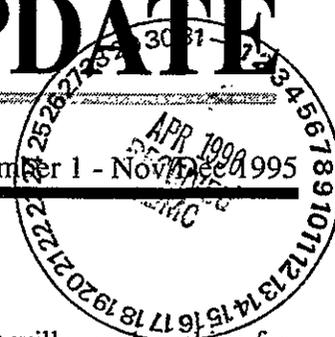


Tri-Party Agreement

HANFORD UPDATE

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Volume 8, Number 1 - November 1995



Tank Waste Remediation System news

❖ **TPA amendments:** Ecology and the Department of Energy (USDOE) will soon be asking for public reaction to a proposed Tri-Party Agreement change package. The amendments recognize USDOE's plans for private financing and operation of tank waste treatment facilities. A 45-day public comment period is scheduled to start January 2. The changes are proposed in the M-50, M-51 and M-60 milestone series. Key dates in the new time lines include June 1996 for USDOE to send final bid specifications to potential vendors, January 1997 for selection of design-only contractors, July 1998 for selection of two competing treatment contractors and December 2002 for startup of low activity tank waste treatment. All low activity wastes are to be treated by 2024, four years earlier than called for in the current M-60 milestone series. Privatization may also include high level waste vitrification.

Public meetings are tentively scheduled for January 30 in Portland and January 31 in the Tri-Cities. Negotiators from Ecology and USDOE are available upon request for presentations to interested groups and organizations. To obtain copies of the focus sheet or change package, call Hanford Cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.

For more information, contact Toby Michelena, Ecology (360) 407-7144, or Carolyn Haass, USDOE (509) 372-2731.

❖ **Comments sought on TWRS specifications:** USDOE is requesting comments from potential vendors and interested parties on a Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to treat and solidify Hanford tank waste. The draft RFP reflects a new approach to cleanup. USDOE is moving away from work in government-owned, contractor-operated facilities, operated on a cost reimbursable basis, to contractor-owned, contractor-operated facilities. Waste would be treated at a fixed price (per unit of treated waste). Payment would be made when the treatment service is completed and a satisfactory product (immobilized waste) is delivered. Under this approach, more of the cost, technical performance and responsibility would shift to the contractor. As a result, USDOE expects to treat tank waste more efficiently. TWRS privatization will provide business opportunities well into the 21st century for companies with technical skills, financial qualifications and operational experience in handling hazardous materials.

The Draft RFP can be found on the Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization Home Page at http://twins.pnl.gov:8001/twrs_rfp/homepage.htm. Hard copies of the draft RFP may be reviewed at the TPA Information Repositories. Requests for copies of the draft RFP and all comments (electronic form preferred) should be sent to: Peter Rasmussen, Contracting Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, MSIN K6-51, Richland, WA 99352. Electronic comments and requests can be sent to peter_e_rasmussen@rl.gov. Comments and requests may also be faxed to (509) 373-0628. Receipt of faxes can be confirmed by calling (509) 373-0068. All comments are due by January 5, 1996.

For more information, contact Peter Rasmussen, USDOE (509) 376-7437.

❖ **TWRS Environmental Impact Statement:** Alternatives for clean up of Hanford's 55 million gallons of tank waste are the focus of the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The DEIS is tentatively scheduled to be available for public review in the spring of 1996. A 45-day public comment period is anticipated. Public hearings for the Tri-Cities and Portland, Oregon. USDOE and Ecology representatives also will be available upon request to present DEIS briefings, workshops or consultations to interested groups and agencies.

For more information, contact Carolyn Haass, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, MSIN S7-51, Richland, WA 99352, (509) 372-2731; or Geoff Tallent, Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program, P O Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600, (360) 407-7112.

❖ **Cross-site transfer system:** Work on a new \$50 million cross-site tank waste transfer system is expected to start almost immediately following the November 22 signing of USDOE's Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Safe Interim Storage of Hanford Tank Wastes. The new pipeline between the 200 West and 200 East areas will provide a safer and more reliable cross-site transfer capability and bring waste to facilities that can significantly reduce tank waste volume. Beginning work on the pipeline meets TPA interim milestone M-43-07A, which was due November 30, 1995. The new system should begin operation in early 1998.

For more information, contact Carolyn Haass, USDOE (509) 372-2731.

❖ **200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility startup:** Hanford's 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility, the C-018 project, began operations December 12. The plant, located near the northeast corner of the 200 East Area, treats about 150 gallons per minute of waste water, which has been stored temporarily in the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF). The LERF basins receive slightly contaminated water via pipeline from the 242-A Evaporator condenser. The 242-A Evaporator has reduced the volume of Hanford tank waste by nearly 7 million gallons in the past year.

Treated water, further purified in C-018 but still containing tritium, will be discharged to the soil under provisions of a 1995 Washington State Waste Discharge Permit. No practical technology exists to remove tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, from water.

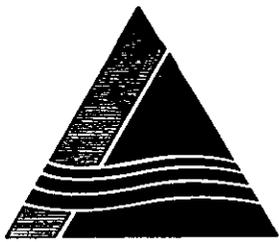
For more information, contact Elizabeth M. Bowers, USDOE (509) 373-9276.

Contractor bid specification changes reflect public input

The USDOE Richland Operations Office's Source Evaluation Board (SEB) responded with a number of changes after evaluating more than 1,000 comments on the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Management and Integration (M&I) contractor for the Hanford Site. The changes address job protection for current employees, pay and benefits, and recognition of labor unions. Also, the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation will continue as an independent contractor for occupational health services.

The M&I contract is potentially worth about \$4.5 billion over five years and incorporates USDOE's contract reform initiatives by providing incentives that reward results and efficiency. The final RFP is scheduled to be issued in December with selection of the winning contractor in June 1996. Following a transition period, the winning contractor would assume full responsibilities on October 1, 1996.

For more information, contact Mike Talbot, USDOE (509) 376-5632.



Hanford Happenings

Tri-Party Agreement

December 14, 1995

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 flier 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.

January/ February	Program	Contact
January 10	Ecology/Hanford Public Interest Groups Bi-Monthly meeting. Ecology's Lacey offices, conference room to be determined; 1:30-5:00 p.m. Agenda and chair to be determined.	Michelle Davis (360) 407-7126
January 11 <i>Tentative</i>	Plutonium Finishing Plant Draft Environmental Impact Statement public hearing. Richland. Time and location to be determined.	Nanci Peters (509) 946-3683
January 25	Tank Waste Remediation Systems Environmental Impact Statement Public hearing. Portland, OR. Agenda and location to be determined.	Geoff Tallent (360) 407-7112
January 31	Tank Waste Remediation Systems Environmental Impact Statement Public hearing. Richland. Agenda and location to be determined.	Geoff Tallent (360) 407-7112
February 1 <i>Tentative</i>	Allied Technology Group Siting/Pre-permit meeting. Allied Technology Group has proposed to site a mixed waste treatment facility at its 45-acre site in the northern part of Richland, Washington. Agenda and location to be determined.	Pat Irlie (509) 736-5708
February 1-2	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Tri-Cities. Agenda and location to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Elaine Hallmark (509) 243-2663

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.

Comment Periods

September 22-February 19	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
November 10- December 29	Draft Spent Nuclear Fuel Environmental Impact Statement. USDOE is seeking public comment on alternatives for the removal, stabilization, and storage of spent nuclear fuel from Hanford K Basins.	Geoff Harvey (509) 373-9931
December 4- January 17	300-FF-1 and 300-FF-5 Proposed Cleanup Plans; and 300 Area Process Trenches Modified Closure Plan. Ecology and EPA are seeking public comment on the proposed plans.	Ted Wooley (509) 736-3012
January 2- February 15	TPA Tank Waste Remediation Systems Privatization Change Package. The TPA agencies are seeking public comment on USDOE's plans for private financing and operation of tank waste treatment facilities.	Toby Michelena (360) 407-7144
January 2- February 16 <i>Tentative</i>	Tentative Acceptance of Demonstration of Compliance for Siting of a new mixed-waste storage unit for Allied Technology Group, Inc., Richland. Ecology is seeking public comment on its tentative decision to approve Allied Technology Group's demonstration of compliance with siting criteria for its new Richland plant.	Pat Irlie (509) 736-5708

January 5- February 19	Tank Waste Remediation Systems (TWRS) Environmental Impact Statement. Ecology and USDOE are seeking public comment on proposed alternatives for the cleanup of the 56 million gallons of waste stored in 177 underground storage tanks on the Hanford Site.	Geoff Tallent (360) 407-7112
Spring Tentative	TPA Community Relations Plan. The TPA agencies will be seeking public comment on the revised Community Relations Plan.	Rob Harper (360) 407-7122

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).

Public comment sought on 300 Area cleanup plans

The Tri-Party agencies seek public comment through January 17, 1996, on proposed cleanup plans for the 300 Area. One plan outlines a proposed Superfund cleanup program for 300-FF-1, which includes three major waste-water disposal sites in the 300 Area, and 300-FF-5, which includes the groundwater under the 300 Area and nearby Columbia River water. The agencies also want public comment on a proposed modified closure plan for the 300 Area Process Trenches. Cleanup of the trenches would be regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Washington Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1976 and would be conducted as part of the 300-FF-1 clean up. A public meeting has not been scheduled, although one may be provided upon request.

For more information, contact Dave Einan, EPA (509) 376-3883, or Ted Wooley, Ecology (509) 736-3012.

Columbia River Impact Assessment Team formed

For the last three months the Columbia River Impact Assessment Project Management Team has been meeting weekly to refocus the path for the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA). Team members include representatives from the USDOE, the EPA, Ecology, Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon, Hanford Advisory Board, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Bechtel Hanford, Inc. The group was formed to develop a credible process acceptable to the stakeholders, Tribes and the Tri-Parties.

Consensus has been reached on the fiscal year 1996 work scope (constrained by funding). Work will include an initial scoping level risk assessment of the Columbia River. It will evaluate impacts to the river from current and residual Hanford-derived contaminants; it will identify initial contaminants of concern, species of concern, and develop an initial human and ecological health assessment. Also, the 1996 scope will identify additional work needed to make the impact assessment truly "comprehensive." Each of the assessment components and the final report will be peer reviewed and available for public comment.

Comments will be accepted through February 16 on the *Identification of Contaminants of Concern* (PNL-1040/UC-630) document issued in January 1995 for public review. Draft reports on animal and plant species and exposure scenarios; human health environmental exposure scenarios; and a summary of the data to be used will be available for comment in March 1996. All comments on the draft reports will be included as an appendix to the initial impact assessment document, which will be available for public comment in August 1996.

To receive copies of these documents, contact Roger Dirkes, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (509) 376-8177. For more information on the CRCIA project, or the newly-formed CRCIA Team, contact Bob Stewart, USDOE (509) 376-6192.

Contract issued to ATG for mixed waste treatment

USDOE recently issued an innovative \$24 million contract to Allied Technology Group, Inc., (ATG) for treating certain of Hanford's low-level mixed waste. The contract calls for payment only when ATG delivers finished products, disposal ready packaged waste. ATG will build a facility off site and seek all necessary permits. Ecology has begun Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit processing. To be included on the mailing list for the ATG project, call the Hanford toll-free hotline 1-800-321-2008.

K Basins' fuel removal remains on schedule

Work is expected to start in March 1996 on a building designed for dry storage of spent nuclear fuel removed from the K Basins near the Columbia River. USDOE has already started the process of selecting a construction contractor. Removing the spent fuel and cleanup up the K Basins remains near the top of USDOE's list of national priorities. The accelerated schedule calls for fuel removal to start by December 1997 and transfer to be completed by December 1999. A public comment period on the draft K Basin Environmental Impact Statement ends December 29. Following resolution of comments, a record of decision will be issued.

Minor RCRA Permit modifications for four Hanford units

USDOE has notified Ecology of minor modifications in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit for the 616 Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility, 305-B Storage Facility, Hanford Patrol Academy Demolition Sites, and the Simulated High Level Waste Slurry Treatment and Storage Unit chapters. Washington State's Dangerous Waste regulations describes these as Class I modifications because they do not substantially alter permit conditions, or reduce a facility's capacity to protect human health or the environment.

For more information, contact Cliff Clark, USDOE (509) 376-9333.

Waste Management PEIS comment period extended

The public comment period for USDOE's Draft Waste Manage Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement has been extended by 60 days until February 19, 1996. *For more information, call USDOE's Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282.*

Hanford Update
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

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