

Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities

May 31, 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; Tim Hill, Ecology, (509) 372-7908.

Budget Workshop/Regional Forums for FY 2008 Hanford Budget Process

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies will seek public input and values for consideration into the development of the FY 2008 Budget submittal to DOE HQ.

Public Involvement Activities:

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
▪ Seattle Outreach	
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
Public Comment Period	March 27 – June 2, 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. For more information visit the Hanford Site Budget webpage at <http://www.hanford.gov/?page=215&parent=0>

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:
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

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>

Bremerton Naval Complex Draft Mixed Waste Storage Permit

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) seeks comment on the draft Hazardous Waste Management Act permit for the U.S. Navy's Mixed Waste Storage Facility at the Bremerton Naval Complex (BNC) located in Bremerton, Washington. The U.S. Navy is currently storing mixed waste on an interim status under the Washington State Hazardous Waste Management Act. The draft permit sets requirements for storing waste more than 90 days. The draft permit requires the U.S. Navy to continue to store waste according to state requirements, which include conditions for the management, storage, and preparation of waste for off-site treatment and disposal.

Public Involvement Activities:

Comment period: April 28 - June 12, 2006

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

Hanford Site-wide Air Operating Permit Renewal

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is considering the renewal of the Hanford Site-wide Air Operating Permit (AOP). Air emissions throughout the Hanford Site are regulated under the AOP. A draft permit will be issued for comment in early July.

Public Involvement Activities:

Comment period: July 10 – August 9 (tentative)
Public Hearing: July 26, 6:00 PM (tentative)
Nuclear Waste Program Office
3100 Port of Benton Blvd. Richland WA

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

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

The Washington State Department of Ecology seeks input on the removal of three 100-K Area facilities of the Hanford Site from the Air Operating Permit (AOP). The AOP will no longer regulate the emissions from the facilities. As the building operations end, they will undergo deactivation, decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition. The emissions will be regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: Early July - Early August

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

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, USDOE 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.

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

Completed Activities (continued)

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

Completed Activities (continued)

Modification to the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit

Public Comment Period: March 20 – April 21, 2006

Upcoming Activities

- **Hanford Budget and Tank Waste Cleanup Discussion**

The U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection will host a public meeting on behalf of the Tri-Party Agreement Agencies to discuss and obtain input on the Hanford FY 2008 budget, cleanup priorities and tank waste cleanup June 29, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Oregon State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon, Portland, OR. An Open House will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. followed by the public meeting (6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.).

*Contact: Sharon Braswell
(509) 376-8503*

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: September - October 2006

- **Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility Record of Decision Amendment**

The purpose of the Record of Decision (ROD) amendment is to accommodate the disposal in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) of other Hanford-only wastes, including those from surveillance, maintenance, and deactivation of facilities; research and development; waste storage and treatment activities; infrastructure support; and environmental monitoring programs at Hanford. The document is still in the review process.

At this time, the public comment period has not been scheduled.

- **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.

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

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: Fall 2006

- **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.

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

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: August – September 2006

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

The engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) evaluates options for cleanup and demolition of all remaining Hanford Site 100-K Area Facilities. The Tri-Party Agencies selected interim safe storage of the reactor followed by long-term surveillance and maintenance and eventual deactivation, decontamination, decommissioning and demolition of all facilities as the preferred alternative for the 100-K Area.

Public Involvement Activities

Comment Period: June 19 through July 19, 2006.

- **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the 300 Area (Southern Portion)**

The EE/CA evaluates alternatives for cleanup and demolition of facilities (approximately 145 facilities) at the 300 Area, located at the southern end of the Hanford site (south of Apple Street). The document is still in the review process.

At this time, the public comment period has not been scheduled.

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

The draft TPA change package will revise the Tri-Party Agreement milestones for completing the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) process for several operable units and 200 Area non-tank farms pre-Rod site investigations.

Negotiations have not started. At this time, the public comment period has not been scheduled.