



HANFORD UPDATE

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Volume 7, Number 6 - Sept/Oct 1995

Major hits, few misses in TPA milestone count for 1995

Ninety-one Tri-Party Agreement milestones were due for federal fiscal year 1995 and 87 were completed. Of the four "interim" milestones missed, two were related to ending discharge of major waste streams to the soil (milestones associated with M-17). The other two milestones were concept designs on tank farm upgrades projects (milestones associated with M-43).

Listed are some of the significant milestones for fiscal year 1995 (October 1, 1994-September 30, 1995):

Liquid waste streams

Although two interim milestones were missed, the intent of M-17 to end the discharge of untreated waste streams to the soil has been met. Thirty-three major waste streams have either been eliminated, contained or treated before being discharged to the soil. Full-scale operations of 200 Area and 300 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facilities also took place in fiscal year 1995.

N-Springs pump and treat

Pump and treat operations that began this summer at N-Springs will significantly reduce strontium entering the Columbia River.

Cleanup of Wahluke Slope and Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve

The lands that serve as the northern and southwestern boundaries at Hanford have been cleaned up. More than one hundred square miles of land has been cleaned of contamination and are available for other uses pending land use decisions.

Stabilization and pumping of radioactive waste tanks

Six single-shell tanks were declared "interim stabilized" this past fiscal year. An ambitious schedule calls for pumping 17 additional tanks in fiscal year 1996. Interim stabilization is achieved when nearly all the liquid tank waste has been pumped and transferred to double-shell tanks. Remaining sludges and saltcake are much less likely to leak into the soil.

For more information, call the Hanford toll-free hotline 1-800-321-2008.

Environmental Restoration year in review

The Environmental Restoration Program has made major strides forward towards cleanup of the Site in 1994 and 1995. The Tri-Party agencies worked together to improve productivity and reduce costs, making it possible to accelerate cleanup during a time of budget constraints.

Responding to public interest in protecting the Columbia River, the Environmental Restoration Refocusing Package, signed last January as amendment four to the TPA, gives priority to projects that affect the river. To enable cleanup to proceed, construction is well underway on the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, a large disposal facility located in the Central Plateau which will safely contain Hanford cleanup wastes. Completion of the disposal facility is scheduled for June 1996 and operations should begin shortly thereafter.

The fourth amendment to the TPA points cleanup work toward high payoff projects and away from expensive paper studies. Several projects address Hanford's most serious ground water problems. There are two pump and treat projects in the 200 West Area, one focusing on the removal and containment of carbon tetrachloride and another focusing on the removal of two radioactive substances, uranium and technetium. The Carbon Tetrachloride pump and treat is being conducted in conjunction with a soil vapor extraction project which has removed over 150,000 pounds of carbon tetrachloride from the soil. Pump and treat work is also proposed in the 100 Area to deal with chromium releases into the Columbia River. Hexavalent chromium could be toxic to young salmon.

Soil cleanup is also moving into gear in the 100 Areas. The 100 BC Demonstration Project is cleaning up three radioactive liquid waste sites. Information gained from these cleanups is being factored into the remedial design and cleanup of approximately 30 other liquid waste sites in the 100 Area.

Except for revegetation, cleanup work in the 1100 Area has been completed. Groundwater in the 1100 Area will continue to be monitored. Waste sites in the 300 Area will soon be moving from the investigation phase to cleanup. Proposed plans detailing the 300 Area cleanup should be available later this fall for public review.

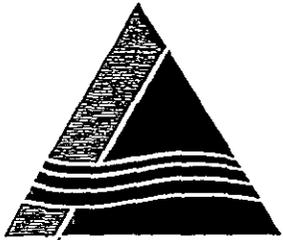
In addition, other clean up activities that have been completed include: 32 facilities at N-Reactor deactivated; the 190-D Building demolished; the C Area and K Area retention basins dismantled and 6.2 million pounds of steel recycled.

For more information, contact Dennis Faulk, EPA (509) 376-8631.

Who to talk to about Hanford

A revised and updated *Who to Talk to About Hanford, A Resource Guide* is now available by calling the Hanford toll-free hotline. The booklet gives brief descriptions and contact points for a wide range of government agencies, public interest groups, non-profits and other organizations concerned with Hanford activities.

For individual or bulk copies, contact Michelle Davis, Ecology, 1-800-321-2008.



Hanford Happenings

October 25, 1995

Tri-Party Agreement

Cleanup is underway at Hanford and the number of actions requiring public participation continues to grow. The three parties, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offer this monthly filler to help you keep track of scheduled meetings, comment periods and events, and the inevitable changes in schedules. For the latest information, call the Hanford Cleanup toll-free hotline at 1-800-321-2008.

November	Program	Contact
November 2-3	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Richland; O'Callahan's. Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
November 8-9	Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council meeting. Pendleton, OR. 8 a.m. -5:00 p.m. on the 8th and 8 a.m.-12n on the 9th. Agenda to be determined.	Linda Goodey (509) 946-3684
November 9	Public Interactive videoconference on Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Conference centers in Pasco, Seattle, Lacey, WA and Portland and Pendleton, OR. 7-10 p.m.	Sharon Braswell (509) 376-3982
November 9	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Ecology's Kennewick offices. Chair: Dick Belsey	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
November 17	Hanford Advisory Board Dollars & Sense Committee meeting. Tri-Cities. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Chair: Gerry Pollet	Walt Hays (415) 424-9633
November 17	Hanford Advisory Board Environmental Restoration Committee meeting. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ecology's Kennewick offices. Chair: Ralph Patt	Naseem Rakha (503) 873-7709
November 29- December 1	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. The agenda includes an afternoon session on the 29th with the Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Dose Reconstruction Project. Time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730
December-January		
December 5	Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Richland; Tower Inn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
December 6- 7	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project Final meeting. Richland; Tower Inn. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
December 7- 8	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Portland, OR; Red Lion-Columbia River. Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
December 14-15	Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council meeting. 8 a.m. -5:00 p.m. on the 14th and 8 a.m.-12n on the 15th. Agenda and location to be determined.	Linda Goodey (509) 946-3684
December 15	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Spokane. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Chair: Dick Belsey	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
January 4	Plutonium Finishing Plant Draft Environmental Impact Statement public hearing. Richland. Time and location to be determined.	Nanci Peters (509) 946-3683

Comment Periods

Fall 1995 <i>Tentative</i>	Preliminary Notice of Waste Discharge Permit Application. Ecology seeks public comment on issues to be considered in development of draft permits for W-252 Streams, 200 East Area Chemical Drain Field, 400 Area Septic System, and 183-N Backwash Discharge Pond, 100-N Sewage Lagoon. Comments will be used to prepare draft permits for public review in the fall of 1995.	Greta Davis (509) 736-3025
September 22- December 21	Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. USDOE is seeking comment on USDOE-wide management alternatives for treating, storing, and disposing of radioactive and hazardous wastes.	Carol Borgstrom (202) 586-4600
Winter <i>Tentative</i>	TPA Community Relations Plan. The TPA agencies will be seeking public comment on the revised Community Relations Plan.	Rob Harper (360) 407-7122
November 1- December 15	Draft Amendment to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order. The TPA agencies will be seeking public comment on the sixth amendment to the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement.	Roger Stanley (360) 407-7108
November 6- December 5 <i>Tentative</i>	400 Area Secondary Cooling Water Draft Waste Discharge Permit. Ecology will seek public comment on the draft waste discharge permit for the 400 Area.	Greta Davis (509) 736-3025

Every effort has been made to list correct information, but dates, times, and locations for particular meetings may change. For more information, please call 1-800-321-2008 or any of the following Tri-Party Agreement agency public involvement contacts:

U.S. Department of Energy
Jon Yerxa at (509) 376-9628

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dennis Faulk at (509) 376-8631

WA State Department of Ecology
Laurie Davies at (360) 407-7113

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies are equal opportunity agencies and do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled veteran's status, Vietnam Era veteran's status, or sexual orientation. If you have special accommodation needs or require this material in an alternative format, please contact Michelle Davis at (360) 407-7126 (Voice) or (360) 407-6206 (TDD).

Tri-Party Agreement Amendment available for comment in November

These amendments are expected to streamline actions under the Agreement by providing authority and control to the personnel most responsible for performing cleanup actions. Decisions will be made at lower levels and in less time.

The major regulatory change is the single regulator concept. One regulator, EPA or Ecology, will be designated as "Lead Regulatory Agency" for the day-to-day oversight and design-making on individual cleanup actions. The agencies will retain their respective authorities, but expect to gain staffing efficiencies.

In addition, the proposal brings certain Agreement language into line with new USDOE management structures, replaces the Tri-Party Agreement Project Managers position with a new Inter-Agency Management Integration Team (IAMIT) and streamlines the dispute resolution process. A team of executive managers will form the IAMIT. The team will focus on making decisions, resolving disputes and striving for efficient progress.

A 45-day public comment will begin November 1 and end December 15, 1995. Send written comments to: Gail McClure, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 550, M/S A7-75, Richland, WA 99352.

For more information, contact Gail McClure at the above address or call the Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008.

New tanks not needed to meet key Tri-Party Agreement milestone

Several factors converged in 1995 to allow the agencies to agree Milestone M-42 — provide additional waste tank capacity by 1998 — can probably be achieved without building expensive, new double-shell nuclear waste storage tanks. Reduction of liquid waste volumes through evaporators has already reduced the quantity of stored wastes from 62 to about 55 million gallons. The recent reopening of an existing cross-site transfer pipeline between the 200 West and East areas allows more mobile liquids to be moved from older, leak-prone single-shell tanks to safer double-shell tanks. Planned construction of a new, larger diameter cross-site line should allow pumping of sludges to safer storage. The success of a mixer pump in tank 101-SY at reducing the formation of hydrogen gas bubbles has meant planned large volume dilution — up to six tank's worth — won't be necessary. In addition, improved techniques for cleaning out old production facilities, particularly the Plutonium Finishing Plant, will generate much less additional liquid waste than originally anticipated.

In a related development, USDOE and Ecology have reopened the public comment period on the Safe Interim Storage Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) until October 26. The draft EIS originally suggested construction of new tanks, but public comment and the same information that allowed the agencies to conclude the goals of the TPA would be met without them has led authors of the EIS to modify their preferred alternatives. The final document's preferred alternative now includes a new cross-site transfer line, but no new tanks.

For more information, contact Carolyn Haass, USDOE (509) 372-2731, or E-mail: carolyn_c_haass@rl.gov.

Milestone marks 75 percent cut in liquid waste discharges

Milestone 17-00A was reached June 30, 1995, marking a 75 percent cut in annual liquid waste discharges to the soils at Hanford — from 6.2 billion gallons in 1987 to 1.5 billion gallons. The number of major waste streams has been reduced from 33 to 15, and liquid discharges have been halted at 21 contaminated waste sites. To achieve the milestone, three major treatment facilities were built to deal with existing and future liquid wastes.

Although one major facility will not be fully operational until next March, water to be treated there will be stored, not discharged to the ground.

Opportunities provided for budget development

Tri-Party Agreement paragraphs 148 and 149 obligates USDOE to bring regulators, tribes and stakeholders into the development of Hanford's budget. The Agreement details steps for consultation, reporting and public involvement during the annual budget planning process. The next step in the process will follow the president's signing of the fiscal year 1996 budget.

For more information, contact Jim Peterson, USDOE (509) 376-6731.

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