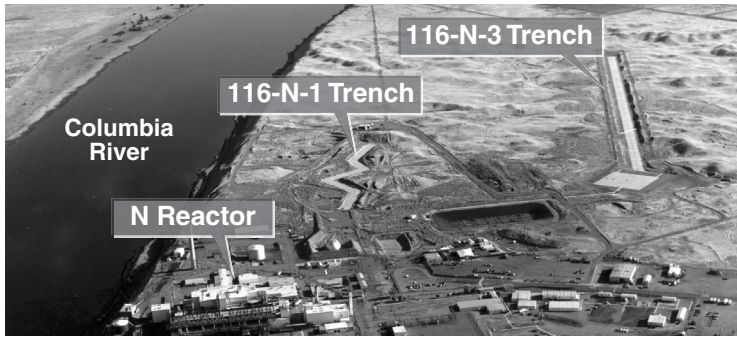




Changes to Hanford Cleanup Decisions on the Columbia River Corridor

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



The agencies responsible for Hanford cleanup request public input on proposed changes to Records of Decision for cleanup of waste sites located in the 100-N Area on the Hanford Site.

The public comment period will be held from February 3 through March 5, 2003. Following this 30-day public comment period, the Tri-Party Agencies will consider the input received from the public before making a final determination and issuing an Explanation of Significant Difference.

The Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Energy (the Tri-Party Agencies) are issuing an Explanation of Significant Difference that identifies proposed changes to the Records of Decision for cleanup of waste sites located at Hanford's 100-N Area. Many of the waste sites contain radioactive waste generated when N Reactor was in operation.

What is an Explanation of Significant Difference?

An Explanation of Significant Difference provides public notice of proposed changes to an approved Record of Decision or remedy under the *Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)*. The changes in the cleanup scope, schedule, or cost do not fundamentally change the overall cleanup approach.

Why is an Explanation of Significant Difference required?

Cleanup activities at the 116-N-1 waste site are in progress. After removal and disposal of the top 15 feet of soil from the waste site, the Tri-Party

Agencies determined that further excavation below 15 feet would not provide additional protection to the groundwater or the Columbia River if irrigation were prohibited. In order to be protective of human health and the environment, the Tri-Party Agencies propose that irrigation be prohibited and institutional controls be maintained to ensure no irrigation occurs. This action protects human health and the environment, prevents significant radiation doses to workers, is cost-effective, does not negatively impact ecological or cultural resources, and is consistent with the expected future land use.

In addition, the Tri-Party Agencies are proposing to make changes to the annual institutional controls reporting requirement in the selected remedy to state, "DOE will evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of institutional controls for the 100-NR-1 Operable Unit on an annual basis. The DOE shall submit a report to EPA and Ecology by July 31 of each year, or as required by the *Sitewide Institutional Controls Plan for Hanford CERCLA Response Action*, summarizing the results of the evaluation for the preceding calendar year. At a minimum, the report shall contain an evaluation of whether or not the institutional control requirements continue to be met and a description of any deficiencies discovered and measures taken to correct problems."

How can you become involved?

The *Explanation of Significant Difference to the 100-NR-1 Operable Unit Treatment, Storage and Disposal Interim Action Record of Decision and the 100-NR-1/100-NR-2 Operable Unit Interim Action Record of Decision* is available for review at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below and on the Internet at:

<http://www/hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm>

The Tri-Party Agencies will consider all public comments before the Explanation of Significant Difference is finalized. The agencies will send a

To submit comments or request additional information, please contact:

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comment and response summary to all individuals who provide comments or request a copy of the summary, and will place the summary in the Hanford Information Repositories.

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Michael Bowman (503) 725-3690

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Terri Traub (509) 372-7443

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Attn: Sarah Nelson (509) 323-6548

Or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008

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