

# Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities

## November 1, 2006

### Purpose

A key goal of public involvement is to obtain stakeholder perspectives on issues affecting the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) and to facilitate broad-based participation in the Hanford Site decision-making process. The TPA Agencies, U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), believe public involvement is essential to the success of Hanford Site cleanup.

The purpose of the Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities document is to provide on a quarterly basis an overview of anticipated public involvement opportunities for the coming months. It identifies the current forums and emerging opportunities to inform and involve stakeholders and the public. Stakeholders are described as individuals who see themselves affected by and/or have an interest in issues. They commit time and energy to participate in decisions. Hanford stakeholders include: local governments, local and regional businesses, Hanford workforce, local and regional environmental interests, local and regional public health organizations. The general public is comprised of those individuals who are aware of but may choose not to be involved in decisions. It is the responsibility of the agencies to provide the public with meaningful information on upcoming decisions so they can choose whether or not to become involved in Hanford decisions.

### Hanford Site Public Meetings/Forums

#### **Hanford Site Public Meetings/Forums**

The Tri-Party Agencies will conduct a series of regional public meetings/forums throughout CY 2006. Agency leadership from the U.S. Department of Energy's two Hanford field offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 office and the Washington State Department of Ecology will meet with interested groups and the public throughout the region to discuss the current status of Hanford cleanup activities and the challenges for the future.

#### Public Involvement/Outreach Activities:

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Forum 2006 (participant)	November 8, 2006
Tri-Cities Realtors Association – Presentation and Discussion on Hanford Cleanup	October, 2006
Hanford Communities – Presentation and Discussion on Groundwater Technologies	October, 2006
Tri-City Chamber of Commerce – Status of the Hanford Cleanup	July, 2006

Contacts: Karen Lutz, USDOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766; Erik Olds, USDOE Office of River Protection, (509) 372-0656; Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 376-8631; Nolan Curtis, Ecology, (509) 372-7954.

## Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review

U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is in the process of completing the second Hanford Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review. The first CERCLA Five-Year Review was done in 2001 by the EPA. This review looked at some of the cleanup work done at the Hanford site to see if those actions continue to be protective of the public, site workers and the environment.

### Public Involvement Activities:

Public Workshop was held December 7, 2005.

Information Draft Report issue/consultations with Tribes, ODOE and HAB

Outreach activities on draft report:

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board

March 29, 2006

Hanford Advisory Board River and Plateau Committee Meeting

May 10, 2006

Portland, Oregon

May 23, 2006

Hood River, Oregon

May 24, 2006

Public Comment Period:

May 8 – June 15, 2006

**Anticipated Release of Final Document**

**November 2006**

Contact: Karen Lutz, USDOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766. For more information visit the CERCLA Five-Year Review webpage at <http://www.hanford.gov/?page=182&parent=0>

## Hanford State of the Site Meetings

The fifth annual Hanford State of the Site meetings will occur in October and November 2006. Four regional meetings will be held. The purpose of these meetings is for decision makers from the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to share the most current Hanford cleanup and budget priority information and hear the public's priorities and concerns. This year there will be an opportunity for other organizations involved and/or interested in Hanford issues to provide information during the first meeting hour. The remainder of the meeting will focus on the decision makers hearing from the public.

### Public Involvement Activities:

October 17, 2006 Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

October 18, 2006 Seattle Center, Seattle, WA 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

November 1, 2006 Best Western Hood River Inn, Hood River, OR 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

November 14, 2006 Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane, WA; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Karen Lutz, USDOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766; Erik Olds, USDOE Office of River Protection, (509) 372-0656; Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 376-8631; Nolan Curtis, Ecology, (509) 372-7954.

## Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant 2+2 Melter Configuration Permit Modification

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is seeking public comment on a permit modification for Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) melter configuration. The permit modification change Attachment 51 of the Dangerous Waste portion of the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit as follows:

- The melter configuration would change from one high-level waste (HLW) melter and three low-activity waste (LAW) melters to two HLW and two LAW melters.

- The permit would include detailed designs for the HLW melters.
- The permit would include secondary containment calculations for the pretreatment facility.

Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Period: October 9 - November 27, 2006  
 Public Hearing November 9, 2006

Contact: Madeleine Brown, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 372-7936

**Proposed Tri-Party Agreement Changes to the 200 Area Non-Tank Farm Waste Site and Groundwater Remediation Milestones (M-15)**

The U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE), the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are proposing changes to the milestones for completing the CERCLA Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) or RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures (RFI/CMS) process for 200 Area non-tank farm operable units.

The proposed changes:

- provide for additional waste site and groundwater characterization to be performed prior to making cleanup decisions, extending the date for two major milestones, M-015-00 and M-015-00C, by three years (from 12/31/2008 to 12/31/2011)
- include the addition of a milestone to develop a Treatability Test Plan for identifying potential technologies to address deep vadose contaminants
- require within 180 days of Record of Decision (ROD) signature, or an alternative period designated in the ROD, a Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) work plan, including a schedule with a milestone change package, be submitted for lead regulatory agency review and approval.

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: October 23 – December 7, 2006

Contact: Karen Lutz, US Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766

**Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in the Federal Register February 2, 2006 its intent to prepare the *Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington* (TC & WM EIS).

In addition to the analysis of alternatives that is currently being conducted for the preparation of the *EIS for Retrieval, Treatment and Disposal of Tank Waste and Closure of the Single-Shell Tanks at the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington* (TC EIS), the TC & WM EIS will also address concerns regarding the analyses of Hanford’s solid waste management operations conducted for the *Final Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS, Richland, Washington* (HSW EIS). These concerns were the subject of a recent Settlement Agreement among DOE, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the State of Washington Attorney General’s office.

To implement the Settlement Agreement, the TC & WM EIS will provide a single, integrated analysis of groundwater at Hanford for all waste types addressed in the HSW EIS and the TC EIS. In order to provide an integrated presentation of currently foreseeable activities related to waste management and cleanup at Hanford, DOE plans to include the ongoing *Fast Flux Test Facility Decommissioning EIS* (FFTF EIS) in the scope of the new TC & WM EIS. A scoping comment period was held from February 2 - April 10, 2006.

Public Involvement Activities: TBD

Contact: Mary Beth Burandt, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection, (509) 373-9160

## Ongoing Activities

### Monthly Groundwater Remediation Open Meetings

Groundwater Remediation Project Monthly Open Meetings are held in the Fluor Building, 1200 Jadwin Ave., Richland, WA, First Floor Conf. Room; Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Badging is not required for the location of this meeting.

#### Public Involvement Activities:

Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month

Contact: Barbara Howard, Fluor Hanford Groundwater Remediation Project, (509) 373-3871.

## Upcoming Activities

- **Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF) Permit**

*The Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility stores capsules of cesium chloride and strontium fluoride salts that were removed from Hanford tank wastes. WESF has operated since 1974 and began mixed waste activities in 1997. The Washington State Department of Ecology will seek public comment on a draft permit modification to add WESF to the site-wide permit.*

#### Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: Fall 2006

Contact: Ginger Wireman, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 372-7935

- **100 Area and 300 Area Component of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment**

*The Department of Energy (DOE) Richland Operations Office and Washington Closure Hanford will hold workshops for the 100 and 300 Area Component of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment (RCBRA). The objective of the RCBRA is to assess the risk to human and ecological receptors using the river corridor. The purpose of these workshops is to solicit input, maintain an active dialog on the risk assessment approaches and seek ways to share project data with interested participants during the development of the risk assessment.*

#### Public Involvement Activities

Workshops:

September 20 (Data summary)

October 18 (Human health and ecological risk assessment methodology- specifically focused on data)

November 15 (Data teleconference - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.)

December 14 (Methodology teleconference - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.)

January 17, 2007 (Complete data set and Guided Interactive Statistical Decision Tools (GiSdT) interface)

Meeting logistics are available at: <http://www.hanford.gov/public/calendar/>

Contact: Karen Lutz, US Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766

- **RCRA Sitewide Permit**

*The Washington State Department of Ecology is preparing to submit revision 9 of the sitewide permit for public review.*

*This is the overarching RCRA permit under which Hanford operates its treatment, storage, and disposal activities for dangerous wastes. The comment period will be 60 days to allow public review of the extensive changes to this very substantial permit. Hanford's sitewide permit consists of the main body and the completed unit-specific portions. The new revision contains all changes in the past ten years. It also brings all regulation requirements up to date.*

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: March 2007

Contact: Madeleine Brown, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 372-7936

- **222-S Dangerous and Mixed Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Unit**

*The Department of Ecology is preparing a draft permit for the waste management areas of the 222-S Laboratory. Just south of the REDOX canyon building on the south end of Hanford's 200 West Area, the laboratory began operations in 1951. The lab's new name is 222-S Dangerous and Mixed Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Unit. This name reflects the fact that only part of the lab is subject to permitting.*

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: Spring 2007

Contact: Madeleine Brown, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 372-7936

- **Groundwater Project Management Plan (PMP)**

*The Groundwater PMP will be issued in March, 2007. This document describes the consolidation of groundwater modeling across the Hanford Site, the coordination of the groundwater and vadose zone activities under the Groundwater Remediation Project, and the integration of the groundwater, vadose zone, and source area cleanup decisions. The objective of the document is to provide information on DOE's commitment to centralize and strengthen the responsibility for groundwater and vadose zone cleanup under the RL Groundwater Remediation Project. .*

Public Involvement Activities:

Consultation with Tribes and feedback from ODOE and HAB on Draft Report

Contact: Karen Lutz, US Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766

- **Plutonium Finishing Plant Sub-grade Structures Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)**

*This Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) supports the CERCLA removal action activities for the contaminated Plutonium Finishing Plant sub-grade structures (i.e., building slabs, vaults, pipe tunnels, ductwork and diversion boxes) and installations (i.e., buried pipelines, French drains, injections wells and unknown releases).*

Public Involvement Activities:

Public Comment Period Winter-Spring 2007

Contact: Karen Lutz, US Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766

## Completed Activities

### **Proposed Changes to the M-89-00 Tri-Party Agreement Milestone**

Public comment period: January 17 – March 6, 2006

### **Amended 324 Building Closure Plan**

Public comment period: January 17 – March 6, 2006

### **Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping Process**

Scoping Comment Period: February 2 - April 10, 2006

#### Public Scoping Meetings:

Seattle, Washington	March 21, 2006
Portland, Oregon	March 22, 2006
Hood River, Oregon	March 23, 2006
Pasco, Washington	March 28, 2006

#### **Overview of Public Scoping Meetings**

Approximately 200 participants attended the four meetings. Some stakeholders agreed with the EIS's integrated approach to analyzing waste management activities at the Site, while others expressed concern about the EIS becoming unwieldy – the “mother of all EISs.” Still others speakers noted that the Tank Closure EIS has taken a long time (in progress since 2003), while a different view recommended DOE take as long as necessary to produce a high quality document. Stakeholders strongly agreed that DOE should not repeat the mistakes made in the Solid Waste EIS.

#### Major Comment Themes:

In formal statements, meeting participants expressed concerns about DOE's future cleanup plans at the Hanford Site and the need to complete the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant being constructed to vitrify high-level radioactive waste from the 177 underground storage tanks. Commenter's also conveyed specific technical opinions about the analytic aspects of the EIS, including a concern that appropriate populations be addressed.

In addition to a wide variety of comments and perspectives, several common themes emerged from all four meetings:

- The EIS should provide the public a comprehensive analysis of all of the existing and potential sources of contamination in a readily understandable way.
- Independent experts should perform the EIS analyses.
- The EIS scope should not include disposal of off-site low-level and mixed low-level waste at Hanford.
- The EIS scope should include 100% cleanup of the site, including waste currently buried in existing disposal facilities.
- The EIS scope should not include an alternative for retrieving less than 99% of the tank waste, consistent with DOE's Tri-Party Agreement with Ecology and EPA.

#### **Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Sodium Residuals Reaction/Removal and Other Deactivation Work Activities, Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF)**

Public Comment Period: February 15 – March 17, 2006

A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued.

#### **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the 300 Area (324/327)**

Public Comment Period: February 27 – April 3, 2006

**Budget Workshop/Regional Forums for FY 2008 Hanford Budget Process**

Public Comment Period March 27 – June 2, 2006

Richland Budget Public Workshop: March 27, 2006

Agency Budget local/regional outreach

- Hanford Communities March 24, 2006
- Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board March 28, 2006
  - Hood River
    - Hood River Chamber of Commerce March 29, 2006
    - The Dalles Governmental Affairs Committee March 30, 2006
  - Seattle Budget Discussion May 9, 2006
  - University of Washington (Geography class) April 12, 2006
  - Government Accountability Project April 12, 2006
  - Farming & the Environment April 12, 2006
  - Sierra Club April 13, 2006
    - Portland Budget and Hanford Waste Tank Cleanup Discussion June 29, 2006

**Modification to the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit**

Public Comment Period: March 20 – April 21, 2006

**Bremerton Naval Complex Draft Mixed Waste Storage Permit**

Public Comment Period: April 28 - June 12, 2006

**Hanford Site-wide Air Operating Permit Renewal**

Public Comment period: July 10 – August 11, 2006

Public Hearing: July 26, 7:00 PM

**Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the 105-KE and 105-KW Reactor Facilities and Ancillary Facilities**

Public Comment Period: June 19 - July 19, 2006.

**Hanford Site Air Operating Permit: 100-K Area Significant Modification**

Public Comment Period: July 17 - August 18, 2006

**Proposed Amendment to the Environmental Restoration Facility Disposal Record of Decision**

Public Comment Period: August 28, 2006 - September 26, 2006

**300 Area Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis**

Public Comment Period: August 28 – September 29, 2006

**Removal of Eleven 300 Area Hanford Site Facilities from the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit**

Public Comment Period: August 28, 2006 – October 13, 2006

**331-C Storage Unit Operating Permit**

Public Comment Period: August 28 to October 20, 2006