

There appears to be some confusion regarding the purpose of the public meetings that the Department of Energy and the Washington State Department of Ecology are holding and the potential importation of Greater Than Class C (GTCC) waste to Hanford. The Preferred Alternative in the Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS <http://www.hanford.gov/homepage/newsarticles/doe/GRP10-004.pdf> is to defer the importation of offsite waste to Hanford at least until the Waste Treatment Plant is operational.

This Preferred Alternative is consistent with the settlement agreement announced by Governor Kulongoski, Governor Gregoire, the Secretary of Energy and others in August. The Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS and the settlement agreement do not address GTCC waste because the EIS for that action is not yet complete and there has been no decision on the disposal of GTCC. Regardless, this waste will not be imported to Hanford for the duration of the moratorium that defers the importation of waste to Hanford until the Waste Treatment Plant is operational.

The meetings that the Department of Energy and Ecology are holding on the proposed Consent Decree and modifications to the Tri-Party Agreement are important, and have nothing to do with GTCC waste disposal. We encourage the public to get the facts about the proposed Consent Decree and changes to the Tri-Party Agreement http://www.hanford.gov/hanford/files/CAL_TPA_Change_Packages.pdf, what those changes mean to Hanford cleanup, and provide us with your feedback.

The Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS will have its own public involvement process, including a comment period and public meetings. We look forward to receiving the public's feedback on this EIS during the public comment period.