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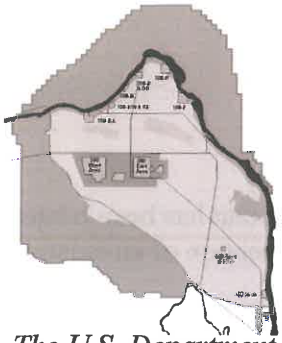

Fact Sheet

Proposed Tri-Party Agreement Changes for Managing Hanford's Solid Waste

The U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL), Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) -- the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies -- are proposing changes to the TPA. These proposed changes affect the schedule for retrieving, characterizing and shipping Hanford Site mixed low-level waste (MLLW) and transuranic mixed (TRUM) waste. The agencies want your input on these proposed milestone changes before they are finalized.

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

Background

The Hanford Site is located in southeastern Washington State along the Columbia River. This 586-square-mile former plutonium production complex is currently engaged in an environmental cleanup project overseen by DOE.

The *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (also known as the Tri-Party Agreement or TPA), a legal agreement between DOE, Ecology and EPA, identifies cleanup actions and schedules, called milestones. Changes can be made to the TPA with the approval of the three agencies.

The TPA agencies recently completed negotiations on a series of milestones for cleanup projects located in the center of the Hanford Site. These proposed changes are going through a 45-day public comment period, **July 6 through August 21, 2015**.

What changes are proposed?

The changes would place more emphasis on treating and repackaging waste that has already been retrieved and is stored in drums and boxes above ground. These changes would add an annual requirement for repackaging waste and replace retrieval milestones with a milestone to determine a new retrieval schedule in 2020. The agencies also propose adding more milestones in the future to address waste retrieval, storage and treatment.

What are MLLW and TRUM wastes?

MLLW contains both radiological and hazardous (e.g., chemical) components that are subject to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Hazardous Waste Management Act regulations.

Transuranic (TRU) waste contains man-made radioactive elements that are heavier than uranium (higher atomic numbers than uranium on the Periodic Table of the Elements). TRUM refers to waste containing both TRU waste and hazardous components that are subject to RCRA and Hazardous Waste Management Act regulations.

There are 12,000 waste containers underground and 8,000 waste containers stored above ground at the Central Waste Complex in the center of Hanford.

These containers must be repackaged for treatment, then disposed of on-site as mixed low-level waste or certified for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, NM.

Public Comment

The Tri-Party Agencies want your feedback on the proposed Tri-Party Agreement changes. The public comment period runs from **July 6 through August 21, 2015.**

Tri-Party Agreement
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington State Department of Ecology
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

What changes are being proposed?

The following provides a summary of proposed changes that are in a TPA change package that has been posted in the Administrative Record. All milestones listed below are new milestones, with the exception of an existing milestone that has been revised, as indicated in the table in section 2, below.

1. TRUM Certification and MLLW Treatment: Proposed changes to milestones would place more emphasis on treating and repackaging waste that has already been retrieved and is stored in drums and boxes above ground and align with a schedule for developing alternate capabilities required for waste treatment and certification.

M-091-47A	Certify or treat 280 cubic meters of TRUM/MLLW waste in fiscal year 2015.	09/30/2015
M-091-47B	Certify 280 cubic meters of TRUM/MLLW waste. Submit a change request to establish the next two interim milestones for annual certification of TRUM waste and disposal of MLLW.	09/30/2016

2. Shipment of TRUM to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP): Proposed changes in milestones would require the establishment of a schedule for WIPP shipments in 2020, and create a new milestone for completing offsite shipments of TRUM waste in 2030.

M-091-44T (Existing Milestone, revised)	Submit a change request to establish a schedule for achieving the offsite shipment of all TRUM waste (in above ground storage as of June 30, 2009 and in retrievable storage).	09/30/2020
M-091-48	Complete the offsite shipment of all TRUM waste (in above ground storage as of June 30, 2009 and in retrievable storage).	09/30/2030

3. Retrieval of retrievably stored waste (RSW), trench and caisson waste: The retrieval of various types of waste has been grouped into a single set of milestones. Several retrieval milestones have been deleted, reflecting the agencies' preference to certify and treat waste that has already been retrieved. A new milestone is proposed in 2020 to establish a schedule for completing the retrieval of RWS.

M-091-49A	Submit a change request to establish a schedule for achieving the retrieval of RSW.	09/30/2020
M-091-49	1. Complete the retrieval and designation of remote-handled (RH) RSW (includes the 200 Area caissons).	09/30/2028

	2. Complete the retrieval and designation of contact-handled (CH) RSW in specific burial grounds in the 200 East and 200 West Areas on Hanford's Central Plateau.	

4. Alternate capability development: Proposed changes include replacing milestones for acquiring new facilities with milestones for developing alternative capabilities for retrieval, characterization, and treatment of TRUM waste prior to disposal.

M-091-51 (New Milestone)	Submit to Ecology an engineering study of alternatives for acquisition and modification of capabilities and facilities necessary for retrieval, designation, storage, and treatment of all Hanford Site RH TRUM waste and TRUM waste in large containers.	09/30/2016
M-091-52 (New Milestone)	Submit a milestone change request with target dates (including a completion date) for acquisition and modification of capabilities and facilities necessary for retrieval, designation, storage, and treatment of all Hanford Site RH TRUM waste and TRUM waste in large containers.	09/30/2017
M-091-53 (New Milestone)	Submit a milestone change request to replace the target milestones established in M-091-52 with annual milestones (including a completion date) for acquisition and modification of capabilities and facilities necessary for retrieval, designation, storage, and treatment of all Hanford Site RH TRUM waste and TRUM waste in large containers.	09/30/2018

A copy of the TPA change package documenting the proposed changes has been posted in the Hanford Site Administrative Record at http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/

Get involved!

A 45-day public comment period on *proposed changes to TPA M-091 Milestones* runs from **July 6 through August 21, 2015**. The TPA agencies would like your feedback on these proposed changes.

For more information please contact: Kristen Skopeck, DOE-RL, 509-376-5803.

Please submit comments by August 21, 2015 to:

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The documents are available for review at the Public Information Repositories listed below

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland
Portland State University Library
Government Information
Branford Price Millar Library – LIBW
PO Box 1151
Portland, OR 97207-1151
Attn: Claudia Weston (503) 725-4542
Map: http://bit.ly/1K7BfuK

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195-2900
Attn: Hilary Reinert c/o ARCS
(206) 543-5597
Map: http://bit.ly/1QMtUog

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 Scarano (509) 375-7443
Map: http://bit.ly/1LpZKUa

Spokane
Gonzaga University
Foley Center Library
East 502 Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
Attn: John Spencer (509) 313-6110
Map: http://bit.ly/1Cp0mRT

Administrative Record and Public Information Repository
2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA
509-376-2530
http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/