

**AVAILABLE FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT**



Draft Environmental Assessment for the Expansion of Borrow Areas on the Hanford Site

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess potential environmental effects from the proposed expansion of eleven existing sand and gravel material borrow areas and development of one new borrow area on the Hanford Site. DOE needs the materials to backfill and close waste sites and to carry out road maintenance and construction projects in support of its environmental cleanup mission at the Hanford Site.

What is a borrow area?

A borrow area on the Hanford Site is land that provides clean material for use in supporting DOE's environmental cleanup mission. This document addresses sand and gravel borrow areas. It does not address borrow activities for silt and soil materials.

Background

The DOE's Hanford Site is making tremendous progress in cleaning up contaminated buildings, soil and groundwater resulting from past plutonium production activities dating back to the 1940's. An important part of cleanup activities involves filling in excavated areas left after contaminated buildings and soil are removed. The DOE has historically secured clean sand and gravel from a number of borrow areas on the Hanford Site for this purpose, as well as other purposes that support DOE's cleanup mission such as road maintenance and construction.

Borrow area operations are addressed in the Final Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) Environmental Impact Statement (DOE 1999), which provides overall guidance and direction for land management and land use activities on the Hanford Site. Two follow-on environmental assessments addressed use of specific borrow areas; the EA for Use of Existing Borrow Areas, Hanford Site (DOE 2001), and EA for Reactivation and Use of Three Former Borrow Sites in the 100-F, 100-H, and 100-N Areas (DOE 2003).

DOE's Proposed Action

DOE has identified the need for approximately 10,704,000 bank cubic meters of sand and gravel materials beyond the amount evaluated in the previous EAs. As DOE progresses with environmental

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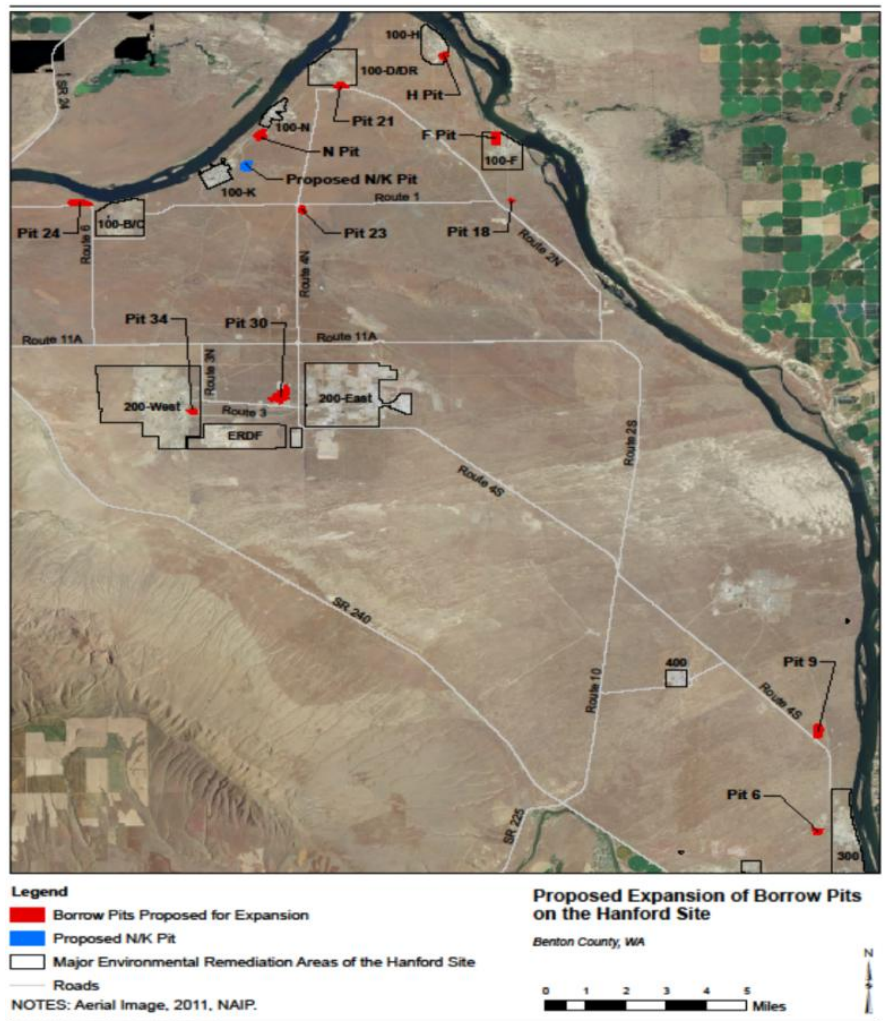
cleanup of the Hanford Site, new waste sites have been discovered and others have required much more extensive excavation than expected. In some cases, DOE is digging to a depth greater than 80 feet to clean up hexavalent chromium waste sites along the Columbia River. These deep excavations need to be backfilled and revegetated to complete DOE's cleanup requirements.

To meet the need for additional materials, DOE is proposing to expand existing borrow areas closest to the waste sites where the materials are needed, with one new borrow area proposed where existing infrastructure prohibits expansion of the existing borrow area. The proposed action is designed to minimize haul distances from borrow sources to cleanup sites; minimize potential environmental impacts; and minimize costs associated with excavating and transporting materials.

DOE's proposed action also addresses operations, closure and restoration of the borrow areas once they are no longer needed. Operations are carried out in accordance with a series of resource management plans developed to implement the CLUP. These plans include the Biological Resources Management Plan and the Hanford Cultural Resources Management Plan.

Proposed Expansion Acreage

Borrow Area Name	Existing Size (acres)	Proposed Expansion (acres)	Existing and Proposed Expansion (acres)
F	39.9	0	39.9
H	23.7	10.6	34.3
N	40.2	12.8	53
6	69.7	28	97.7
9	58.7	11.6	70.3
18	8.2	0	8.2
21	29.2	35	64.2
23	58.7	13	71.7
24	48.5	16.5	65
30	123	19	142
34	17.1	10.9	28
36 (new)	0	30	30
Total	516.9	187.4	704.3



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A 30-day public comment period for the draft EA will run from December 10, 2012 – January 14, 2013. The Department of Energy would appreciate receiving your feedback. Please submit comments by January 14, 2013 to:



Paula Call
NEPA Document Manager
Borrow Area Expansion EA
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, Mailstop A2-15
Richland, Washington 99352

Or email: borrowareaEA@rl.gov

The draft Environmental Assessment for the Expansion of Borrow Areas on the Hanford Site (DOE/EA-1934) can be found at www.hanford.gov on the Hanford Events Calendar under each date within the public comment. It is also available for review at the Public Information Repositories.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland

Portland State University Government Information
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97207-1151
Attn: Claudia Weston (503) 725-4542
Map: <http://www.pdx.edu/map.html>

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Seattle, WA 98195
Attn: Hillary Reinert (206) 543-5597
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/m8ebj>

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Richland, WA 99352
Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 375-3308
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2axam2>

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center Library
East 502 Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
Attn: John Spencer (509) 313-6110
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2c6bpm>

Administrative Record and Public Information Repository

Address: 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA 99352
Phone: (509)-376-2530
Website Address: <http://www5.hanford.gov/arp/>

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