Proposed Changes to
The Hanford Public Involvement Plan

2011 Hanford State of the Site Meeting, Portland, Oregon

The U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology (the Tri-Party Agreement [TPA] agencies) are proposing revisions to the Hanford Public Involvement Plan (also known as the Hanford Site TPA Public Involvement Community Relations Plan). The Hanford Public Involvement Plan outlines ways the public can be involved in Hanford Site cleanup decision-making processes and serves as the overall guidance document for public participation and outreach activities at Hanford. The Plan is being issued for public review.

Background

People in the Pacific Northwest are concerned about what happens at Hanford. The involvement of our citizens is important to Hanford cleanup, because it helps the TPA agencies make better long-term decisions that incorporate public values. The Plan helps identify how the public can become involved in Hanford cleanup decision making. Due to changing technologies and outreach methods, the current Plan is outdated.

The Plan, first issued in 1990 and last revised in 2002, was developed as a companion document to the TPA, the legally binding agreement and completion schedule for Hanford cleanup. The proposed changes will be the fifth revision since the Hanford Public Involvement Plan was first issued.

Fact Sheet

How to Provide Comments

The 45-day public comment period on proposed changes to the Plan is ***October 10 through November 28, 2011****. The TPA agencies would like your feedback on this document and will consider all comments before it is finalized.*

Please submit comments by November 28, 2011 to:
Paula Call
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MS: A7-75
Richland, WA 99352
Email: CRP2011@rl.gov

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

Process for Updating the Public Involvement Plan

The typical process for updating the Hanford Public Involvement Plan follows these steps. First, the TPA agencies identify a need to update or revise the document. Second, the TPA agencies work collaboratively to revise the document. If significant changes are proposed, the Hanford Public Involvement Plan will go out for public comment. During this time, the agencies may hold public meetings if there is a high level of public interest. After the public comment period closes, all comments received are considered before finalizing the Hanford Public Involvement Plan. A Comment and Response Document is also prepared.

What is the Tri-Party Agreement

The TPA provides the legal framework for Hanford Site cleanup and schedules for bringing Hanford into compliance with today's environmental laws.

The TPA consists of two main documents:

1. The ***Legal Agreement*** describes the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the TPA agencies in the cleanup, compliance, and permitting processes. It also sets up dispute resolution processes and describes the TPA's enforcement.
2. The ***Action Plan*** describes the cleanup and permitting efforts. It includes milestones (schedules) for completing work. This is Appendix D of the TPA, also known as the work schedule. The *Action Plan* also provides an overview of public involvement activities, and references a community relations plan that must be developed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 that describes how the public will be informed and involved through the cleanup process.

Key Changes

The proposed revisions to the Public Involvement Plan include:

- Changing the title from the *Hanford Site Tri-Party Agreement Public Involvement Community Relations Plan* to "*Hanford Public Involvement Plan*"
- Enhancing public involvement goals and updating the public involvement evaluation process, such as
  - ✓ Engage the public by providing timely, accurate and understandable information that is easily accessible
  - ✓ Ensure open and transparent decision-making
  - ✓ Incorporate public values in the decision-making process
  - ✓ Prepare future generations for informed engagement and participation
- Streamlining the document by removing some information that is electronically available
- Rearranging the order and flow of information in order to provide additional clarity
- Updating Hanford Site information and cleanup activities
- Adding online resources and photos

Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) has been a strong and consistent advocate of citizen participation and involvement in Hanford cleanup and has provided the TPA agencies several letters of advice concerning public involvement and openness. For this revision, the HAB advised the TPA agencies to strengthen the document's overall organization, readability, and usefulness, and to affirm the commitment of the TPA agencies to actively inform and engage the public.

To see the HAB's advice and the TPA agencies' responses, visit: www.hanford.gov/?page=453.

This document is also available for review at the Public Information Repositories listed below.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES	
Portland Portland State University Branford Price Millar Library 1875 SW Park Avenue Attn: Liz Paulus (503) 725-4542 Website: http://library.pdx.edu/	**Seattle** University of Washington Suzallo Library Government Publications Division Attn: David Maack (206) 543-4664 Website: www.lib.washington.edu/govpubs
Richland U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room Washington State University, Tri-Cities Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L 2770 University Drive Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443 Website: http://reading-room.pnnl.gov/	**Spokane** Gonzaga University Foley Center 502 E. Boone Ave. Attn: John Spencer (509) 313-6110 Website: www.gonzaga.edu/Academics/Libraries/Foley-Library

Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:
Address: 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA
Phone: 509-376-2530
Web site address: www2.hanford.gov/arpir/

Proposed Changes to the Hanford Public Involvement Plan can be viewed online at www.hanford.gov/ under Hanford Events Calendar.

To access the document, click on More Event Calendar and select any date between October 10 and November 28, 2011.

Click on: Public Comment Period for Proposed Changes to the Hanford Public Involvement Plan.

For additional information or a copy of the Plan, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 or email CRP2011@ri.gov.

You are invited to attend a public meeting and/or webinar to discuss the proposed changes to the Hanford Public Involvement Plan. Meetings are scheduled for:

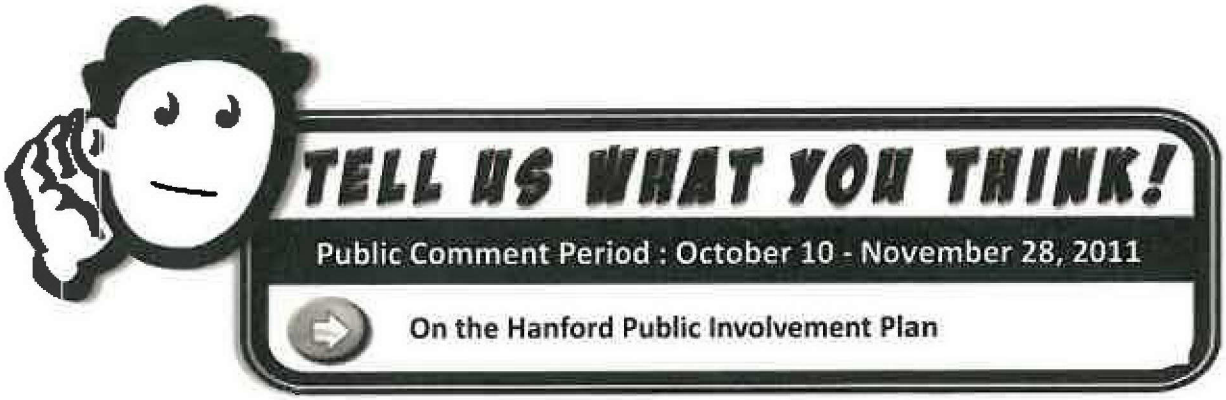
November 9, 2011
Webinar Meeting*
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**E-mail us at CRP2011@ri.gov to participate in webinar*

November 15, 2011
Seattle Center, Northwest Building
Olympic Room
305 Harrison Street
Seattle, Washington
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

November 16, 2011
Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Riverfront Ballroom
303 West North River Drive
Spokane, Washington
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Please e-mail us at CRP2011@ri.gov if you require special accommodations to participate in the meetings.



Why Should You Care About Changes to the Hanford Public Involvement Plan?

- **The Plan identifies ways the public can participate in Hanford cleanup decisions.**
- **The Plan describes how the TPA agencies consider public input when determining when/where public meetings will be held.**
- **This is your opportunity to provide comments on the proposed changes to the Plan that will be considered before it is finalized.**

U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, A7-75
Richland, WA 99352

Tri-Party Agreement

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

Hanford Public Involvement Plan

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS HANFORD?

Hanford is a 586-square-mile site in southeastern Washington State created in 1943 for the Manhattan Project. The goal of the Manhattan Project was to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The government eventually built nine nuclear reactors along the banks of the Columbia River as the defense mission continued throughout the Cold War years.

The weapons material production mission ended in the late 1980s and Hanford's mission shifted from nuclear material production to environmental cleanup. More than 40 years of plutonium production led to hundreds of square miles of contaminated soil and groundwater, and millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste stored in underground tanks.

Today, we have the enormous challenge of waste management and environmental restoration, the main missions at the Hanford Site. Completing Hanford's cleanup will take several more decades and will require the sustained investment of significant resources. It will also require a continued open and informed dialogue between decision-makers and Hanford stakeholders. Figure 1 shows a map of the site.

WHO'S WHO AT HANFORD?

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) and the Office of River Protection (ORP) manage and operate the Hanford Site. RL oversees cleanup of the areas along the Columbia River and in the central part of the site. ORP manages Hanford's tank waste retrieval, treatment, and disposal project, USDOE's largest, most complex environmental cleanup project. The ORP's mission is to retrieve and treat tank waste, and close the tank farms to protect the Columbia River.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate USDOE's activities at the Hanford Site. The regulatory agencies divide authority for different aspects of Hanford Site cleanup.

Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program is responsible for oversight of the tank waste treatment and storage, waste management activities, and implementation of the state's cleanup regulations. The EPA has lead oversight for the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* (CERCLA) cleanup activities.

At the Hanford Site, USDOE, Ecology, and EPA are collectively known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies.

WHAT IS THE TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT?

The TPA agencies signed the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order*, also known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), in 1989. This agreement provides the legal framework for Hanford Site cleanup and schedules for bringing Hanford into compliance with today's environmental laws.

The TPA is a legally binding agreement made up of action plans that include milestones, or deadlines, for specific cleanup actions to be completed. Additionally, each major milestone series consists of interim milestones guiding cleanup activities through the course of the project.

More specifically, the TPA does the following:

1. Defines and prioritizes regulatory cleanup commitments,
2. Establishes responsibilities,
3. Provides a basis for budget requests ,
4. Reflects a concerted goal of achieving full regulatory compliance and remediation with enforceable milestones.

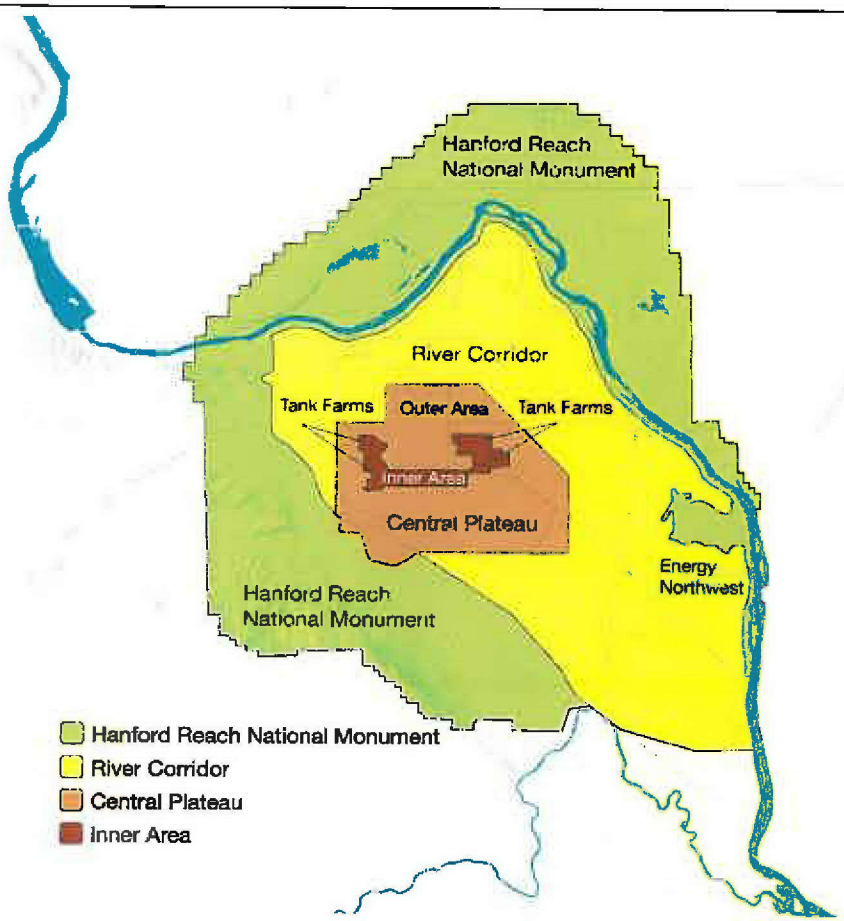


Figure 1: Map of the Hanford Site (586 Square Miles)

The TPA consists of two main documents.

- The *Legal Agreement* describes the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the TPA agencies in the cleanup, compliance, and permitting processes. It also sets up dispute resolution processes and describes the TPA's enforcement.

- The *Action Plan* describes the cleanup and permitting efforts. It includes milestones (schedules) for completing work. This is Appendix D of the TPA, also known as the work schedule.

The TPA also provides a general description of public involvement activities, and references a at must be developed under CERCLA that describes how the public will be informed and involved through the cleanup process.

The TPA is a living document. As Hanford cleanup continues and better information becomes available, the TPA agencies revise cleanup schedules. The original TPA had 161 enforceable milestones and target dates. Today it has more than 1,500 milestones and dates.

Any of the TPA agencies can request changes to the TPA, but all three agencies must approve the changes before they are implemented. In addition, a public participation process must be followed prior to significant changes being made.

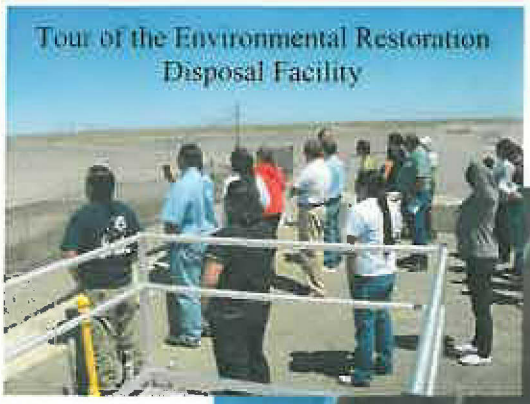
WHAT IS THE HANFORD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN?

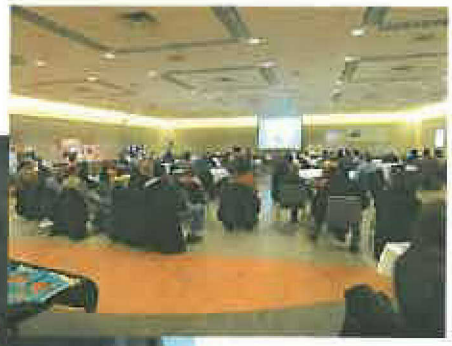
The Hanford Public Involvement Plan, (also known as the Community Relations Plan) describes public participation processes at Hanford. It identifies ways the public can participate in the Hanford Site cleanup decision-making process. It also fulfills applicable state and federal laws for development of a community relations plan.

In many cases, Hanford public involvement goes beyond what is required by law because the TPA agencies encourage and support public participation and believe it is essential to cleanup success. Public involvement and information activities are conducted both collaboratively and independently by the TPA agencies.

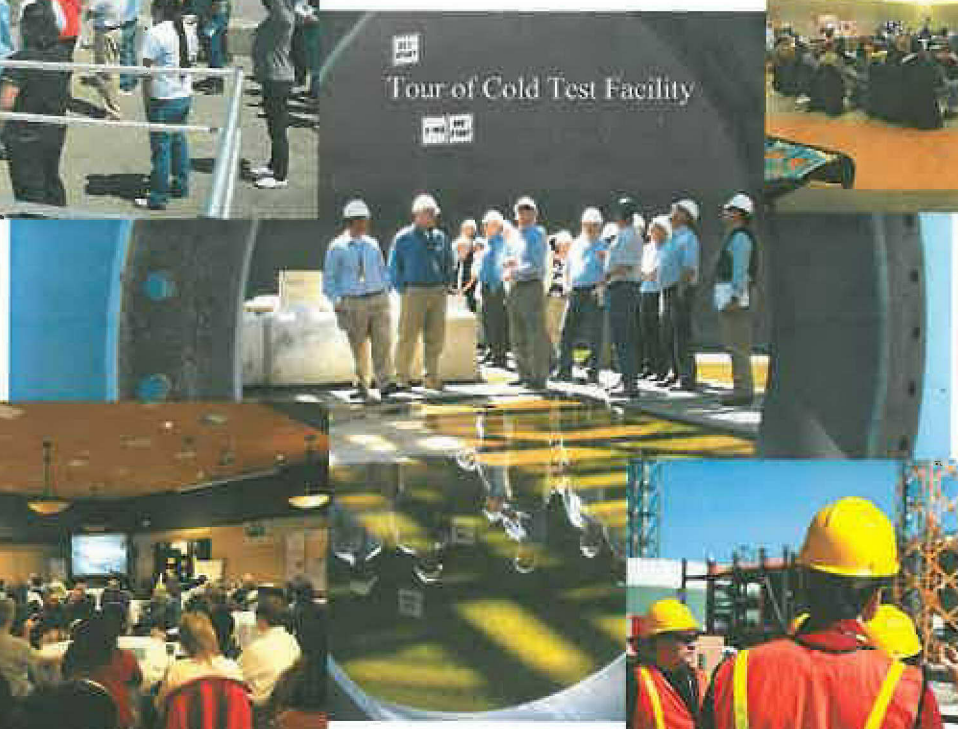
While the Hanford Public Involvement Plan serves as the overall guidance document for public participation and outreach activities at the Hanford Site, it is important to note that no two public participation processes are the same. The types of public involvement activities will vary based on governing regulations and the scale of anticipated impacts and sensitivity.

This is the fifth revision of this document. The typical process for updating the Hanford Public Involvement Plan follows these steps. First, the TPA agencies identify a need to update or revise the document. Second, the TPA agencies work collaboratively to revise the document. If significant changes are proposed, the Hanford Public Involvement Plan will go out for public comment. During this time, the agencies may hold public meetings if there is a high level of public interest. After the public comment period closes, all comments received are considered before finalizing the Hanford Public Involvement Plan.





Seattle State of the Site Meeting



Tri-Cities State of the Site Meeting

Tour of the Waste Treatment Plant

Section 1
HANFORD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Hanford cleanup is one of the nation's largest and most complex environmental challenges. The TPA agencies recognize that people nationwide are concerned and affected by the Hanford Site, and that public support for cleanup activities plays a vital role in decision-making processes.

Public involvement is important because:

- When the public is involved in the decision-making process, better long-term decisions are made;
- If the public is not informed or involved, they may have reason to doubt, criticize, or impede cleanup; and
- A well-informed public can help maintain support for Hanford Cleanup.

Public workshop on Hanford's radioactive solid waste burial grounds

GOALS OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Successful public involvement occurs when the community has early and meaningful involvement in cleanup decisions. This allows public input to influence the decision-making process and leads to sustainable decisions. Goals of public involvement include:

- Engage the public by providing timely, accurate and understandable information that is easily accessible;
- Ensure open and transparent decision-making;
- Incorporate public values in the decision-making process; and
- Prepare future generations for informed engagement and participation.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Public comment periods, meetings, hearings, and workshops are shown in the *TPA Public Involvement Calendar*, which is posted online, or announced with other public notices. People on the Hanford Site mailing list receive notices on significant public meetings or workshops. Information on how to join the Hanford Mailing list is described in Section 3 of this Plan.

In addition, other methods of announcing public participation opportunities may include:

- Electronic distribution lists;
- Advertisements in regional and local newspapers;
- Public service announcements on radio and television stations;
- News releases;
- Direct mailings to interested parties;
- Notices in the Federal Register; and
- Social media sites.

The TPA agencies strive to notify stakeholders at least 30 to 45 days before the start of a public comment period or before a public meeting. As much information as possible regarding the public involvement activity will be provided prior to the event.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The TPA agencies strive to design public notices that attract a wide range of participants to become involved in a public comment period, attend a public meeting, or otherwise participate.

Notices will include:

- Clear descriptions of proposals and impacts;
- Ways the public can get more information and become involved;
- The time frame for a public comment period; and
- Meeting dates, times and locations (when applicable).

When a proposed cleanup decision restricts future land use, the public notice will identify potential restrictions and other applicable requirements.

When possible, the TPA agencies will consider input on the design and content of notices from interested stakeholders in the region where a meeting or comment period will be held.

Different public participation activities may have different notification requirements and more than one set of regulations may apply to the proposed action or decision. In these instances, the TPA agencies will coordinate all requirements to be as comprehensive as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

The requirement for and the length of public comment periods vary based on the regulations for the permit or action. Typically, public comment periods are 30 or 45 days long.

Public comment periods will be determined in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. When requested, the TPA agencies will consider extending a public comment period as provided for under the law.

Documents available for public comment are sent to the TPA Administrative Record and Public Information Repositories. In addition to review of public comment documents at the repositories, the public may also review the electronic administrative record files during normal working hours. Internet access to the administrative record files is available at www2.hanford.gov/arpir.

Email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 to request copies of documents for public comment. Some fees may apply.

After a public comment period closes, the TPA agencies will consider all comments received before finalizing the document or decision. The TPA agencies strive to publish a Comment and Response document within 60 days after the public comment period closes. If delays occur due to a large volume and/or the complexity of comments received, interested citizens may be notified by mail or email.

Once the document is finalized, it will be made available to those who provided comments and contact information. The Comment and Response document also is available by request.

If there are only a few comments during the public comment period, the TPA agencies may prepare individual letters or contact the commenters directly in response to comments.

Final documents, milestone changes or decisions, and Comment and Response documents are available through the TPA Administrative Record.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In an effort to provide broad and timely perspectives to the public on Hanford Site cleanup priorities and budget decisions, the TPA agencies regularly conduct public information meetings. To improve effectiveness and

efficiency of these meetings, the TPA agencies strive to use innovative outreach techniques to involve the public and to provide the information to the public 30 to 45 days prior to a public meeting.

The TPA agencies assess public interest and areas of public concern regarding specific actions based on consultations with tribal governments, and discussions with State of Oregon representatives, the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), stakeholders, and interested members of the public. Based upon those interactions the TPA agencies may determine the need for a public meeting or other outreach techniques.

The TPA agencies strive to provide opportunities for alternative viewpoints or local perspectives at all TPA public involvement meetings. When appropriate, an open house is conducted before scheduled public involvement activities to encourage dialogue among TPA agency representatives, stakeholders, and the public.

If the TPA agencies determine that public interest on an issue is minimal based on feedback and/or the number of requests received, they may conduct informational exchanges with interested stakeholders instead of holding formal public meetings.

ANNUAL HANFORD BUDGET MEETING

At least one public meeting is held in the spring to involve the public and stakeholders in the USDOE budget formulation. This is a USDOE commitment reflected in the TPA. Other meetings may be conducted at public meeting facilities (when available) in key cities in Washington and Oregon. An optional meeting in the fall may be conducted to further discuss and evaluate budget issues.

At these meetings, the TPA agencies discuss the impact of budget decisions and take public comment and questions on cleanup priorities, as well as outline any changes to Hanford Site cleanup objectives and decisions. One of the meetings may be conducted at the discretion of the TPA agencies in conjunction with a HAB meeting.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT QUARTERLY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLANNING MEETINGS

The TPA Public Involvement staff conducts a quarterly meeting to discuss current and future public involvement activities. These meetings are open to the public.

Topics at these meetings may include:

- Current and upcoming public involvement activities;
- Level and type of public involvement needed for activities;
- Public outreach activities; and
- Feedback from previous public involvement activities.

The TPA public involvement calendar is available at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EVALUATION PROCESS

Creating opportunities for the public to provide meaningful and useful input to Hanford Site decisions is ongoing. The TPA agencies work with the State of Oregon, HAB, stakeholders, and the interested public to improve the process of evaluating public involvement activities and events.

The TPA agencies strive to accomplish the following:

- Consider input on the design of public involvement activities;
- Publish effective advertisements and advance meeting notices that are easily understood;

- Develop creative and innovative ways to communicate meeting information;
- Ensure meeting locations are convenient, easily accessible and cost effective;
- Provide speakers who can communicate clearly and concisely and who are sensitive to different views and opinions;
- Provide decision-makers who listen to comments and consider input to decisions; and
- Provide timely feedback after meetings.

The evaluation process consists of two parts.

Part 1: Surveys are provided at TPA public meetings, hearings, workshops, and other events to gather timely feedback on the effectiveness of specific events and activities. The evaluations allow participants to rate the overall effectiveness of the event.

Part 2: EPA and Ecology will produce an annual summary of public involvement activities based on surveys conducted throughout the year. The summary will be made available at the beginning of each calendar year.

The annual summary includes:

- A list and purpose of activities conducted during the evaluation period;
- Results of public involvement surveys conducted throughout the year; and
- Any changes in public involvement activities implemented as a result of the surveys.

The annual report is available on Ecology's website
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp

OTHER PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The TPA agencies conduct other forms of public outreach in Washington and Oregon. Informal public outreach activities include focus groups, workshops, classroom visits, open houses, community events, and meetings with professional organizations, local governments and civic organizations.

Public outreach activities promote public awareness, education, and involvement with Hanford Site cleanup and compliance decisions.

Hanford Speaker Programs

USDOE's Hanford Speaker's Bureau offers organizations and schools an opportunity to learn about Hanford's history, cleanup progress and challenges. Individuals from USDOE and/or their contractors are available to speak to an organization. **To learn more about USDOE's Hanford Speakers Bureau, call 509-376-6968, email HSB@rl.gov or www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSpeakersBureau**

Walla Walla Rotary Club thanks the USDOE for speaking to their organization

EPA and Ecology representatives are also available for speaking engagements. To request a speaker from EPA or Ecology, email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at **1-800-321-2008.**

Hanford Site Public Tours

The DOE operates a popular public tours program on the Hanford Site. Tours provide a comprehensive overview, beginning with the plutonium-production era through today's cleanup efforts.

The tours are free and available to members of the public who are at least 18 years old and are U.S. citizens. All tour seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis through an online registration process. Tours are typically scheduled between April and September.

Hanford B Reactor Tour

The B Reactor is a National Historic Landmark giving visitors the chance to walk through the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor. This is approximately a four-hour tour, with two hours allocated to the B Reactor itself. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

Hanford B Reactor

For more information on Hanford Site tours:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSiteTours

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANTS

EPA Technical Assistance Grants

CERLCA, commonly known as Superfund, is the federal government's program to clean up uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Three Superfund sites have been identified at Hanford. The EPA's Technical Assistance Grant program can provide funds to citizen groups affected by Superfund Sites. These funds can be used by citizen groups to hire technical advisors to help them interpret and understand the complex technical materials produced as part of the Superfund process.

Grants can be up to $50,000 for the life of the project and require a local share contribution of 20 percent of the total program cost. The local share can be cash or in the form of in-kind services. Because Hanford now has three Superfund Sites, three Technical Assistant Grants could be available. EPA has a Citizen's Guidance Manual and videos that explain the program and shows how a grant can help the community participate in the Superfund process. For more information, please contact:

TAG Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 6th Ave. ECO-081
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1207

Washington State Public Participation Grants

Washington State Public Participation Grants are available across the state, including Hanford, for people who may be adversely affected by actual or potential hazardous substance releases. These grants are available to not-for-profit organizations to involve and educate Washington citizens about state environmental issues.

For more information, please contact:

Public Participation Grants Officer
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(360) 407-6061

Section 2
HANFORD DECISION MAKING PROCESS

This section addresses decisions made within the scope of the TPA, the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* (RCRA), Washington's *Hazardous Waste Management Act,* and CERCLA, as applicable.

RCRA and Washington's *Hazardous Waste Management Act* govern the management (treatment, storage, and disposal) of hazardous and dangerous wastes to minimize threat to human health and the environment. These regulations provide "cradle-to-grave" (from waste generation to final disposal) controls by imposing management requirements on generators and transporters of hazardous and dangerous wastes, and upon owners and operators of treatment, storage and disposal facilities that generate and manage hazardous and dangerous wastes.

CERCLA, commonly referred to as "Superfund," was designed to respond to situations involving the past disposal of hazardous substances. As such, it complements RCRA and the *Hazardous Waste Management Act,* which regulate ongoing hazardous and dangerous waste handling and disposal. CERCLA covers the radioactive constituents of the site cleanup program.

CHANGES TO THE TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT

Decisions made through the TPA cover a wide range of issues. RCRA and CERCLA decisions are made under the umbrella of the TPA. New information and advancing cleanup technologies require the need for periodic changes to the TPA.

The TPA agencies use a change request process to address this need. Figure 2 shows a flow diagram of this process, which allows changes to the TPA cleanup and compliance schedule by mutual agreement of the TPA agencies. All schedule changes are documented in the TPA work schedule.

Any of the TPA agencies can initiate a proposed change, although as the one responsible for cleanup, USDOE initiates most changes. This process provides a formal mechanism for reaching agreement among all the TPA agencies. If agreement cannot be reached, a formal dispute resolution process is outlined in the TPA.

Proposed wording or milestone changes can be modest or significant. The process for making a change gives the TPA agencies some discretion in what kind of public involvement process will take place. All schedule changes, which must be for good cause, are documented in the TPA work schedule.

The TPA agencies evaluate the significance of the proposed changes twice during the change request process. Each time, if they conclude the change is significant, they initiate public involvement.

The TPA agencies apply the following criteria to determine significance:

- The draft change could have substantial adverse impact on the environment;
- The draft change involves a major milestone;
- The draft change could have a significant impact on maintaining and fulfilling important Hanford Site cleanup objectives and TPA milestones;

The TPA work schedule includes the major and interim milestones and associated target dates that support the accomplishment of the milestones.

- The draft change could have an impact on interested parties, including Native Americans, labor unions, the local community, and Hanford public interest groups; and
- The draft change is proposed under a law or regulation that stipulates public involvement.

Each of the criteria is evaluated to determine the suitable level of public involvement.

A significant TPA change requires a 45-day public comment period. Before approving the change, the TPA agencies consider all public comments as well as summarize and respond to the comments. The TPA agencies strive to clarify comments or responses when needed. The TPA agencies may schedule public meetings to discuss the proposed change.

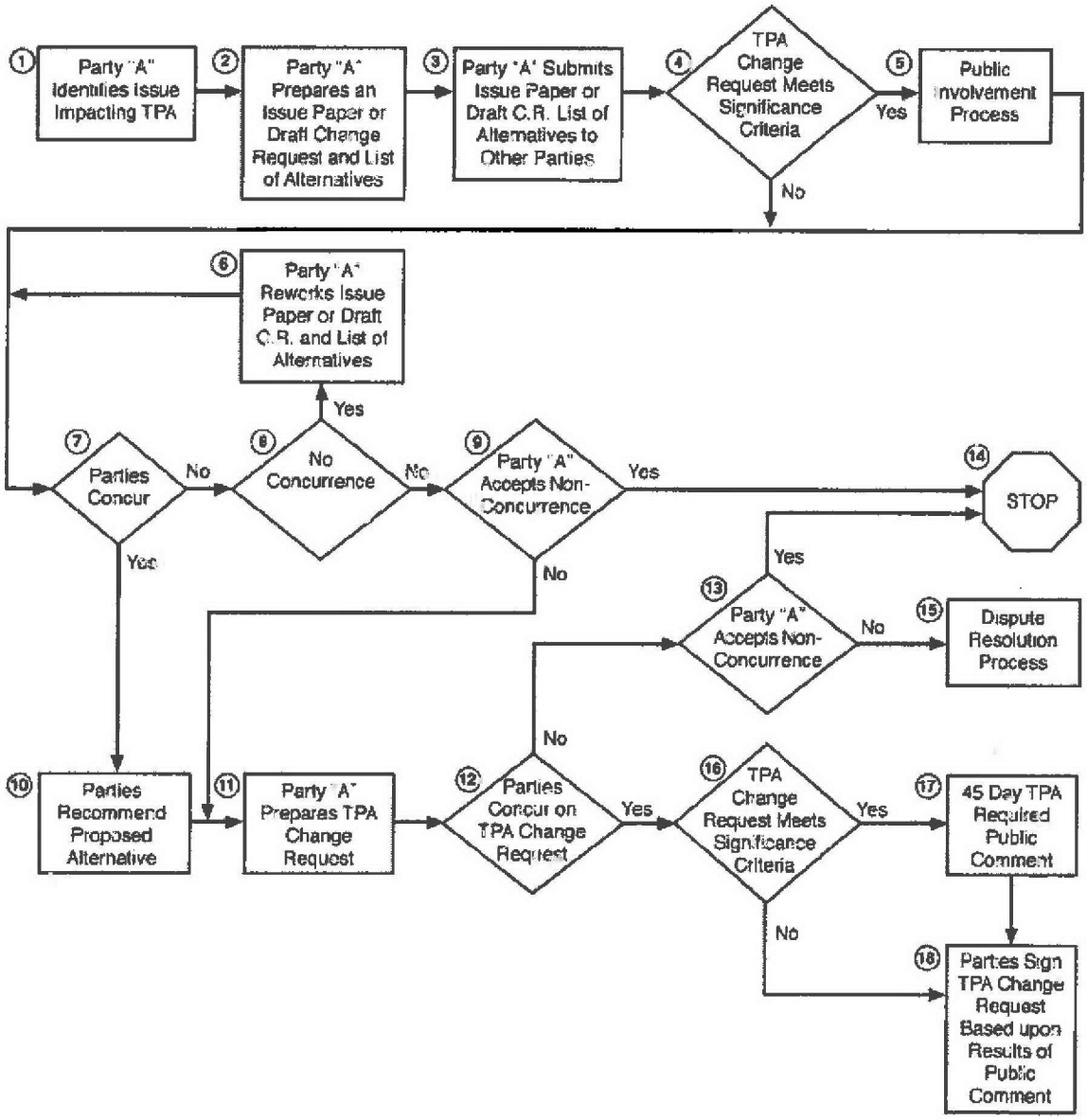


Figure 2: Tri-Party Agreement Change Request Decision Diagram

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 – Related Decisions

RCRA was enacted by Congress in 1976. It requires "cradle-to-grave" management of hazardous wastes by all generators, transporters, and owners/operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities that handle hazardous waste. A major goal of RCRA is to reduce the generation of hazardous waste.

The EPA delegated authority to Ecology to carry out the base RCRA program (ongoing waste management) in Washington State through the State's own program, the *Hazardous Waste Management Act*.

Washington State regulations for dangerous waste management are similar to, but more restrictive in some cases than RCRA regulations.

Ecology issues a dangerous waste permit for the Hanford Site. The "site-wide" permit outlines general conditions for the treatment, storage, and disposal of dangerous wastes at Hanford.

The decision outline for this process is shown in Figure 3.

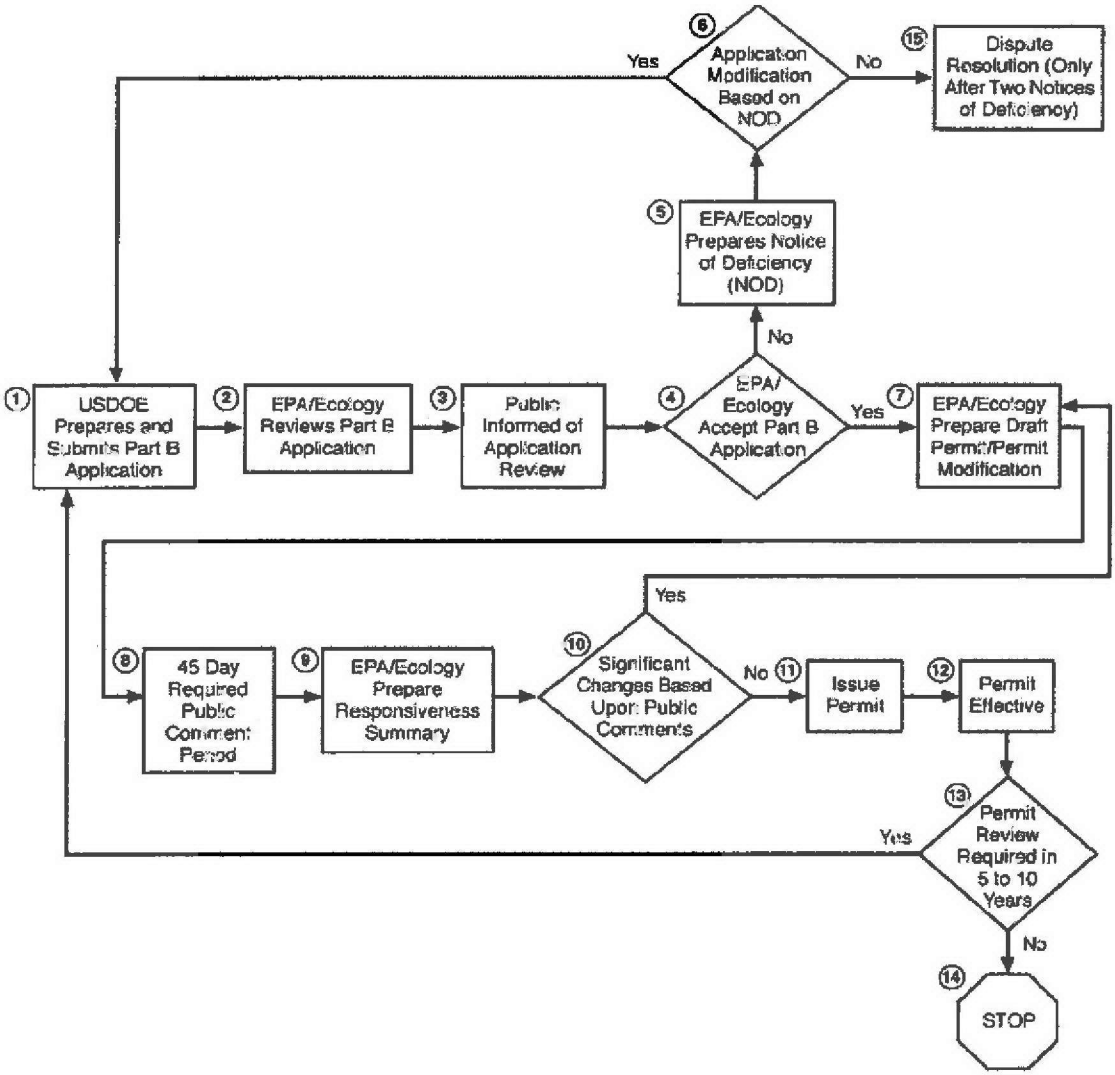


Figure 3: Tri-Party Agreement Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Decision Process

There are several informal points of communication with the public during the dangerous waste permit process. As described in the RCRA decision outline, draft permits require a 45-day public comment period. Ecology considers all public comments before issuing the final permit.

A Response to Comments summary shows the public's comments, Ecology's responses, and changes to the permit as a result of public comment.

Ecology will decide on the need for public hearings on a case-by-case basis. Washington's Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC 173-303-840 [5]) call for a public hearing when there is a significant degree of public interest based on requests. Requests must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing.

An individual may send a written request for a public hearing to the Director of the Department of Ecology at 3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA 99354 or to Hanford@ecy.wa.gov.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 Decisions

Under CERCLA, a plan is developed for remediation of each waste site. The best technology is selected after a thorough study of the characteristics of that site. In general, EPA is the regulator for decisions about historical waste sites. The decision process is defined under CERCLA and outlined in Figure 4.

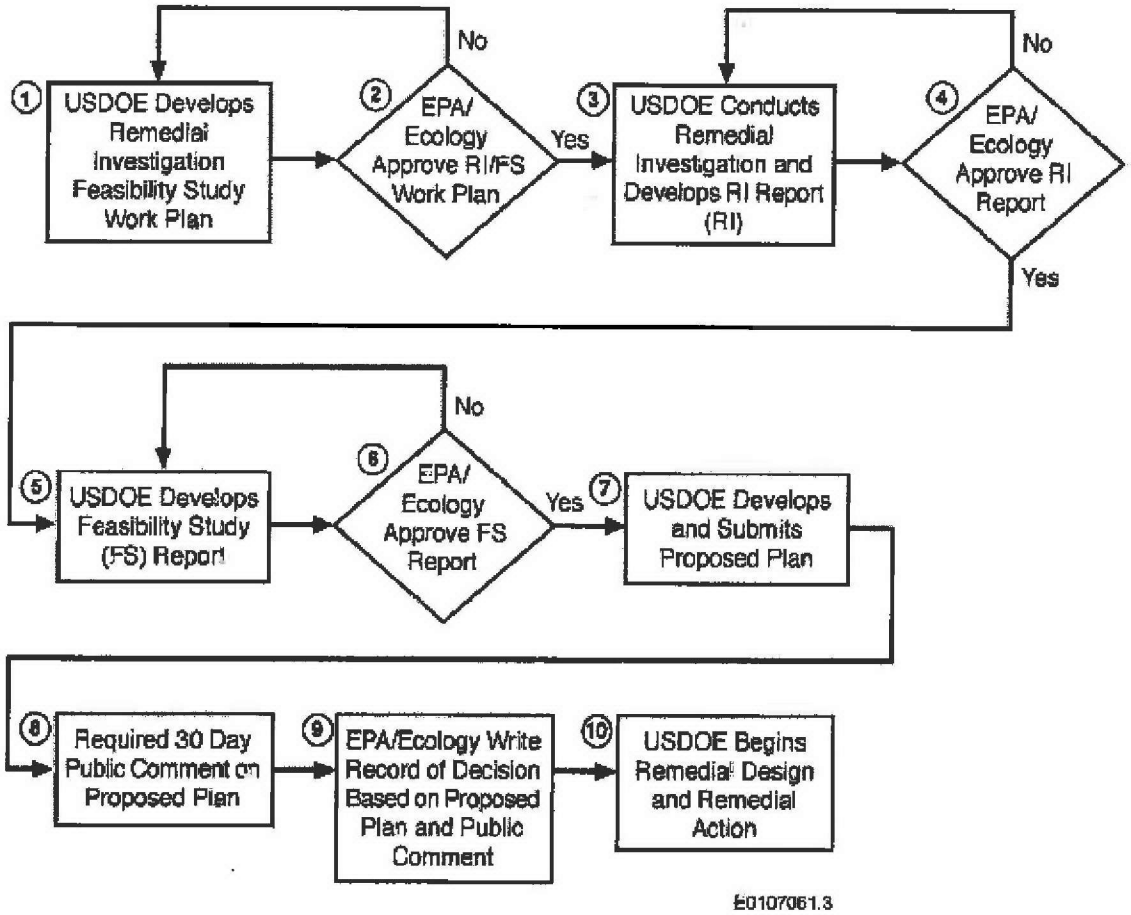


Figure 4: Tri-Party Agreement Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Decision Process

Under CERCLA, the proposed cleanup plan must undergo a 30-day public comment period before a decision is made. A public meeting may be requested on the plan during the comment period at Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or by calling the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

Expedited Response Actions

In cases where waste potentially poses a threat to human health or the environment, the TPA agencies may use an Expedited Response Action process, also known as removal actions, to reach a quicker decision. At the Hanford Site, Expedited Response Actions are sometimes used where timely action has resulted in overall cost effectiveness for cleanup of historical waste sites. Section 104 of CERCLA outlines the Expedited Response Action requirements.

The decision process for an Expedited Response Action is shown in Figure 5. Step 9 is the one point at which there is a 30-day public comment period on an Expedited Response Action, if the action is not time-critical. In the event of a time-critical Expedited Response Action, no public comment period is provided before an action is taken.

There are two reasons for this:

1. Concerns about health and safety require an expedited action; and

2. Time-critical Expedited Response Actions are only stopgap measures taken to protect health and safety, and provide time to make a longer-term decision in which the public will be consulted.

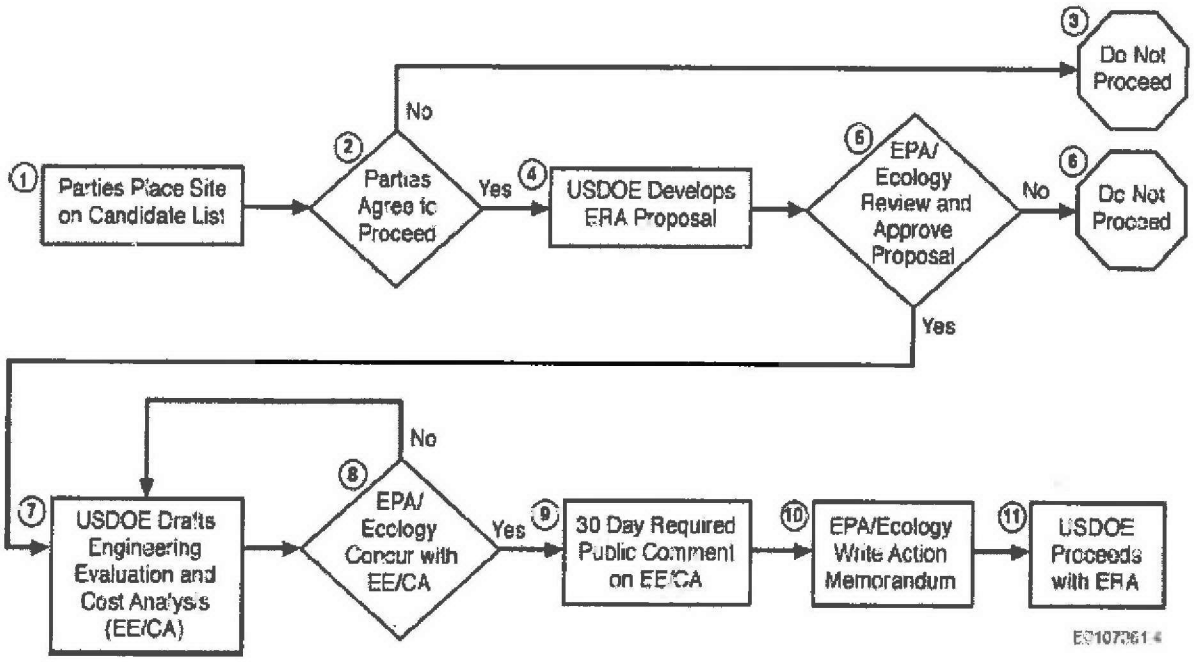


Figure 5: Tri-Party Agreement Expedited Response Action Decision Process (Non-Time Critical)

Section 3
INFORMATION RESOURCES

The TPA agencies use a variety of communication tools. These are described in the following sections.

MAILING LISTS

The TPA agencies maintain two mailing lists tailored to different levels of interest on Hanford Site activities. The lists distinguish between those individuals who are "highly interested" and would like to be involved with cleanup and compliance decision-making, and those individuals who would only like to be informed about Hanford Site activities.

Individuals on the "highly interested" list could receive 25 or more mailings per year including fact sheets, meeting notices, and schedules. Individuals on the general list primarily receive meeting notices and associated information.

EMAIL LIST

An email list provides notices on activities related to Hanford. These notices could include announcements of public comment periods, press releases, fact sheets, and meeting announcements.

You can join the Hanford email list by visiting http://listserv.wa.gov and selecting the "Hanford Info" option from the list provided.

To join a mailing list, email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008

PUBLICATIONS

A continuing goal of the TPA agencies is to improve the readability of Hanford Site publications. These publications include fact and focus sheets, comment and response documents, and other summary publications. The TPA agencies believe providing accurate, up-to-date and descriptive information is fundamental for active public participation in TPA decisions.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT CALENDAR

The *TPA Public Involvement Calendar* is updated regularly and provides the dates for upcoming meetings, public comment periods, and other Hanford Site cleanup activities. The *TPA Public Involvement Calendar* is available at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PI/pdf/TPA_PI_Calendar.pdf

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

To keep the public informed, the TPA agencies conduct a variety of activities to ensure the media has timely, complete, and accurate information about Hanford Site cleanup and compliance activities.

Media assigned to cover Hanford have a number of resources available to them. The Newsroom, www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/Newsroom identifies contact names and numbers of USDOE's media relation professionals, video of site activities, photos, press releases and fact sheets about the various projects and facilities.

Reporters visit 618-10 Burial Grounds

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The purpose of Public Information Repositories is to give the public access to information on TPA activities and provide documents for public comment. The Public Information Repositories also provide computers and assistance for the public to electronically access information in the Administrative Record.

Documents may not be checked out, but copies may be made. Call your local repository for information on hours and access.

Tri-Party Agreement Administrative Record and Public Information Repository
2440 Stevens Center, Room 1101
P.O. Box 950, Mail Stop H6-08
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-2530

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-4164
www.lib.washington.edu/govpubs/

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
1875 SW Park Avenue, P.O. Box 1151
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 725-5874
http://library.pdx.edu/

USDOE Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 372-7443
http://reading-room.pnnl.gov/

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
502 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 313-5931
www.gonzaga.edu/Academics/Libraries/Foley-Library/

ONLINE RESOURCES

Websites provide general information about Hanford Site activities.

Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:
www2.hanford.gov/arpir/

Hanford Advisory Board:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab

Hanford Events Calendar:
www.hanford.gov/pageaction.cfm/calendar

Hanford Reading Room:
http://reading-room.labworks.org/

Hanford Site Tours:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSiteTours

Hanford Speakers Bureau:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSpeakersBureau

Hanford Public Involvement Plan:
www.hanford.gov/?page=89

Tri-Party Agreement:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/TriParty

TPA Public Involvement Calendar:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm

U.S. Department of Energy:
www.hanford.gov/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/Hanford

Washington State Department of Ecology:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/abouthanford.htm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 to request information about cleanup and compliance activities at the Hanford Site. The TPA agencies strive to provide a timely response to all requests.

Section 4
OTHER GROUPS INVOLVED IN HANFORD

This section presents information about other governments and public organizations involved with Hanford Site issues. The TPA agencies assess public interest and areas of public concern regarding specific actions based on consultations with tribal governments and the State of Oregon, especially when public participation activities are conducted in Oregon.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The Hanford Site is located on land extensively used by Native Americans prior to Anglo settlement. The land was ceded to the United States under separate treaties with Indian Nations. As a result of treaties with the United States, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe retained certain rights at the Hanford Site.

Tribal members visit Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

The policies of both the United States and Washington State commit to maintaining a government-to-government relationship with tribal governments. USDOE consults with tribal governments regarding USDOE actions, decisions, and program implementation that may affect the tribes. In addition, USDOE consults with the Wanapum tribal community which lives adjacent to the Hanford Site and with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on cultural resource issues.

The TPA agencies take a proactive approach to soliciting input from tribal governments on TPA policies and issues. Specifically, the TPA agencies conduct periodic briefings for the affected tribal governments. USDOE routinely provides copies of TPA documents concurrently to tribal governments, Ecology, and EPA.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The Oregon Department of Energy is the lead Oregon agency on Hanford Site issues. This office monitors cleanup and other activities at Hanford and the downstream Columbia River environment. Oregon staff work with USDOE and local governments on safe transport of Hanford nuclear wastes through Oregon.

Transuranic Waste Shipment to Carlsbad, New Mexico

Oregon staff also support the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, which recommends policy and advises the Oregon Governor on Hanford Site issues.

The Oregon Department of Energy is also the lead for Hanford emergency planning and response and public involvement in Oregon. For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Energy at (503) 378-4040 or in Oregon at 1-800-221-8035, or visit www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/.

BRIEFINGS FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Many people get information about the Hanford Site from elected or appointed officials, or from agencies other than USDOE, Ecology, or EPA. The TPA agencies strive to keep public officials informed through publications, mailings, and periodic briefings. The TPA agencies strive to respond to questions from officials and other agency representatives in a timely manner. The TPA agencies also welcome requests for information or comments on public involvement activities from other officials or agency representatives.

Local Involvement

Several public and private organizations in the Tri-Cities area work closely with the TPA agencies on Hanford cleanup issues. These organizations include the Tri-City Development Council; Central Washington Building Trades Council; Hanford Atomic Trades Council; Hanford Communities; Benton, Franklin, and Grant County governments; and the city governments of Richland, West Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick.

Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) was created in 1994 by the TPA agencies to advise all three agencies on major cleanup policy decisions. It is a subcommittee of the USDOE Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The HAB is composed of 31 members and their alternates, who represent a broad range of stakeholders. These stakeholders include environmental groups, Hanford Site employees, the public, local government, higher education, the Washington State Department of Health; and the State of Oregon. Two of three affected tribal governments are represented on the HAB. One other tribal government participates on the HAB in an ex-officio status.

The HAB's mission statement describes the Board as "a non-partisan and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected over the short- and long-term by Hanford cleanup." The HAB was created to provide independent consensus advice to USDOE, EPA, and Ecology on selected major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site.

To fulfill its role, the HAB has researched and provided consensus advice on topics ranging from spending and budget priorities to technical recommendations on removing tank waste. Additionally, the HAB has issued advice on public involvement.

For a copy of the Board's ground rules, meeting agendas, and other information, visit the HAB website at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab.

The HAB's Public Involvement and Communications Committee discuss outreach plans for Hanford.

OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN HANFORD SITE CLEANUP

Washington State Department of Health

The Washington State Department of Health's Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford radioactive air emissions. The Division conducts environmental radiation monitoring to fulfill its public health responsibilities and verifies the results of monitoring performed by USDOE and its contractors. The Division also conducts joint investigations with Ecology into practices at Hanford. For more information, contact the

Department of Health Richland office at (509) 946-0363. For questions regarding public health, call 1-800-525-0127 (available in Washington State only) or visit www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/rp/.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife monitors and documents Hanford Site activities in regard to restoration and mitigation programs to prevent injury to fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The Department also issues state permits for cleanup work involving the disturbance of the Columbia River and its shoreline. For more information, contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (360) 902-2250 or visit the website at www.wdfw.wa.gov.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge under a Permit and Memorandum of Understanding with USDOE. The land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes all Hanford Site lands north of the Columbia River and those in the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. For more information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (509) 546-8300 or visit www.fws.gov/hanfordreach/.

Years of security and little human contact over much of the Hanford Site has created a refuge for a variety of wildlife as well as left endangered plants intact.

The Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and is the primary spawning grounds for fall Chinook salmon.

Section 5
SITE INFORMATION

This section provides a general description of the Hanford Site, its activities and past practices. It is not a complete description of all that is known about the Hanford Site, its operations, or its waste management history. More recent data may be found in several documents available at the USDOE Public Reading Room in Richland, by searching the Reading Room's catalog at reading-room.labworks.org/ or by reviewing Hanford Projects and Facilities information at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/ProjectsFacilities.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Hanford is approximately 140 miles southwest of Spokane, Washington, 200 miles southeast of Seattle, Washington, and 200 miles northeast of Portland, Oregon. (Refer to Hanford Site map.) The Columbia River borders the northern portion of the site, then turns south to form part of the eastern boundary.

The geologic structure beneath the Hanford Site consists of three distinct formations. The deepest level is a thick series of basalt flows that have been warped and folded, resulting in extensions that crop out as rock ridges in some places. Layers of silt, gravel, and sand form the middle level, known as the Ringold formation. The uppermost level is known as the Hanford formation and consists of gravel and sands deposited by catastrophic floods. Both confined and unconfined aquifers can be found beneath the Hanford Site. Confined aquifers consist of water-saturated, porous material confined by layers of basalt. Unconfined aquifers consist of water-saturated, porous material located above the first confining basalt layer. The depth of the water table ranges from 60 to 250 feet below ground surface.

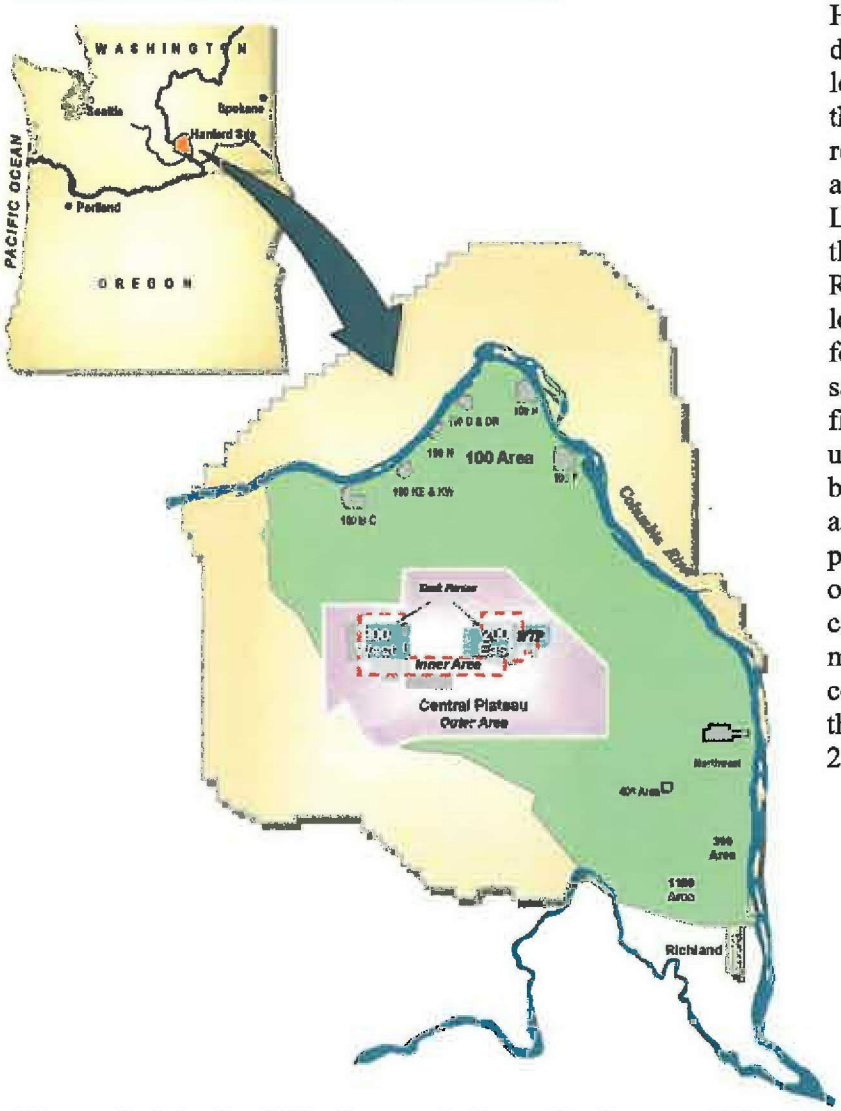


Figure 6: Hanford Site in proximity to Spokane and Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. Beige areas denote the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands reserve to the southwest and the Wahluke management unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument to the north.

Semi-arid land with a sparse covering of cold desert shrubs and drought-resistant grasses dominates the Hanford Site landscape. Forty percent of the site's annual 6.25 inches of rain occurs between November and January. The land surrounding the Hanford Site is used primarily for agriculture and livestock grazing.

The major population center near the site is the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and West Richland). The southwest area of the Hanford Site, covering 120 square miles, is designated as the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve is managed for the USDOE by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior, and is used for ecological research and preservation.

The site's Wahluke Slope area, also known as the North Slope, located across the Columbia River, is also managed for the USDOE as a wildlife refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Wahluke Slope and Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, which comprise 45 percent of the 586-square-mile site, have been cleaned and removed from the EPA Superfund list. In 2000, President Clinton created the Hanford Reach National Monument that encompasses a 0.25-mile corridor on each side of the Columbia River for a 51-mile stretch through the Hanford Site. The Hanford Reach National Monument is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDOE.

Non-USDOE facilities within Hanford Site boundaries include those owned by Energy Northwest, a public utility. The Columbia Generating Plant (formerly WNP-2) is the only nuclear power plant operating to make electricity in the Pacific Northwest. Construction was stopped on WNP-1 and WNP-4 during the 1980s.

Another non-USDOE facility on the Hanford Site is a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility operated by US Ecology, a private firm licensed by Washington State.

Additionally, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory (LIGO) project, a joint endeavor of the California Institute of Technology, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, built on the Hanford Site in 1994. LIGO is an advanced scientific observatory, designed to team with similar projects in Louisiana and Italy, for detecting gravity waves.

Findings are expected to aid in understanding the workings of the universe, including Einstein's theories of gravity. LIGO is not a USDOE project, but the Hanford Site location was selected because of its available space and seismic stability.

USDOE facilities are located throughout the Hanford Site and the city of Richland. The Site is divided into six administrative areas, known as the 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, and 1100 Areas.

The first four areas contained most of the nuclear operations at the Hanford Site. The 100 Area includes nine deactivated nuclear production reactors along the northern stretch of the Columbia River, often referred to as the River Corridor. The 200 East and 200 West Areas, located in Hanford's Central Plateau, contain 56 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste in aging underground tanks, the principal nuclear chemical processing and waste management facilities, several large waste disposal areas, and many other facilities. The 300 Area, approximately three miles north of the city of Richland, contains research and development laboratories and former reactor fuel manufacturing facilities. The Fast Flux Test Facility is located in the 400 Area, and is now shut down.

The 600 Area is the administrative designation for Site lands that are not part of any other administrative area. The 1100 Area, located adjacent to the Richland city limits, once contained vehicle maintenance and storage facilities. However, this 1.25-square-mile area was cleaned up, removed from the Superfund list in 1995. The land was transferred to the Port of Benton (a local port district) to assist in economic diversification in the North Richland area and is no longer a part of the Hanford Site.

HANFORD SITE HISTORY

The Hanford Site was originally inhabited by Native Americans, primarily the Wanapum Band. It was also used by the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse Tribes. In 1855, the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla Tribes signed treaties with the United States under which the tribes ceded to the Federal government the lands on which the Hanford Site is located.

The tribes reserved certain rights in the ceded lands such as taking fish from all streams within or adjacent to the territory and at their usual and accustomed places and erecting temporary buildings for curing fish. The tribes also reserved the privileges to hunt, gather roots and berries, graze their horses and cattle on open and unclaimed land, and to observe traditional religious practices at physical locations considered sacred.

Parts of the land, now the Hanford Site, were settled by non-Native Americans and used for irrigated orchards, farms, and ranches before World War II. About 6,000 acres were used to grow peaches, pears, grapes, asparagus, and other agricultural products. The towns of Hanford, White Bluffs and Richland were founded by some of these early settlers.

Town of White Bluffs, 1938

Hanford Site construction began in March 1943 after the Manhattan District of the Army Corps of Engineers chose it as one of the sites for the highly secret Manhattan Project. Hanford's mission was to produce plutonium for the world's first nuclear weapons. Hanford was considered to be an ideal site for the Manhattan Project for several reasons: 1) its remote location; 2) access to railroad systems; 3) the abundance of water from the Columbia River for cooling the reactors; and 4) the abundance of hydroelectric power from dams on the Columbia River. About 1,500 people who were living within the Site boundaries were forced to move.

In September 1944, with the first operation of B Reactor in the 100 Area, the Department of Defense (at that time known as the War Department) began producing plutonium. B Reactor startup was followed by the startup of D Reactor in December 1944, and F Reactor in February 1945. These three reactors produced the initial plutonium for nuclear weapons.

By 1955, seven reactors similar in design to the original B Reactor were built and all eight reactors were in operation to produce plutonium at the Hanford Site. Between 1959 and 1963, a powerful dual-purpose reactor, N Reactor, was built. In addition to producing plutonium, N Reactor steam was used to make electricity. In 1966, the utility known then as the Washington Public Power Supply System (now Energy Northwest) built a power generating facility near the N Reactor to harness reactor steam to generate electricity.

In addition to the reactors, operations at the Hanford Site included other elements of the nuclear fuel cycle: fuel fabrication, chemical processing, waste management, and research and development facilities.

The development of Hanford's plutonium production capacity resulted in the growth of the area surrounding the site. In the months following initial construction on the site in 1943, more than 50,000 construction workers moved to the Hanford area. Many of these workers later settled in the Tri-Cities, which became not only the fourth largest metropolitan area in Washington State, but a new economic hub for the region.

Eight of the nine plutonium production reactors were closed between 1964 and 1971 when the nation's plutonium needs diminished due to a shift in national defense policy. As part of a national program to investigate peaceful uses of nuclear power and research, the Hanford Site was chosen as the location for the Fast Flux Test Facility advanced breeder reactor in 1967.

In the early 1980s, Hanford Site activities shifted again to re-emphasize defense production. Site facilities were upgraded and used to produce material that was to be part of President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (sometimes known as Star Wars).

Beginning in 1989, USDOE's primary mission at the Hanford Site shifted from production to waste cleanup. The TPA was signed in May 1989 by the USDOE, EPA, and Ecology. No plutonium for defense purposes has been produced at the Hanford Site since that time.

PAST AND PRESENT OPERATIONS AT THE HANFORD SITE

Current USDOE activities at the Hanford Site focus on waste management, environmental restoration, and science and technology.

When the cleanup effort began, the focus was to resolve immediate threats to human health and the environment. These threats included aging tanks filled with hazardous waste and spent nuclear fuel stored in leaking basins near the Columbia River. Cleanup has now reached the point where most immediate risks have been resolved and the task of mitigating the long-term risks is underway. Groundwater treatment systems are in place that will require long-term operation. Additionally, the majority of the waste in the tanks remains to be retrieved, treated, and disposed.

Construction of Hanford Tank Farm

There are three main components of Hanford Site cleanup. They are:

1. River Corridor which consists of the 100, 300, 400, 600 Areas;
2. Central Plateau, also known as the 200 Area; and
3. Tank Waste, located in the Central Plateau.

The components of the Hanford Site are shown in Figure 6 and described in the following sections.

River Corridor

Nine plutonium production reactors were built in six areas along the river. Associated liquid and solid waste disposal sites and contaminated groundwater near the Columbia River are being remediated. The Columbia River Corridor accounts for about 220 square miles of the Hanford Site.

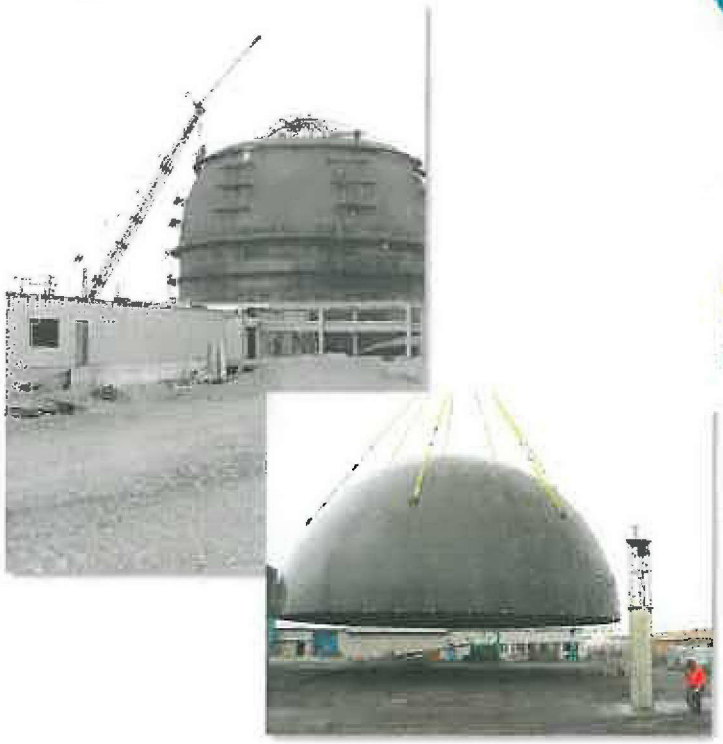
K East and K West Reactors

Cleaning up the River Corridor is a large and complex task. More than 760 solid and liquid waste sites were identified in the River Corridor, some of which have contaminated soil down to groundwater. Also, there were originally more than 1,000 above-ground structures that needed removal. When buildings that are radioactively and/or chemically contaminated are demolished and removed, steps have to be taken to ensure that neither workers, nor the environment will be exposed to hazardous substances during work activities.

River Corridor

The reactors themselves remain highly radioactive after many years of producing plutonium. With the exception of the B Reactor, which is designated a National Historic Landmark, the reactors are being placed into a safe and stable configuration known as "interim safe storage." They will remain in storage until final decommissioning.

Activities at the 300 Area generated both solid and liquid wastes. The 300 Area consisted of more than 250 office buildings, laboratories, experimental nuclear reactors, and manufacturing facilities. Most of these buildings have been or will be demolished.

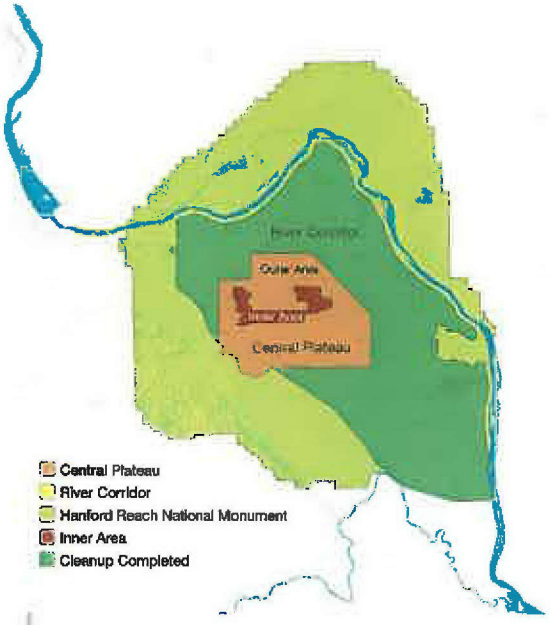


Removal of the 309 Building Dome

Today, cleanup work to preserve and protect the Columbia River is a top priority at Hanford. Much of this cleanup is planned for completion by 2015, allowing USDOE-RL to transition cleanup focus from the River Corridor to the Central Plateau, thus reducing the active cleanup footprint of the site.

Central Plateau

The Central Plateau includes approximately 75 square miles in the central portion of the Hanford Site. Cleanup of the Central Plateau is a highly complex activity because of the large number of waste sites, surplus facilities, active treatment and disposal facilities, and areas of deep soil contamination. Past discharges of more than 450 billion gallons of liquid waste and cooling water to the soil have resulted in about 80 square miles of contaminated groundwater. The Central Plateau is divided into two areas; the Inner Area and the Outer Area.



Central Plateau: Outer & Inner Area

Inner Area

The Inner Area is about 10 square miles and contains the major nuclear fuel processing, waste management, and disposal facilities – including the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, a state and federally-regulated landfill that accepts Hanford waste. Pump-and-treat systems are in place here to remediate and contain groundwater contamination plumes so that they do not reach the River Corridor. The Inner Area is anticipated to be the final footprint of Hanford and will be dedicated to long-term waste management and containment of residual contamination.

Removal of Waste Container from Burial Ground

Outer Area

The Outer Area of the Central Plateau is about 65 square miles. Cleanup work here consists mainly of demolishing facilities and remediating waste sites. USDOE-RL plans to complete cleanup of the Outer Area in the 2015 – 2020 time period, further reducing Hanford's active cleanup footprint.

Removed 15 railcars, 4 relocated to the B Reactor Historical Landmark

Tank Farms

After irradiated fuel rods were taken from the nuclear reactors to the processing facilities, they were exposed to a series of chemical processes for plutonium retrieval. The resulting chemical and radioactive wastes were sent to 177 underground storage tanks divided into 18 groups of tanks called "tank farms." The tanks ranged in capacity from 55,000 gallons to more than 1 million gallons. Approximately 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste remain stored in these tanks. Some of this liquid waste has reached groundwater.

Transfer line being removed

The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, also known as the Vitrification Plant, will process tank farm waste. Waste vitrification means the waste is changed from liquid or sludge to a more stable glass form. Once vitrified, the waste will be put into steel canisters and safely disposed.

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (Spring 2011)

Appendix A
REFERENCE: OTHER LAWS

The following describes the public involvement requirements of additional laws that may pertain to Hanford Site cleanup actions. When more than one set of public involvement requirements applies to a specific decision, activity or action, the TPA agencies will review the pertinent requirements and coordinate and/or combine them to conduct a comprehensive process.

THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The *Clean Water Act* is a 1977 amendment to the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972*, which set the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States. EPA delegates authority to implement these laws to the State. Ecology oversees Washington State Discharge permits issued for the 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility and the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility. The EPA regulates the 300 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility through a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Both the state and federal permit processes include requirements for public involvement and comment.

The state public involvement requirements related to water regulations can be found in Washington Administrative Code 173-216-090 and 173-216-100. Public involvement requirements pertaining to wastewater discharge to the groundwater include a minimum public notice in a local newspaper, accepting written public comment for 30 days following newspaper publication of proposed changes, and consideration for a public hearing if there is significant request.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT

The EPA delegated *Clean Air Act* responsibility to Ecology and the Washington Department of Health. Ecology and the Washington Department of Health jointly regulate air emissions at the Hanford Site. The EPA has regulatory authority over National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants provisions for primary air pollutants. The primary air pollutants are sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen oxides, and lead.

The Washington Department of Health Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford Site radioactive air emissions and conducts environmental radiation monitoring. Ecology oversees implementation of the Title V, Air Operating Permit, provisions of the *Clean Air Act*.

The state public involvement requirements related to air regulations are in Washington Administrative Code 173-401-800. Public involvement requirements pertaining to air operating permits include publication of notices in local newspapers, distribution of notice to a facility-specific mailing list, a minimum 30-day public comment period on proposed permits, and 30 days' notice prior to a public meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

USDOE and EPA each have programs and policies to incorporate environmental justice in their actions.

Information on EPA's Environmental Justice program is available at: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/.

Information on USDOE's Environmental Justice policies and programs can be found at: www.lm.doe.gov/default.aspx?id=1889.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) requires that all Federal agencies consider the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. NEPA regulations are located at 40 CFR 1500 through 1508 and USDOE's implementing regulations for NEPA are located at 10 CFR 1021, which also includes requirements for public participation.

For more information on NEPA, contact the USDOE NEPA Compliance Officer at 509-373-5227.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Ecology must review the permitting of several Hanford Site projects under the *State Environmental Policy Act* (SEPA). The purpose of SEPA is to ensure that environmental values are considered by state and local government officials when making decisions. Before taking actions (issuing permits, etc.), agencies must follow specific procedures to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the environment. The severity of the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed project will determine whether an environmental impact statement is required.

The public participation requirements of SEPA can be found in Washington Administrative Code 197-11-510. Public participation requirements allow the permittee to use their existing notice procedures. The state can also require that additional public notice be provided through publication in local newspapers, news media contacts, publication in the SEPA register and other methods. Public hearings may be scheduled based on the lead agency's discretion, including written requests from 50 or more people, or written request from two other agencies with jurisdiction.

MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT

The *Model Toxics Control Act* (MTCA) is Washington State's version of the CERCLA. Ecology implements MTCA's public involvement activities, which are similar to CERCLA public involvement requirements.

The public involvement requirements of MTCA include a minimum 30-day public comment period, early planning of public participation activities, requirements for contents of public notice on site-specific risk assessments, and requirements for who shall receive notice and where notices will be published.

Additionally, MTCA requires a public participation grant program to provide funding for citizen-based public participation efforts.

For more information on public participation grant application process, contact Ecology's Solid Waste/Financial Assistance program at 360-407-6061. For more information about MTCA, call Ecology's Toxics Control Program at (360) 407-7170 or go to www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/9406.pdf.

100 Area Groundwater Treatment Facility

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

The *Toxic Substances Control Act* provides for protection of human health and the environment from exposure to certain hazardous and toxic chemical substances and mixtures (e.g., Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) and newly manufactured chemicals). The Hanford Site has in place a program for the cleanup, treatment, and disposal of materials regulated by the *Toxic Substances Control Act*. The regulations derived from the act are administered by the EPA. **For more information, call EPA at 1-800-424-4372.**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, was signed into law on July 4, 1966, by President Lyndon Johnson. The FOIA has since been amended in 1974, 1986, and most recently, with the *Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996.*

The FOIA applies to documents held by agencies in the executive branch of the federal government, including USDOE and EPA. The FOIA does not apply to Congress or the judicial branch, nor does it apply to records of state or local governments. However, many state governments have their own open records laws.

The FOIA requires that certain information, such as descriptions of agency organization and office addresses, statements of agency operations, rules of procedures, general policy statements, final opinions made in the adjudication of cases, and administrative staff manuals that affect the public must be made available for inspection by the general public. This is accomplished through the use of public reading rooms.

All other agency records may be requested under the FOIA, regardless of the format of the record (i.e., electronic records, photographs, videos, audio recordings, etc.). For more information about the FOIA, please visit our website at: www.hanford.gov/?page=64.

For documents not undergoing public comment, EPA follows the requirements set forth in the *Freedom of Information Act* (Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2). For more information, call EPA at 1-800-424-4372.

STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LAW

Requests for public records from Ecology concerning Hanford Site cleanup activities and compliance must be made in accordance with state law. The guidelines for the state's public disclosure law are in the Revised Code of Washington, chapter 42.17. State law requires the public records coordinator to set appointments for review of records and documents between 9 a.m. and noon and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. daily.

Ecology may fill some requests through telephone or fax. There is no fee for viewing records. Copying and postage fees may apply. For more information, contact the Nuclear Waste Program Public Records coordinator at 509-372-7920.

100 K Area Water Silo Demolition

Appendix B
DOCUMENTS ACCESSIBLE FROM INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Public Information Repositories provide the public access to information on Tri-Party Agreement activities and provide documents for public comment. Documents that are not undergoing public comment are stored electronically on the Administrative Record. The Public Information Repositories provide computers and assistance for the public to electronically access these records.

The following list includes documents and types of documents that are electronically accessible from the Public Information repositories.

DOCUMENTS

Action Plans (for implementation of the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order*)

Closure Plans

Comment and Response Documents

Hanford Public Involvement Plan (known as the Community Relations Plan)

Fact and Focus Sheets (information on Tri-Party Agreement issues, cleanup activities, and public involvement opportunities)

Feasibility and Corrective Measures Study Phase II Reports

Feasibility and Corrective Measures Study Phase III Reports

Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) amendments and changes

Hanford Site Performance Summary - Environmental Management Funded Programs

Hearing Transcripts (from public hearings related to the Tri-Party Agreement)

Interim Action Records of Decision

Meeting Summaries (from Tri-Party Agreement public meetings)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 Permits

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 Permit Modifications

Records of Decision

Remedial Action and Corrective Measures Implementation Work Plans

Remedial Design and Corrective Measures Design Reports

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study Work Plans

Remedial Investigation and *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* Facility Investigation Reports

Site Management system Executive Summary Report

TOPICS

Administrative Record Index

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Health Assessments

Current Activity Data Sheets (budget information)

Current Hanford Site Waste Management Unit Reports

Expedited Response Action -- Action Memoranda

Expedited Response Action -- Candidate Waste Sites

Expedited Response Action Closeout Reports

Expedited Response Action Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

Hanford Groundwater Monitoring Reports (1987 - Present)

Preliminary Natural Resource Survey

Public Notices

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 Part B modifications to the Hanford Site-Wide Permit

Washington State Permit Applications, Draft and Final Permits, and Fact Sheets

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Administrative Record serves the same purpose in the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980*, *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976*, and Washington State Dangerous Waste Programs. The Administrative Record is the body of documents and information that is considered or relied on to arrive at a decision for remedial action or hazardous waste management.

An Administrative Record file is established for each group of waste sites with a similar location and waste characteristics and for each grouping of treatment, storage, or disposal units for the purpose of preparing and submitting a permit application and/or closure plan. It will include all the documents considered or relied on in arriving at a decision or to issue a permit or permit modification. When the investigation process begins or when a permit action begins, the Administrative Record file is established. The USDOE is responsible for management of the official Administrative Record file. The Administrative Record is also available online.

Tri-Party Agreement Administrative Record and Public Information Repository
2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-2530
Website: www2.hanford.gov/arpir/

Appendix C
HANFORD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

The Hanford Public Involvement Plan is revised periodically. This is the fifth revision to the plan.

This section will be completed following the formal public comment period.

Appendix D
HANFORD ACRONYM LIST

While this list is in no way complete, it provides the meaning of some of the primary acronyms used at Hanford and referenced in this Plan. For a complete list of Hanford Site abbreviations and acronyms, go to www.hanford.gov/c.cfm/tools/acronym.cfm.

CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980

CR – Continuing Resolution

CRP – Community Relations Plan

Ecology – Washington State Department of Ecology

EE/CA – Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis

EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

FOIA – Freedom of Information Act

HAB – Hanford Advisory Board

HWMA – Hazardous Waste Management Act (Washington State)

LIGO – Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory

MTCA – Model Toxics Control Act

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

ORP – Office of River Protection

PCBs – Polychlorinated Biphenyl

Plan – Hanford Public Involvement Plan (also known as the Community Relations Plan)

RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976

RL – Richland Operations Office

SEPA – State Environmental Policy Act

TAG – Technical Assistant Grants

TPA – Tri-Party Agreement (Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order)

USDOE – United States Department of Energy

WNP – Washington Nuclear Project (Columbia Generating Plant)