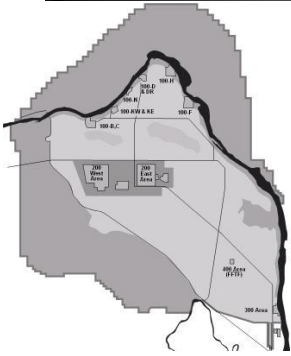


# AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

## Interim Action Environmental Assessment for Closure of Two Hanford Central Plateau Landfills



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) interim action Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts of proposed closure activities for the Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill (NRDWL) and the Solid Waste Landfill (SWL). We want your input!

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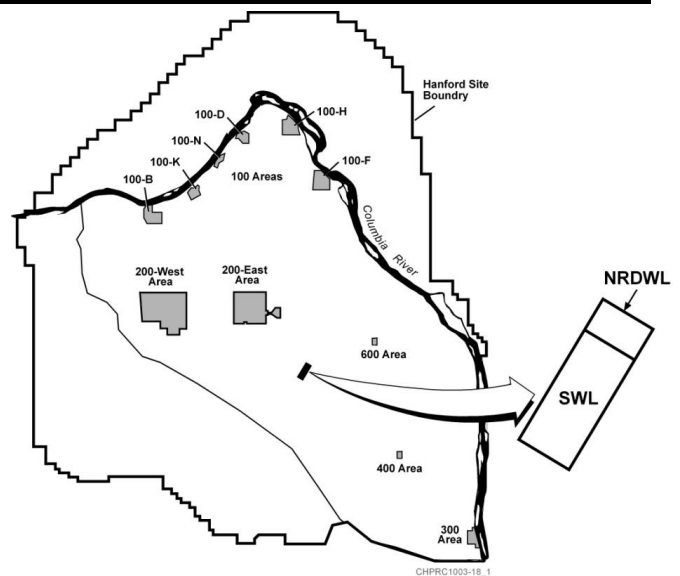
### What is the significance of this document?

DOE is proposing to close two landfills that are no longer operating - the Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill (NRDWL) and the Solid Waste Landfill (SWL). The proposed action is to install an engineered permanent cover (also known as a barrier) over these two landfills. The EA evaluates the environmental impacts of alternatives to implement DOE's proposed action.

### Background

The NRDWL began operations in 1973 as a single landfill called the Central Landfill. In 1975, it was subdivided into two units - the NRDWL and the SWL. NRDWL received chemical waste from 1975 through 1985 and asbestos through May 1988 when all operations ended. The SWL received solid waste such as paper, construction debris, asbestos and lunchroom waste from 1973 through March 1996. It also received slightly over one million gallons of sewage effluent and 100,000 gallons of garage wash water. DOE continues to monitor both landfills for groundwater contamination and soil gas levels since before landfill operations ended.

NRDWL, a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility, would be closed according to the requirements of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303 *Dangerous Waste Regulations*. The SWL, a non-RCRA facility, would be closed according to the requirements of WAC 173-350 *Solid Waste Handling Standards*. Proposed closure activities would focus on installing a permanent cover. The close proximity of NRDWL to SWL would allow both facilities be closed simultaneously, taking advantage of cost and work efficiencies.



The two adjoining non-operating landfills are centrally located within the 600 Area of the Hanford Site. NRDWL, which covers approximately ten acres, received containerized nonradioactive, dangerous waste chemicals and asbestos-containing waste material until it ceased operation in 1988. SWL covers approximately 68 acres and received asbestos-containing material, as well as non-dangerous and nonradioactive solid waste until 1996 when operations ceased. After operations ended, both landfills were covered with an interim cover made up of local native soils that ranged in thickness from 2 to 10 feet.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Interim Action Environmental Assessment public comment period will run from  
May 13 through June 14, 2010



## Interim Action Environmental Assessment

The proposed action (what DOE would like to do) and alternatives analyzed in this interim action EA are referred to as “interim actions” since the landfills are in the scope of the Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management (TC&WM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A comment period on this EIS recently ended. DOE has an opportunity through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to accelerate the closure of these two landfills. DOE prepared and plans to complete this interim action EA before the TC&WM EIS process is complete to take advantage of ARRA funding opportunities and accelerate cleanup.

## Proposed Action and Alternatives

This interim action EA describes DOE’s proposed action and alternatives to implement the proposed action. **The proposed action is to close NRDWL and SWL by installing a final, permanent cover** that will comply with more stringent WAC 173-303 regulations. Both landfills will be monitored long term and include periodic inspections and maintenance of the cover after installation. The fine soil materials used to construct the cover would come from onsite borrow source (Borrow Area C). Proposed closure activities are discussed in two DOE documents (*Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill Closure/Postclosure Plan*, and *Hanford Site Solid Waste Closure Plan*). These documents were submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology to begin their review and approval process.

The three alternatives analyzed are:

- No Action:** The two inactive, non-operating landfills would remain in place with little ongoing maintenance. The No Action Alternative does not meet DOE’s purpose and need to close NRDWL and SWL as described in closure plans submitted to Ecology for approval.
- Partial Removal, Transport and Disposal (RTD):** Removal of all waste material from both landfills and impacted soils up to 10 feet below the waste material (30 feet below land surface). Replacement soil (approximately 2.5 million cubic yards) could be obtained from existing onsite borrow source(s), or potential Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) expansion (i.e., soil removed during ERDF expansion). The replacement fill would be placed in the excavation, compacted and filled to grade; final grade would be restored with native seed source.
- Complete Removal, Transport and Disposal (RTD):** Remove all waste material from both landfills and all potentially contaminated soil from below the surface down to groundwater (120 feet below land surface). Removal would be done in stages. The top 30 feet would be removed as in Partial RTD, then a deep excavation completed to groundwater. All waste material and soil from directly below the landfills would be disposed of at ERDF. Approximately 15 million cubic yards are expected to be disposed of at ERDF. Additional excavated material (approximately 9 million cubic yards) must be removed to maintain slope stability within the mined excavation area. This material would be stockpiled and returned to the excavation as fill. Replacement fill (approximately 15 million cubic yards) would be obtained from existing onsite borrow source and/or assumed ERDF expansion and stockpiled near the excavation, also. Fill material would be placed in the excavation, compacted/filled to grade, then the site restored with native seed source.

## How you can become involved

A 30-day public comment period on the *Interim Action Environmental Assessment for Closures of the Non-Radioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill and Solid Waste Landfill* will run **May 13 – June 14, 2010**. We would like your feedback.

### Please submit comments by June 14, 2010 to:

Douglas H. Chapin  
 NEPA Document Manager  
 NRDWL/SWL EA  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 P.O. Box 550, Mailstop A5-11  
 Richland, Washington 99352  
 Or e-mail:  
[NRDWLSWLEA@rl.gov](mailto:NRDWLSWLEA@rl.gov)

*The final decision process for the cover will be in the closure plans DOE submits to Washington State Department of Ecology for approval. Ecology will hold a 45-day public comment period before making a final decision on the closure plans. The comment period will be this summer.*

*For more information contact Madeleine Brown, 509-376-7936, or [Madeleine.brown@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Madeleine.brown@ecy.wa.gov).*

The *Interim Action Environmental Assessment for Closures of the Non-Radioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill and Solid Waste Landfill (DOE/EA-1707D)* can be viewed electronically at [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov) under Hanford Events Calendar Or call the Hanford Cleanup Line 1-800-321-2008.

The document is also available for review at the Public Information Repositories.

### HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

#### Portland

Portland State University  
 Bradford Price Millar Library  
 934 SW Harrison  
 Attn: Claudia Weston (503) 725-4542  
 Map: <http://www.pdx.edu/map.html>

#### Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room  
 Washington State University, Tri-Cities  
 Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L  
 2770 University Drive  
 Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443  
 Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2axam2>

#### Seattle

University of Washington  
 Suzallo Library  
 Government Publications Division  
 Attn: David Maack (206) 543-4664  
 Map: <http://tinyurl.com/m8ebj>

#### Spokane

Gonzaga University Foley Center  
 East 502 Boone  
 Attn: Linda Pierce (509) 323-3834  
 Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2c6bpm>

#### Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:

**Address:** 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA

**Phone:** 509-376-2530

**Web site address:** <http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/>

**Fact Sheet**

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P.O. 550 MSIN A7-75  
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