with the TPA agencies to establish and maintain partnerships, build bridges, increase trust and credibility, and most of all, to solve problems and move the cleanup forward.



The HAB studies and defines issues that require public input and are most significant. The agencies participate in an open dialogue with members concerning emerging issues.

The HAB operates by consensus on all but rare occasions. The HAB has developed a collaborative way of working that makes use of a committee structure to consider more detailed information and then define and focus issues for HAB consideration. Products of the HAB include advice or letters to the agencies, open discussion of issues, opportunities for stakeholders to comment, and forums for all interested groups to hear the same thing at the same time.

The 31 members of the HAB include interests from the economic, environmental, tribal, public interest, government, and health and safety sectors. Board members represent only some of the interests of the site and of the region, so the HAB has made an effort to include broader public input into its and the site's activities. Opportunities for public



input have included public comment periods at each of the Board meetings; articles in the Hanford Update, which is mailed on a quarterly basis to Hanford stakeholders; articles in the Tri-City Herald (local newspaper); and co-sponsorship of public meetings. In addition, the HAB has a Public Involvement and Communication Committee, which works with the TPA agencies to structure public involvement activities in a manner that allows for all the public to be involved and affect the way decisions are made.

This seventh progress report of the Hanford Advisory Board highlights its work in Calendar Year 2001. It also outlines the issues that will be the focus of the Board's work in 2002.

# U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office

2001 has been a landmark year for Hanford cleanup. We're no longer promising exciting things are going to happen in the future - they're happening now, every day, as we make visible progress toward our outcomes of restoring the Columbia River Corridor, transitioning the Central Plateau, and preparing for the future.

Our cleanup progress is particularly important at the K Basins, where we recently reached full-scale operations with 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week shifts to safely move spent fuel away from the Columbia River and into dry long-term storage in an underground vault in the Central Plateau. Since the project's start in December 2000, we've moved more than 200 metric tons (of 2,100 metric tons). Our Tri-Party Agreement milestone to complete fuel removal in 2004 remains very challenging but we are intent on making it. Our other major focus - stabilization of plutonium-bearing liquids and solids at the Plutonium

Finishing Plant -- is also gaining momentum and making good progress. We quadrupled our stabilization rate in 2000, and maintained that accelerated pace in 2001. Also in 2001 we started up five new stabilization processes and became the first DOE site to put plutonium into a 50-year safe storage container. With our processing rate now dramatically increased, we're looking at how to accelerate getting the material offsite consistent with national policy. On the environmental restoration and waste management fronts in 2001, we disposed of more than 600,000 tons of contaminated soil, shipped uranium and transuranic waste off the Hanford Site, exceeded our goals for disposal of low-level and mixed low-level waste, and neared completion of two more reactor "cocooning" projects (which will bring our total to three of eight). Indeed, the cleanup effort has turned a corner and continues to pick up momentum. There is "light at the end of the tunnel" on our two major cleanup projects

- both spent fuel removal and plutonium stabilization will be done in 2004, which will greatly reduce risk and free up more than \$100 million each year for other cleanup work. In addition, the River Corridor contract we'll award this year will set us on a path to complete cleanup along the Columbia River and shrink our remaining cleanup operations to just 75 square miles in the center of the site in about 10 years.

Equally important is the fact that the Department of Energy has reached a new point of cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency through the "Hanford Cleanup Constraints and Challenges Team," or C3T. We have come together to recommit to the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) and ensure alignment between the TPA, our baselines, and our prime contracts. It's critical work - looking at innovative approaches, identifying and knocking down barriers, brainstorming

possibilities, and laying out a path forward that embraces the priorities set forth by the Hanford Advisory Board, the surrounding communities, area Tribal nations, and the public. While there's no question that we'll have differences along the way, this sort of cooperation is unprecedented, and has tremendous benefits to Hanford cleanup.

We have asked the Hanford Advisory Board to consider nine major issues this year. Key among them are end states for the Central Plateau, cleanup "tradeoffs" in the Hanford 2012 Plan that would accelerate river cleanup and delay some Central Plateau work, disposition of the U Plant canyon, improving groundwater remedies, and development of a long-term stewardship plan. We're counting on the Board to continue its energetic role in helping us consider all the aspects and impacts of our decisions, and giving us good, comprehensive advice on some of the major policy issues of interest to the Northwest.

**Keith A. Klein**

*Manager*

*DOE Richland Operations Office*

# U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection's purpose is to manage the retrieval and treatment of Hanford's highly radioactive tank waste in order to protect the Columbia River. This is no simple task and is often referred to as the nation's most complex environmental cleanup project.

If the Office of River Protection (ORP) project is to succeed it must establish public confidence by meeting its commitments to the region's stakeholders and the affected tribes. ORP is committed to an open and timely policy of informing and involving the public in key events and decisions. The coming year is filled with opportunities for public input as permits for the vitrification plant are made ready, Tri-Party Agreement changes are negotiated, annual budgets are prepared and long term cleanup strategies are considered.

To ensure these events are successful, defensible and sustainable, ORP wants to verify what the drivers for cleanup should be. Are the values and principles documented in the mid-1990s applicable to cleanup decisions yet to come? The Hanford Advisory Board has a great opportunity to advise the Department

of Energy and its regulators on how to answer questions such as this while getting on with cleanup. The Board also has an important role in informing its respective constituencies on the issues and progress in protecting the Columbia River.

### The Problem

Highly radioactive waste from years of plutonium production was piped to 177 underground tanks at the Department of Energy's Hanford Site. As a result, Hanford has 53 million gallons of chemically complex high-level radioactive waste. The majority of the tanks (149 of the 177) are single-shell tanks, which on average are 50 years old and more than 30 years beyond their design life. Sixty-seven of the single-shell tanks have leaked about one million gallons of waste. The tanks are just seven miles from the Columbia River. Waste from leaking tanks has reached the groundwater that flows to the River.

### The Solution

The plan to solve this problem is straightforward: remove the hazardous waste from the aging underground tanks,

vitrify the waste (turn it into stable glass “logs”) for long-term storage or disposal, and close the tank farms. The Office of River Protection manages all aspects of Hanford’s River Protection Project including tank farm operations, waste retrieval, construction, commissioning, and operations of the vitrification plant, disposal or storage of the glass, and closing the tank farms.

The ORP team believes it has a viable, technical plan for turning Hanford’s highest risk waste into glass. Significant events over the past year illustrate the Project’s overall momentum to protect the Columbia River from tank wastes. These activities included:

- ➔ Transitioning from a “privatization effort” to a commercially-modeled contract;
- ➔ Completing necessary infrastructure work one year early and 25% under budget for the vitrification construction site;
- ➔ Resolving longstanding safety issues and removing 60 tanks from a Congressional watch list;
- ➔ Pumping 1.3 million gallons of radioactive waste from older single-shell tanks to safer double-shell tanks.

## ***The Result***

The initial facilities are properly sized for treating and meeting the first commitment of Hanford’s tank waste: treating at least 10% of the waste by 2018. The vitrification plant will be the cornerstone for turning the highest risk tank waste into glass. Still, the overall schedule for the project is too long, too expensive, and requires extensive funding for approximately 50 years.

In the coming months and years ORP will develop and implement a credible and fundable life-cycle strategy to complete the balance of the tank waste cleanup mission. Regional, if not national, public confidence in the cleanup of Hanford’s tank waste is an important step for ORP’s success. Working with the Hanford Advisory Board and its membership working with their constituencies is an important element in verifying the project’s success or failure. The Office of River Protection realizes that actions speak louder than words. I encourage the people of the Pacific Northwest to remain engaged as ORP protects the Columbia River, protects people and the environment and complies with the regulations.

**Harry Boston**  
Manager

*DOE Office of River Protection*

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

We faced greater challenges than usual in 2001 regarding Hanford cleanup. As we all know, cleanup at Hanford requires a sustained, multi-year effort and the Department of Energy recognized that changes were needed in regard to how cleanup was proceeding around the DOE complex. This recognition led to the “Top to Bottom Review,” an attempt to take stock of how to make the nation’s nuclear waste cleanup program more efficient and less costly to the taxpayer.

At EPA we welcome this review, as we believe there are ways to bring efficiencies to the cleanup program while not sacrificing the environmental results we have all come to expect. At Hanford, we are actively engaged with DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology in looking at ways to improve and accelerate the cleanup. In fact, we have completed negotiations of cleanup schedules for the River Corridor and schedules for the Central Plateau. These change packages lay the foundation and set

forth a clear road map to complete the work under the Tri-Party Agreement, for which EPA has oversight responsibility.

In 2001 the Hanford Advisory Board experienced transition, with a change in leadership and reorganization of the committee structure. Now, as much as ever, the Tri-Party agencies need the Board’s help and advice. Last September the Tri-Party agencies provided a unified list of topics on which we were seeking the Board’s assistance. The Board has begun some of that work and I encourage it to focus on those key issues.

Finally, I want to highlight the work of the Board’s Public Involvement and Communication Committee. The committee worked diligently with the agencies in revising the Community Relations Plan and as a result of their involvement we have a much-improved product that should result in more effective public involvement opportunities in the coming years.

**Mike Gearheard**

*Director*

*Office of Environmental Cleanup  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*



# Washington State Department of **Ecology**

**T**he Tri-Party Agreement is at a crossroads. Much of the preparatory and interim work called for in the agreement is now done. It is time to adopt schedules for final cleanup decisions in the Columbia River Corridor. Accelerating work along the River impacts cleanup of the Central Plateau, and the Tri-Party agencies will turn more attention to that area in the coming months. This includes a need to integrate complex decisions relating to waste disposal, cleanup of contaminated soils, decommissioning and decontamination of large facilities, and retrieval and treatment of 53 million gallons of mixed radioactive and hazardous waste stored in aging, often leaking underground tanks.

Ecology is encouraged that Department of Energy leaders at Hanford have initiated a process, led by a group called the Cleanup Constraints and Challenges Team (C3T), with

regulators and stakeholders to try to align Tri-Party Agreement schedules, contracts and work baselines. Much remains to be done. Ecology's fundamental goal remains the same: to protect the air, land and water of Washington by bringing Hanford into compliance with state and federal hazardous waste, cleanup, and air and water quality laws.

To take advantage of what we've learned and to accommodate an evolving national political landscape, the Tri-Party agencies will engage in negotiations to revise and refine the Tri-Party Agreement within the framework for change included within that document. We hope the Hanford Advisory Board, affected Indian tribes, the State of Oregon and the broader stakeholder community will engage constructively with us as we set a path forward in 2002.

**Mike Wilson**  
*Nuclear Waste Program Manager  
Washington State Department of Ecology*

The Hanford Advisory Board underwent major organizational changes in 2001. At its first meeting of the year, the Board bade a fond farewell to its Chair of six years, Marilyn Reeves. Marilyn shepherded the Board through many major cleanup milestones at Hanford and around

the country. Under her leadership and guidance, the Board and its committees worked to make the U.S. Department of Energy budget development process for cleanup more open and understandable to the public. She played an active role in the discussions at the San Diego and Chicago inter-site transfer workshops, representing some of the interests and concerns of the wide variety of Hanford stakeholders. In addition, she led the Board through examination and discussion of numerous Tri-Party Agreement change packages, including the refocusing of the Hanford site's environmental restoration program, a precursor of the evolution of cleanup acceleration currently under consideration along the river corridor.

On a national level, Marilyn Reeves worked with a number of Assistant Secretaries of Energy to bring attention to the importance of cleanup at Hanford and sites across the U.S. Department of Energy complex. Board members and others still remember the power of her presentation to then-Assistant Secretary of Energy Al Alm regarding the 10-year accelerated cleanup plan and a vision for what Hanford could look like in the future. She also presided over a face-to-face meeting between the Board's Executive Committee and then-Assistant Secretary of Energy Carolyn Huntoon in September 1999 at which the Committee first presented the Board's Statement of Principles. This document is included in this annual report (page 6) and has since been presented again to current-

## **Hanford Advisory Board**

*Chair: Todd Martin*

*Vice-Chairs: Ken Bracken  
Shelley Cimon*

## **Budgets and Contracts Committee**

*Chair: Harold Heacock*

*Vice-Chair: Gerald Pollet*

## **Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee**

*Chair: Dan Simpson*

*Vice-Chair: Keith Smith*

## **Public Involvement and Communication Committee**

*Chair: Amber Waldref*

*Vice-Chair: Bill Kinsella*

## **River and Plateau Committee**

*Chair: Pam Brown*

*Vice-Chair: Susan Leckband*


## **Tank Waste Committee**

*Chair: Leon Swenson*

*Vice-Chair: Doug Huston*

Assistant Secretary of Energy Jessie Roberson. Finally, in the year 2000, Marilyn collaborated with the chairs of the other Site Specific Advisory Boards at Fernald, Idaho, Nevada, Northern New Mexico, Oak Ridge, Paducah, Pantex, Rocky Flats, Sandia, and Savannah River to develop and sign a joint Site Specific Advisory Board statement of common values that outlined the purposes and expectations of the advisory boards across the complex.

In 2001, Marilyn Reeves was succeeded by Todd Martin, environmental consultant and former staff researcher for the Hanford Education Action League. Todd is well-known for his research and writing on technical,



regulatory, fiscal, and public involvement issues related to cleanup activities across the U.S. Department of Energy complex. He is particularly well-respected for his knowledge and ability to explain and communicate the intricacies of the management and treatment options concerning the wastes in the Hanford tank farms.

For the first time in its eight-year history, the Hanford Advisory Board undertook a major evaluation and restructuring of its committee structure and operations in 2001. This was in response to its annual self-evaluation of Board operations in calendar year 2000 which indicated that the old committee structure had become ineffective.

The restructuring was focused around five areas for improvement:

1. Engaging a broader number of Board members in Board work,
2. Making better use of issue managers,
3. Defining clear expectations, roles, and responsibilities for Board members and others involved with the Board,
4. Keeping the Board engaged and ensuring that Board work, including agenda development, is open and proactive, and
5. Improving Board communication between its leadership and membership, including work on issues that cross traditional committee areas of interest.

As a result, the Board assessed its major functions, activities, and issues of concern. It re-assigned major issues for study to one of its five new committees and re-selected committee leadership (see sidebar on page 18). In addition, it developed a comprehensive orientation packet outlining the “Do’s and Don’t’s of the Hanford Advisory Board”; roles and responsibilities guidance; travel guidance; a “Who Do I Call?” list, and a glossary of terms and acronyms commonly used in Board discussions.

While the restructuring effort demanded a great deal of the Board’s time and energy during the early months of 2001, the resulting clarity of roles, process, and purpose has positioned the Hanford Advisory Board to more effectively work with the Tri-Party Agreement agencies in addressing the most pressing issues concerning Hanford cleanup.

The Hanford Advisory Board is made up of 31 seats, most of which have a primary member and one or two alternate members. Much of the Board's work is done through the Board's five committees and a large cadre of issue managers. During calendar year 2001, about 34 members and alternates worked as issue managers covering over 42 issue areas ranging from public involvement opportunities to the technical complexities of individual facility and waste site cleanup.

## Committees

The Board's five committees range in size from 13 to 27 members. In 2001, there were 25 committee and task force meetings, six of which were joint meetings between the Budgets and Contracts Committee and one of the technical committees (River and Plateau Committee or Tank Waste Committee) to address cross-cutting issues of interest.

- ➔ **Budgets and Contracts Committee** (including its predecessors, the Dollars and Sense and Finance and Contract Management Committees): 12 meetings, six of which were joint with technical committees
- ➔ **River and Plateau Committee** (including its predecessor Environmental Restoration Committee): 9 meetings, two of which were joint with the Budgets and Contracts Committee
- ➔ **Tank Waste Committee** (including its predecessor Tank Waste Treatment Ad Hoc Committee): 7 meetings, four of which were joint with the Budgets and Contracts Committee

- ➔ **Public Involvement and Communication Committee** (including its predecessor Public Involvement Committee): 5 meetings

- ➔ **Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee** (including its predecessor Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee): 4 meetings

- ➔ **Task Force on Committee Restructuring**: 1 workshop

In addition, the Board and its committees conduct a significant amount of work via conference calls, which in 2001 totaled at least 80.

## Board Work

The Board held six, two-day meetings in the months of February, April, June, September, November, and December. Major topics of discussion in these meetings included cleanup contracting issues, the federal cleanup budget development process, and the importance of maintaining progress for treating Hanford tank waste. In November 2001, the Board sent a letter to the Secretary of Energy encouraging continued support for the construction of an operational vitrification plant for Hanford tank waste as soon as technically feasible.

The Board also engaged in mid-year and end-of-year discussions evaluating cleanup progress under the Tri-Party Agreement, the cleanup agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology. In addition, it met with senior managers from the Tri-Party Agreement

agencies to discuss the beginnings of the U.S. Department of Energy's national Top-to-Bottom Review, as well as the local Cleanup, Constraints and Challenges Team (C3T), an interagency effort to improve cleanup progress. In response to the agencies' invitation for Board participation in the C3T process, the Board has identified member-observers to attend major C3T meetings.

In August 2001, leaders of the Hanford Advisory Board and its committees had the opportunity to meet with Assistant Secretary of Energy Jessie Roberson in Richland, Washington. At that time, they presented Ms. Roberson with the Board's Statement of Principles (see pages 6 and 7). These principles were originally developed in 1999 and presented to then-Assistant Secretary of Energy Carolyn Huntoon. They represent the consistent, ongoing issues of concern, long-term vision, and near-term needs for Hanford cleanup from the perspective of the Hanford Advisory Board.

### **Board Advice**

Over its eight-year history, the Hanford Advisory Board has adopted between 7 and 28 pieces of advice per year. In 2001, the Board adopted 11 pieces of advice. In total, the Hanford Advisory Board has issued 124 pieces of advice between 1994 and 2001. At every Board meeting, time is specifically set aside to review and discuss Tri-Party Agreement agency responses to Board advice.

### **Contract Advice**

Contract issues were of particular concern in 2001. The Board adopted three pieces of advice regarding principles for new and existing cleanup contracts and the development of the new River Corridor Contract request for proposals which will be the vehicle by which cleanup of Hanford's 100 and 300 Areas along the Columbia River will be accelerated. These pieces of advice emphasized the Board's concern that site cleanup contracts be consistent with the milestones outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement. Additional Board concerns included the importance of developing closure contracts based on well-defined and characterized projects to minimize uncertainties, the probability of cost overruns, and the importance of protecting the health and safety of the Hanford workforce.



## **Budget/Funding Advice**

The Board adopted three pieces of advice concerning cleanup funding, budgets, and baselines in 2001. The U.S. Department of Energy was commended for its innovative and strategic approaches in the areas of contract reform and management initiatives, including the use of contracts that were performance-based and allowed for effective baseline management.



However, the Board expressed concern that the Hanford cleanup budgets initially proposed for federal fiscal years 2002 and 2003 signaled an intent to slow Hanford cleanup progress. It compared proposed cleanup budgets to its long-standing Statement of Principles (see pages 6 and 7) and issued a “report card” of cleanup progress in relation to these principles. As in its advice on contracting, the Board emphasized the need to prioritize and fund work in compliance with the Tri-Party Agreement. The Board also expressed its concern regarding the outyear budget status of the Tank Waste Treatment Project, the need for a realistic and

defensible baseline for construction of the vitrification plant, and the completion of the tank waste treatment mission at Hanford.

## **Public Involvement Advice**

Public involvement and communications issues are consistently of interest to the Hanford Advisory Board. In 2001, the Board adopted advice to assist in the revision of the Tri-Party Agreement Community Relations Plan. It also developed a public involvement white paper that outlined 10 major goals and evaluation criteria for public involvement.

## Board Work in 2001

The white paper, distributed to the Tri-Party agencies, assessed existing mechanisms for public involvement at Hanford based on an inventory of activities from the Tri-Party agencies, the State of Oregon Office of Energy, and Heart of America Northwest, an interest group represented on the Hanford Advisory Board.

### Health/Safety Advice

The Board continued to emphasize its interest and concern for Hanford workers through two pieces of advice concerning the health, safety, and dignity of the workforce in the face of contractor downsizing and layoffs and

adequate funding for the site's major training facility, the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response Training and Education Center (HAMMER).

### Other Advice

Two additional pieces of advice were adopted regarding concerns about expansion of the low-level waste burial grounds prior to the release of the Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement and the importance of accomplishing cleanup of the historic B Reactor in ways that do not preclude future uses as a museum or interpretive center.





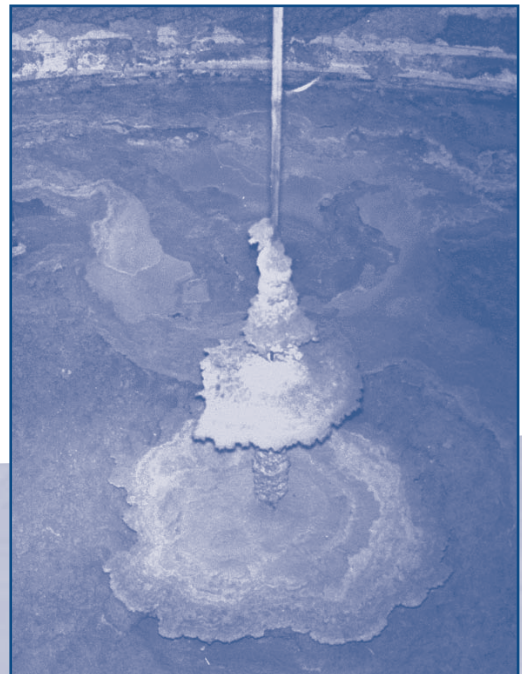
In September 2001, the Tri-Party Agreement agencies identified nine major issues representing significant areas of discussion and work concerning Hanford cleanup. The agencies offered the list in an attempt to be more proactive in communicating agency needs for Board input over the coming months. The major issue areas identified were:

1. Central Plateau End States,
2. River Corridor/Hanford 2012 Negotiations,
3. Ecological and Baseline Risk Requirements,
4. Canyon Disposition Initiative,
5. Groundwater Issues,
6. Public Involvement,
7. Integrated Safety Management System,
8. Long-Term Stewardship, and
9. Tank Waste.

In late 2001, the Board created and sponsored the ad hoc Exposure Scenarios Task Force to begin to address the issues of Central Plateau End States, River Corridor/Hanford 2012 Negotiations, and Ecological and Baseline Risk Assessments. This task force will promote a broad discussion of stakeholder values concerning these issues. It will include representatives from organizations outside the Hanford Advisory Board.

The remaining six issue areas have been added to the work plans of the various Board committees. Work on these issues will continue in 2002 through the efforts of issue managers, committee work, and full Board discussions.

In addition, the Board has a tradition of devoting significant portions of two of its six to eight meetings per year to a review of Hanford cleanup progress under the Tri-Party Agreement. The Board looks forward to these semiannual discussions with senior and program managers from the agencies to track progress and identify additional areas in which Board work and advice may be of use in supporting Hanford cleanup.



## Current HAB Members & Alternates

### Seat

### Member

### Alternate

### Local Government Interests

Benton County	Kenneth Bracken	Dennis Newland
Benton-Franklin Council of Governments	Robert Larson	Wanda Munn
City of Kennewick	Abe Greenberg	Jim Hagar
City of Pasco	Charles Kilbury	Joe Jackson
City of Richland	Pam Brown	Maynard Plahuta
City of West Richland	Jerry Peltier	Stan Stave
Grant & Franklin Counties	Jim Curdy	Art Tackett

### Local Business Interests

Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council	Harold Heacock	David Watrous
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### Hanford Work Force

Central Washington Building Trades Council	Richard Berglund	Dave Smith
Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council	Thomas Schaffer	Keith Smith
Non-Union, Non-Management Employees (2)	Jeffrey Luke	Gariann Gelston
	Susan Leckband	Frederick Roeck
Government Accountability Project	Tom Carpenter	Norm Buske

### Local Environmental Interests

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society & Columbia River Conservation League	Victor Moore	Rick Leaumont
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### Regional Citizen, Environmental and Public Interest Organizations

Columbia Riverkeeper	Greg deBruler	Robert King
		Steve White
Hanford Watch	Paige Knight	Robin Klein
Heart of America Northwest	Gerald Pollet	David Johnson
		Amber Waldref
Washington League of Women Voters	Betty Tabutt	Madeleine Brown
Citizens for a Clean Eastern Washington	Dr. Mark Beck	Dr. Susan Babilon
		Cindy Meyer

### Local and Regional Public Health

Benton-Franklin Public Health	Dr. Margery Swint	Dr. Ross Ronish
		Dr. Larry Jecha
Physicians for Social Responsibility	Dr. Jim Trombold	Dr. Richard Belsey
		Charles Weems

# Meet the Hanford Advisory Board

## Seat

## Member

## Alternate

### Tribal Governments

Nez Perce Tribe

Patrick Sobotta

John Stanfill  
Rebecca Williams  
Kriste Baptiste-Elk  
Wade Riggsbee  
David Rowland

Yakama Nation

Russell Jim

### State of Oregon

Oregon Hanford Waste Board  
Oregon Office of Energy

Shelley Cimon  
Doug Huston

Norm Dyer  
Ken Niles  
Sue Safford  
Susan Coburn-Hughs  
Deanna Henry

### University

University of Washington

Dr. Tim Takaro

Dr. David Stensel  
Dr. Joel Massman  
Antone Brooks

Washington State University

Dr. James Cochran

### Public At Large

Norma Jean Germond  
Gordon Rogers

Todd Martin  
Martin Bensky  
George Jansen, Jr.  
Daniel Simpson

Leon Swenson  
David Cortinas

### Ex-officio Representatives

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Michael Farrow

Joseph Richards  
Jeff Van Pelt  
Debra McBaugh  
Allen Conklin  
Susan May

Washington State Department of Health

John Erickson

U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office

Wade Ballard

U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection

Steve Wiegman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Michael Gearheard

Dennis Faulk  
Max Power

Washington State Department of Ecology

Michael Wilson

### Members and Alternates Who Resigned in Calendar Year 2001

Stuart Harris  
Gary Miller  
Victor Moore  
Merilyn Reeves

Mary Lou Blazek  
Erin Jezioroski  
Dennis Newland  
Rebecca Williams

# For More Information

## Who to Contact about the Hanford Advisory Board:

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Yvonne Sherman  
U.S. Department of Energy  
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Richland, WA 99352  
(509) 376-6216

## Additional Written Information

Additional information about the Hanford Advisory Board is available. If you would like to receive a copy of any of the following or additional copies of this report, you can contact Tammie Holm, Envirolssues, (509) 942-1906. You can also find information on the Board on its Internet Web page:

<http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/index.htm>

- Hanford in Context: Public Principles Guide New Mission
- Advice Adopted by the Hanford Advisory Board
- Hanford Advisory Board Charter and Operating Ground Rules
- Site Specific Advisory Board Charter
- Hanford Advisory Board Strategic Planning Workshop Report, May 1996
- Future Site Uses Working Group Report, December 1992
- Tank Waste Task Force Report, July 1993

## Where to Find More Information About the Hanford Advisory Board

### Hanford Public Information Repositories

#### **Portland**

Portland State University  
Branford Price Millar Library  
Science and Engineering Floor  
934 SW Harrison and Park  
Portland, OR 97202-1151  
(503) 725-3690

#### **Seattle**

University of Washington  
Suzzallo Library  
Government Publications Room  
Seattle, WA 98195  
(206) 543-4664  
Attention: Eleanor Chase

#### **Richland**

DOE Public Reading Room  
2700 University Drive  
CIC, Room 101 L  
Richland, WA 99352  
(509) 372-7443  
Attention: Terri Traub

#### **Spokane**

Gonzaga University  
Foley Center  
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Spokane, WA 99258  
(509) 323-6525  
Attention: Tim Carter