

Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities

September 6, 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

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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 Activities:

TBD

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), in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has initiated 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 is lead by the USDOE and will look 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.

The scope of this review is limited only to operable units listed as past practice units under CERCLA. For example:

- **100 Area:** removal of contaminated soil, decontamination and/or demolition of contaminated buildings, treatment of contaminated groundwater, removal of spent nuclear fuel
- **200 Area:** inactive soil disposal sites, inactive facilities, contaminated groundwater and the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility
- **300 Area:** removal of contaminated soil waste sites and debris, treating the material, as appropriate, and disposing of material in an appropriate facility
- **1100 Area:** cleanup completed except for a few hazardous waste areas being managed by caps and institutional controls

This review does not include ongoing waste management activities, active treatment, storage and/or disposal facilities and tank farm operations.

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:

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| 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 |

Status: Due to the numerous in-depth comments received during the public comment period and from the public workshops, USDOE continues to resolve comments and identify revisions to the document.

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>

Proposed Amendment to the Environmental Restoration Facility Disposal Record of Decision

The US Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Energy are seeking public input on the Proposed Plan for an Amendment to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) Record of Decision. The proposed amendment would authorize the disposal of specific Hanford-only waste that are not covered in other existing Hanford agreements for treatment and/or disposal at ERDF. Some examples of Hanford-only waste that are addressed in this document include waste from surveillance and maintenance at Hanford facilities, environmental research and development activities, sample analyses, liquid effluent waste treatment and environmental monitoring programs.

Public Involvement Activities:

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

Contact: David Einan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (509) 376-3883

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

The Washington State Department of Ecology seeks public input on a significant modification to the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit (AOP). The proposed changes will remove ten 300 Area facilities on the Hanford Site from the AOP. These facilities are currently permitted by 17 radionuclide, toxic, or criteria air pollutant permits within the AOP. As facility operations and the need for AOP permitting end, the AOP would no longer regulate the emissions from the facilities. It is proposed that the buildings will undergo deactivation, decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition (D4). Emissions and monitoring associated with the D4 activities will be regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The facilities to be removed from the AOP are identified as Buildings 318, 320, 323, 325, 326, 329, 331, 340, 3730, and MO-423. These buildings, respectively, are the laboratories for Radiological Calibrations, Physical Sciences, Mechanical Properties, Radiochemical Processing, Material Science, Chemical Sciences, and Life Sciences, in addition to the Waste Neutralization, Gamma Irradiation, and Radiological Counting facilities.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public Comment Period: August 28, 2006 - September 29, 2006

Contact: Tanya Williams, Washington State Department of Ecology, (509) 372-7883

300 Area Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have issued the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) #3 for the 300 Area for public review and comment. The 30-day public comment period will run from August 28 through September 29, 2006. The 300 Area was constructed and operated as a reactor fuel fabrication and laboratory complex. This EE/CA evaluates three removal action alternatives for the disposition of approximately 145 facilities (buildings and structures) primarily located in the southern portion of the 300 Area of the Hanford Site. USDOE has determined these facilities have no further use beyond the current mission.

Public Involvement Activities:

Public Comment Period: August 28 – September 29, 2006

Contact: Rudy Guercia, U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-5494

331-C Storage Unit Operating Permit

The Washington State Department of Ecology is holding a public comment on a dangerous waste permit for the Hanford Site's 331-C Storage Unit. The public comment period runs from August 28 through October 20, 2006.

The 331-C Storage Unit is a dangerous waste storage unit owned and operated by the U.S. Department of Energy and co-operated by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The unit is used for the collection, consolidation, and packaging of dangerous waste in lab packs or 55-gallon drums. Waste is then stored or prepared for transport and disposal. When a sufficient number of shipping containers of waste accumulate, waste manifests are prepared, and waste is shipped to permitted off-site recycling, treatment, or disposal facilities.

The 331-C Storage Unit activities replace the functions of the 305-B Dangerous and Mixed Waste Unit. Ecology found, that the TA was necessary to facilitate timely closure of the 305-B Dangerous and Mixed Waste Storage Facility. We are allowing the coordination of closure activities at the 305-B Facility with the surrounding 300 Area removal actions where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the regulator. This TA facilitates the timely and cost effective remediation of the 300 Area while reducing the potential impacts to the health and safety of 305-B Facility employees.

Public Involvement Activities:

Comment Period: August 28 to October 20, 2006

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

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:

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|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| October 17, 2006 | Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA | 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| October 18, 2006 | Seattle Center, Seattle, WA | 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. |
| November 1, 2006 | Best Western Hood River Inn, Hood River, OR | 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. |
| November 14, 2006 | Spokane, WA; location TBD | 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 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.

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

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.

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:

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|---------------------|----------------|
| 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

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

- **WTP Modification (2 + 2)**

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will seek public comment on a permit modification for Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) melter configuration from three low-activity waste (LAW)/one high-level waste (HLW) melters to two LAW and two HLW.

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: October 2- November 17, 2006

Public Hearing: November 9, 2006

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

- **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)

December 13 (Methodology teleconference)

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

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

- **Tri-Party Agreement M-15 Draft Change Package**

The Tri-Party agencies will hold a 45-day public comment period on the draft TPA M-15 change package. The proposed changes revise the Tri-Party Agreement milestones for completing the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) process for 200 Area (Central Plateau) non-tank farm operable units to allow additional site characterization be completed before making Central Plateau cleanup decisions.

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: Mid October – December, 2006 (tentative)

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