

U.S. Department of Energy Plans to Conduct Third CERCLA Five-Year Review

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will conduct the third Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review Report for the Hanford site beginning April 12, 2010. CERCLA requires the lead agency (DOE) to review every five years those cleanup actions that resulted in hazardous substances remaining at a waste site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The review will evaluate whether the cleanup actions taken are still, or will be, successful in protecting human health and the environment. The third CERCLA Five Year Review final report will be issued no later than November 6, 2011, and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for concurrence on the adequacy of DOE's protectiveness determinations or to provide independent findings.

The scope of the review will cover all CERCLA actions on the Hanford Site, but will not include all activities covered by the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). For example, this review will not address *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) units (such as the radioactive waste tank farms).

The five-year review will:

- Evaluate the performance of the removal and remedial cleanup actions for waste sites, including groundwater in the 100, 200, 300, 1100 Areas and other areas on the Hanford Site where CERCLA actions are being performed to determine whether they are protective of human health and the environment.
- Confirm that immediate threats have been addressed, or where a CERCLA response is in progress, that the selected remedy(ies) when complete will be protective of human health and the environment and compliant with state and federal laws.
- Confirm for sites that are in the Surveillance and Maintenance phases that the selected remedy remains protective and will remain protective for as long as the waste remains hazardous.
- Recommend actions to improve performance when the five-year review indicates that a remedy is not performing as designed.

DOE would like to hear any suggestions, issues, questions or concerns regarding this review. From March 8 through April 12, please send your suggestions, issues, questions, and/or concerns to CERCLAS@rl.gov or contact

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The 2006 Five-Year Review Report can be viewed at <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/CERCLA> The Draft 2011 CERCLA Five-Year Review will be available 30-days for public feedback prior to the issuance of the final report.