

Introduction to the risks at Hanford

The U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site covers 586 square miles of desert in south central Washington. The Columbia River flows through the northern and eastern sections of the site and then forms a border between Oregon and Washington. Hanford is about 30 miles north of Umatilla, Oregon.



For more than 40 years, Hanford produced plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons.

With the end of the Cold War, Hanford's mission changed from plutonium production to site cleanup. Hanford is the most contaminated site in the country. Cleaning up the Site will take at least 30 years.

In the meantime, a fire, an explosion, or other accident involving any of Hanford's underground waste storage tanks or plutonium manufacturing or storage facilities could result in the release of radioactive materials to the environment. This could endanger the public, the Columbia River, the region's natural resources and the Northwest economy.

Also located on the Hanford Site is the region's only operating commercial nuclear power plant. The Columbia Generating Station (CGS) is a 1150 megawatt boiling

water reactor owned and operated by Energy Northwest. CGS produces about 10 percent of our region's electrical power. An accident at CGS could also result in the release of radioactive materials into the environment.



Purpose of this pamphlet

The Oregon Department of Energy prepared this pamphlet to provide guidance to Oregonians in the event of a radiological emergency at one of Hanford's facilities or CGS. The Oregon Department of Energy is responsible for planning and responding to radiological emergencies that impact the state and its citizens. This pamphlet explains:

- Why we may need to protect the public.
- Where to get emergency information and instructions.
- What actions people can take to protect themselves, their families, agricultural products, livestock, and pets.
- How to get compensated for economic loss as a result of a Hanford or CGS emergency

This information, along with instructions from state and local officials during an emergency, will help minimize the impacts to Oregon residents, the Columbia River, the region's natural resources and the Northwest economy.

Planning basis

There are two emergency planning zones at Hanford and CGS. They include:

Plume Zone (10 miles) — In the event of a radiological emergency, the primary hazard for residents living within 10 miles of Hanford or CGS is direct exposure to radiation. Emergency plans provide steps to minimize or prevent direct exposure to radiation if radioactive materials are

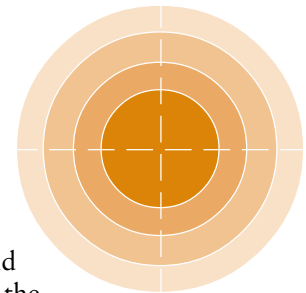
released to the environment.

Ingestion Zone (50 miles) — The primary concern for people living within 50 miles of Hanford or CGS is consuming potentially contaminated agricultural products or water. This includes, but is not limited to, processed foods, fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, and open water sources.

Emergency information

In the event of a Hanford or CGS emergency, state and local emergency response organizations would identify affected areas and recommend protective actions for people who live or work in these areas. Affected residents within 10 miles would be notified by tone alert radios, telephone notification, sirens or Emergency Alert System messages.

Residents within 50 miles would be informed primarily by local radio and television news stations. Throughout the emergency, state and local officials would provide information to the news media on a regular basis. This information would contain the most current status report on the emergency and actions people can take to protect their families and property. The Oregon Department of Energy will activate phone teams to address public concerns and questions. The agency will broadcast a phone number for citizens to call to receive official information on the status of the emergency.



Protective actions

If radiation contamination reaches the area where you live, do not eat or sell any fresh food products, drink milk or drink water from open water sources until emergency officials declare it safe to do so. If time allows, any of the following actions would help protect your property and the food supply.

Fruits and Vegetables

- Stop all harvesting of crops. Fruits or vegetables picked at the time the emergency was declared should be removed from the field and placed in an enclosed storage area.
- Do not process or distribute fruits or vegetables until the products have been confirmed free of contamination.
- Always wash, scrub, or peel fresh fruits and vegetables purchased from the grocery store. Do not eat fruits or vegetables from your garden until your location has been officially declared safe.



Livestock and Pets

- As much as is practical, provide shelter for all livestock and pets.
- Cover feed and open water sources such as water troughs.
- Remove livestock from pasture and provide feed from a protected source. This could be feed covered earlier, protected silage, or hay from inside the stack.
- Do not use fresh milk from dairy animals, eggs from poultry, or slaughter any livestock



until your location has been confirmed free of contamination by state or local officials. (Milk processed before the emergency occurred is considered

- unaffected and can be sold.)
- Do not move or harvest beehives in the affected areas. Officials will sample and test the beehives for possible contamination.
- Do not attempt to market or transport livestock or livestock products until your location is confirmed safe and free of contamination.

General Information

- Confirmation that an affected area or crop is free of contamination will be determined by official sampling and laboratory analysis.
- Listen to your local radio or television news station for more information.

Compensation

A radiological emergency may result in additional living expenses, loss of farm or business income, or physical or property damage. The federal government requires that nuclear facilities compensate the public for economic loss caused by a radiological accident.

In the event of a Hanford or CGS emergency, the following information would be provided to help Oregonians:

- Find available assistance programs.
- Take necessary steps to get assistance.
- Take necessary steps to file a claim for damages or loss.

For More Information

To learn more about Oregon's Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Program, contact the Oregon Department of Energy or your local emergency management office.

Oregon Department of Energy

625 Marion Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-3737
1-800-221-8035 in Oregon
(503) 378-4040
www.energy.state.or.us

Morrow County Emergency Management

325 Willow View Drive, Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 676-5161

Umatilla County Emergency Management

4700 NW Pioneer Place, Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 966-3700



Hanford Emergency Preparedness in Oregon

