

The Nuclear Safety Division of the Oregon Office of Energy is responsible primarily for overseeing Oregon's interests in the cleanup of the Hanford site in southeast

Washington. One of the division's main goals is to protect the Columbia River from chemical and radioactive releases from that site. The

Nuclear Safety Division is also responsible for:

- ▲ The safe transport of radioactive material in and through Oregon
- ▲ Emergency preparedness for a nuclear accident at Hanford, Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station, or at Trojan



Inspection of a radioactive materials shipment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Oregon Office of Energy can provide you with detailed information on its nuclear safety activities. Please call, write or visit our Web site. Materials available include:

- ▲ Cleaning Up Hanford's Nuclear Weapons Waste (fact sheet)
- ▲ Naval Nuclear Reactor Compartment Shipments on the Columbia River (fact sheet)
- ▲ Protecting the Columbia River: The Hanford Cleanup (nine-minute video)
- ▲ The First 10 Years of Hanford Cleanup (report)



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Oregon Nuclear Safety Division

Protecting Oregon's

- ▲ People
- ▲ Environment
- ▲ Economy

from the impacts of
nuclear waste



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The accumulation of nuclear waste at Hanford in southeast Washington poses a serious threat to public health and safety. The Oregon Office of Energy's Nuclear Safety Division leads Oregon's efforts to see that the waste is safely cleaned up, transported and stored.

Hanford contains more nuclear waste than any other site in the United States. Oregon has a big stake in what happens at Hanford because the site is located on the Columbia River just 35 miles from the Oregon border. It is our role to help make sure the federal government carries out its responsibility to clean up Hanford. The Nuclear Safety staff focuses on:

- ▲ Ensuring the safe, permanent disposal of waste stored in huge underground storage tanks
- ▲ Ensuring the safe removal and storage of used nuclear fuel from two aging basins near the Columbia River
- ▲ Ensuring the safe transport of radioactive materials to and from Hanford



Hanford reactor near the Columbia River

To accomplish this, staff members from the Nuclear Safety Division are directly involved with many activities and organizations at or associated with Hanford. These include membership on the Hanford Advisory Board and lead work on the Hanford Natural Resources Trustee Council. We work directly with emergency response agencies in Oregon to provide training and other assistance in preparing nuclear emergency response plans. We also meet regularly with Hanford regulators and representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy to ensure that Oregon's views and concerns are heard and understood.

The Nuclear Safety Division provides staff services to the Oregon Hanford Waste Board. This board was created by the 1987 Oregon Legislature to represent the state and protect Oregon's interests in the cleanup of Hanford. The board includes 10 citizen members, one Governor's representative, two state agency representatives, six state legislators and one representative from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The board serves as a policy forum for developing the state's positions on Hanford with a focus on protecting the Columbia River.

A critical element in cleaning up Hanford is making sure there is adequate federal funding. Otherwise, the cleanup schedule agreed to by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Washington will be delayed and the waste will continue to threaten public health and safety.

TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Oregon Office of Energy's Nuclear Safety Division regulates the transport of radioactive materials in and through Oregon. The division provides emergency response training and shipment information to local police and fire agencies. The division also works with other western states to coordinate planning for major radioactive shipment campaigns.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Nuclear Safety Division keeps Oregon ready to respond to a nuclear emergency at the Energy Northwest and U.S. Department of Energy facilities at the Hanford site and the closed Trojan Nuclear Plant near Rainier, Oregon.

The risk of a Hanford accident affecting Oregon is low, but the state has response plans in place because the consequences of an accident could be severe — especially in the northern parts of Umatilla and Morrow counties. An accident could contaminate the air, food and water in those counties and could affect agriculture, recreation and the region's economy in general. The division works with the counties, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the state of Washington and the U.S. Department of Energy to continually refine and test a coordinated response to a Hanford emergency.

The Trojan Nuclear Plant, located on the bank of the Columbia River, is in the final stages of being decommissioned. However, Trojan's spent nuclear fuel must be stored on site until the federal government opens a permanent repository. An accident with the spent fuel at most would result in a small release of radioactive materials. The division assists with overseeing the storage of Trojan's used fuel at the plant, radioactive waste shipments from the plant and emergency planning.