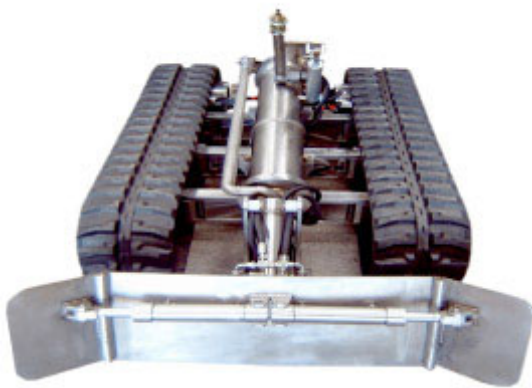




Proposed Schedule Changes Tank Waste Retrieval

New Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones are proposed for removal of waste from several single-shell tanks (SSTs) at Hanford and accelerating the rate for closing specific tanks after the waste has been retrieved. The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of River Protection (USDOE-ORP), the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agencies responsible for Hanford cleanup, want your input on these proposed changes.



This tank crawler was designed to be lowered into Hanford tanks to assist in retrieving waste. The bulldozer-type blade on the front can push waste toward vacuum equipment.

waste from more tanks. Under these draft changes, the high-risk tanks scheduled for retrieval and closure are S-105, S-106, and S-103, beginning September of 2003. Further, a closure component was added to previously planned retrievals of tanks S-112, S-102, and C-104.

This proposed milestone modification also schedules a near-term individual tank closure for tank C-106, requiring retrieval to start in September 2003 and targeting closure for December 2007.

These milestones are set to first test retrieval equipment and then, determine the best way to empty radioactive wastes from the aging, single shelled, underground storage tanks. The information gathered from these retrieval tests and demonstrations will help the agencies in the future, determine, how to deal with the complex wastes in the tanks and assist with further identification of necessary tank closure activities.

In 2000, TPA Milestone 45 (M-45) was modified to set retrieval dates for tanks S-112 and S-102, in the 200 West Area at Hanford; and tank C-104 in the 200 East Area. The approach was intended to prioritize retrieval of the highest-risk tank wastes and close the first tank by 2012.

During recent negotiations, USDOE-ORP and Ecology concentrated on adding a closure component for specific tanks and retrieving high-level



This photo, taken at Hanford's Cold Test facility, shows the tank crawler being lowered into the tank using robotics. Operators can test the equipment, and learn how to use it with this safe mock-up of a tank.

The agencies want your input on these proposed changes. The public comment period runs from October 9 – November 25, 2002. The change packages may be reviewed at the Hanford Information Repositories listed below, and on the Web at: <http://www.hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm>

The Tri-Party Agencies will consider all public comments and input before any changes are made to the TPA. In response to all comments received, a comment and response summary will be sent to all individuals who provided comments, or request a copy and will also be placed in the Hanford Information Repositories and on the TPA Web site: <http://www.hanford.gov/tpa>

To request a public meeting on these proposed changes, please contact Mary Anne Wuennecke at (509)736-3036. To submit a comment, or request a copy of the change package please contact:

Jeff Lyon, TWS Project Manager
Washington State Dept. of Ecology,
1315 W. 4th Av., Kennewick, 99336
(509)736-3098

Woody Russell
USDOE, Office of River Protection
PO Box 450, Mail Stop H6-60
Richland, WA 99336
(509)373-5227

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations

To view the complete M-45 change package, please visit one of these libraries.

PORTLAND:

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
934 Southwest Harrison
Portland, Oregon 97207-1151
Contacts: Michael Bowman (503) 725-3690

RICHLAND:

United States Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive, P.O. Box 999, MS H2-53
Richland, Washington 99352
Contact: Terri Traub (509) 372-7443

SEATTLE:

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
Seattle, Washington 98195
Contact: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

SPOKANE:

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Spokane, Washington 99258
Contact: Stephanie Plowman (509) 323-3839

For information on this or any Hanford Related issue, please call the Hanford Cleanup Line: 1-800-321-2008, for speech or hearing impaired, please dial 711 for assistance.



Hanford workers monitoring storage tanks at one of the tank farms.

Ecology Publication # **02-05-016**

The Department of Ecology is an equal-opportunity agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled-veteran's status, Vietnam-era veteran's status or sexual orientation.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative format, please contact Ginger Wireman at (800)321-2008 (Voice) or 711 or 1-800-877-8973 (TTY).

Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336