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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352



April 1996

Dear Citizen:

Please find enclosed the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Hanford Site Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), has prepared this draft in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act. The DEIS analyzes nine alternatives for the management and disposal of radioactive, hazardous, and mixed waste currently or projected to be stored in 177 underground storage tanks and approximately 60 miscellaneous underground storage tanks in the tank farm system, and four alternatives for the management and disposal of approximately 1,930 cesium and strontium capsules located at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington.

The purpose for taking action is to implement permanent solutions for managing and disposing of tank waste, and cesium and strontium capsules that reduce risk to the public, site workers, and the environment. The alternative to be implemented must comply with Federal and Washington State environmental laws and DOE policies.

The enclosure to this letter and in the Preface of the DEIS is a summary of a potential variation of an existing alternative that is being examined by DOE. This variation is a modification of the Ex Situ/In Situ Combination alternative. The selection criteria for the waste to be treated ex situ under this variation would be modified to provide for the ex situ treatment of the largest contributors to long-term risk, while limiting the volume of waste to be treated. This variation is available for public comment and will be considered by DOE while preparing the Final EIS (FEIS).

You are invited to comment on the TWRS DEIS. A complete copy of the DEIS and reference documents are available in DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories. The addresses of these reading rooms and repositories are shown in the Executive Summary. To request additional copies of the TWRS DEIS Executive Summary or the entire document, including appendices, please call the Hanford Information Line at 1-800-321-2008, or for InterNet Electronic-Mail access, send to TWRSEIS@KEN01.jacobs.COM. Please remember to include your mailing address with the InterNet message.

When requesting additional copies, please indicate whether you wish to receive only the Executive Summary, Volume One (the text of the DEIS - 600 pages), or one or all of the following appendices (400 to 600 pages each):

- Volume Two: Appendices A, B, and C "Waste Inventory, Alternatives, and Alternatives not Evaluated;"
- Volume Three: Appendix D "Anticipated Risk;"



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Volume Four: Appendices E and F "Risk from Accidents and Groundwater Modeling;" or

Volume Five: Appendices G, H, I, and J "Air and Socioeconomic Modeling and Affected Environment".

The public comment period on the TWRS DEIS will extend from April 12, 1996, through May 28, 1996. To ensure consideration, written comments should be postmarked no later than May 28, 1996, and sent to either:

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P.O. Box 1249
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(509) 372-2131

Mr. Geoff Tallent
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P.O. Box 47600
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(360) 407-7112

Comments may also be submitted by the following means: facsimile at 1-509-736-7504; Electronic-Mail at the above referenced address; or presented at the public comment meetings. Please remember to include your name and mailing address with comments. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. DOE and Ecology will consider all comments in preparing the TWRS Final EIS, which is scheduled to be issued in the Summer of 1996.

The public comment meetings will be held in Pasco, Washington, Washington D.C., and Portland, Oregon. Information on dates and times for these meetings will be announced separately, and can also be obtained through the contacts listed above.

Sincerely,

Carolyn C Haass

Carolyn C. Haass
TWRS NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office

Geoff Tallent

Geoff Tallent
TWRS EIS Project Lead
State of Washington
Department of Ecology

Attachment