



Tri-Party Agreement

**TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS
FOR THE CENTRAL PLATEAU PROJECT**

In accordance with the requirements of the Central Plateau Project Agreement in Principle, the State of Washington, Department of Ecology (Ecology), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) (parties) have concluded negotiations on commitments for cleanup schedules for the Central Plateau 200 Area non-tank farm operable units at the Hanford Site. The scope of the negotiations addressed commitments for the submittal of 200 Area National Priority List (NPL) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plans by December 31, 2005, (Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-013); completion of all 200 Area Non-Tank Farm pre-Record of Decision (ROD) site investigations under approved work plan schedules by December 31, 2008, (Tri-Party Agreement Major Milestone M-015-00C); completion of the remedial actions for all non-Tank Farm Operable Units by September 30, 2018 (Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-016-00); and Submittal of Part B Permit Applications or Closure/Post Closure Plans for all Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) units (M-020-00) by February 28, 2004.

Tentative agreement was reached and proposed change packages developed in accordance with the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement). The parties found the proposed Tri-Party Agreement Change Requests mutually acceptable. The proposed Tri-Party Agreement change packages are included as an attachment to this Tentative Agreement. Subject to public comment, a decision on the Tri-Party Agreement Change Requests is anticipated by June 5, 2002.

The parties have identified improvements by continuing to apply a risk-based approach to prioritizing the work needed to achieve timely remediation of the 200 Area non-tank farm soil waste sites. This resulting Tentative Agreement sets schedules for the work needed to complete waste site soil investigations, develop feasibility studies and proposed plans for clean-up actions and revise existing RI/FS workplans as appropriate. The parties have committed to focus cleanup on high-risk waste sites first where known or potential contributors to groundwater contamination exist.

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Approved this 21 day of February 2002.

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Washington State Department of Ecology ▲ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ▲ U.S. Department of Energy

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The parties will submit the proposed change packages for a 45-day public comment period to run from February 25, 2002, through April 12, 2002. Following conclusion of the public comment period, a response to comments document will be prepared and issued, change requests modified as appropriate and a Conclusion Agreement approved by the Signatories. Following that approval, the Tri-Party Agreement Change Requests will be incorporated into the Tri-Party Agreement.

It should be noted that groundwater operable units are excluded from these negotiations and milestone obligations concerning groundwater are excluded and unaffected by these negotiations. Following completion of these negotiations, the parties are committed to timely discussion on how USDOE will meet existing groundwater commitments. EPA and Ecology share regulatory authority for activities addressed under this Tentative Agreement. Neither this agreement, nor the modifications made pursuant to this agreement, shall preclude consideration of alternative mechanisms for completing appropriate RCRA TSD Closure in accordance with WAC-173-303-610(1)(d).

The USDOE Office of River Protection (ORP) Manager's signature is not required on this Tentative Agreement since no commitments were made that impact ORP.