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HEAL ACTION MEMO

Special Edition Hanford Education Action League February 8, 1994

The Department of Energy is planning on doing at least two Environmental Impact Statements on the plans for treating and disposing of Hanford's tank wastes. HEAL understands DOE's legal mandate to conduct such assessments, but feels that the EIS's scope is seriously misguided. For this to be a process which benefits the cleanup, DOE must...

...take full advantage of available information.

Most of the work for these EIS's has already been done during a long (over two years) comprehensive process studying the options for dealing with Hanford's tank wastes. It was called the Technical Options Report. It did the type of analysis DOE is proposing to do in these new EIS's. There is nothing to be gained—and a lot of time and money to lose—from trying to reinvent this wheel.

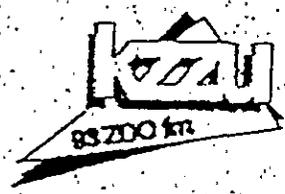
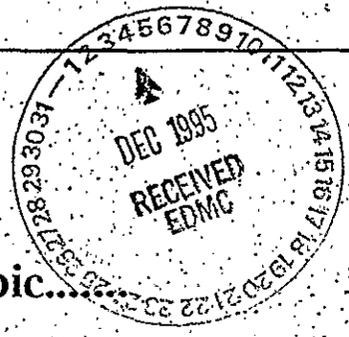
...maintain commitments to Tri-Party Agreement.

The new Tri-Party Agreement was signed on January 25th. It was developed through negotiations and an extensive public participation process. The process developed a strong regional consensus behind Hanford cleanup. Unfortunately, these EIS's have the very real possibility of undoing all the hard work that has gone into the Tri-Party Agreement. DOE could decide, through these EIS's, to pursue a tank waste program completely counter to the Tri-Party Agreement. DOE must not use these EIS's as an "escape hatch" to get out of the commitments outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement.

...get on with cleanup.

At the very least, these EIS's are likely to delay important Tri-Party Agreement activities: Schedules for removing and stabilizing tank waste are seriously threatened by these EIS's. This is unacceptable. DOE must not allow these EIS's to delay cleanup activities.

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Voice Your Opinion!

Here are the dates and locations for the public meetings:

- Feb. 14 Richland, WA
Hanford House--Red Lion
802 George Washington Way
- Feb. 16 Hood River, OR
The Hood River Inn
1108 E. Marina Way
- Feb. 17 Portland, OR
Bonneville Power Administration
Auditorium
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
- Feb. 22 Seattle, WA
The Mountaineer's
300 Third Avenue West
- Feb. 24 Spokane, WA
Spokane Convention Center
334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Public Meeting Times

The public meetings will be from 1:00 to 4:30 and from 6:30 to 10 p.m. You need not be there for the whole meeting, just long enough to give them your opinion. At the beginning of each session there will be a presentation of the issue by DOE and Ecology, then the public will be given a chance to offer comments.

To sign up for a comment time, call 1-800-500-1660. Don't worry if you forget to sign up in advance - you can do it at the meeting. Written comments can be sent (before March 15) to:

Don Alexander
USDOE
PO Box 550, MS R3-73
Richland, WA 99352

Geoff Tallent
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Lacey, WA 98504-7600



HEAL

Hanford Education
Action League
1408 W. Broadway
Spokane, WA 99201

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