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Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 5:01 PM
To: HANFORD-INFO@listserv.wa.gov
Subject: Ecology approves permit changes for 183-H

Ecology approves changes for Hanford's dangerous waste permit

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has approved a "Class 2" modification for the permit that regulates the treatment, storage, and disposal of dangerous wastes at Hanford.

Class 2 changes are those that are significant enough to require the permittee to hold a public comment period and a public hearing. The permittee is the U.S. Department of Energy.

This Class 2 permit change is for the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins chapter of the permit. In the past, the permittee allowed contaminated liquids to evaporate in these basins and then disposed of the dried, contaminated waste elsewhere. But the basins leaked and contaminated groundwater. Although the permittee has removed the basins and surrounding soil down to below 15 feet, groundwater contamination persists.

The modification to the permit was to replace a groundwater monitoring well that was blocking soil cleanup work at nearby waste sites and to install a new monitoring well.

Ecology's decisions, including approval of this permit change, can be appealed through the steps in Washington Administrative Code 173-303-845.

You can find the permit change language, fact sheet, and response to comments document at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PI/pages/closedcommentperiods.htm.

If you have questions, please email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call 800-321-2008.