

HANFORD UPDATE

Tri-Party Agreement

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Volume 8, Number 3 - March/April 1996

Three offers await USDOE's \$4.6 billion contract decision

USDOE officials are evaluating proposals from three offerors for a new, five-year, \$4.6 billion Hanford site management contract. Scheduled to be awarded in July and implemented in October 1996, the contract's requirements mark a dramatic departure in the way USDOE does business. In brief, much more work will be subcontracted by the site management contractor, and profits of both the prime contractor and major subcontractors will be more closely tied to specific performance improvements and efficiencies.

The three offerors and their major subcontractors are:

- Bechtel Northwest Corp. with Safestates (a Westinghouse and BNFL, Inc., partnership), Johnson Controls Richland Inc., Computer Sciences Corp., Jacobs Hanford Co., and Morrison Knudsen Hanford Co.
- Fluor Daniel Hanford Inc. with Babcock and Wilcox Hanford Co., Duke Engineering & Services Inc., Lockheed Martin Hanford Co., Numatec Hanford Corp., and Rust Federal Services of Hanford Inc.
- Raytheon Hanford Inc. with Boeing Information Service Inc., CH2M Hill Federal Group, Newport News Shipbuilding, ICF Kaiser Hanford Co., Siemens Power Corp. and Wackenhut Services Inc.

For more information, contact Susan Brechbill, USDOE (509) 376-7311.

Milestone change would recognize new mixed waste approach

Draft changes to Milestone M-19 will allow USDOE to complete mixed waste treatment as scheduled in the Tri-Party Agreement without building a new, government-owned facility. M-19 calls for treatment and disposal of a number of Hanford's mixed- and solid-waste streams. Originally, the work was to be done beginning in 1999 at the yet-to-be-built Waste Receiving and Processing Module II, or WRAP II. The proposed changes would allow USDOE to seek competitive bids from private companies to perform at least as much, or more, of the currently specified work. USDOE also commits to doing the work as fast, or faster, than the original schedule.

Wastes would include a variety of non-liquid mixed wastes (dangerous chemical and low-level radioactive materials), and solid wastes. The Department of Ecology would regulate any private facilities and the technologies used for treatment and disposal of wastes. Some waste streams may not need treatment prior to disposal. A 45-day comment period on the M-19 change package will run from **April 22** through **June 6**. A public meeting has not been scheduled, but one may be held upon request.

To receive more information, submit written comments, or request a meeting, contact: Laura Cusack, Washington State Department of Ecology, 1315 W. 4th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336; (509) 736-3038; or call Hanford Cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.

TWRS draft EIS prefers phased retrieval and vitrification

The recently released Tank Waste Remediation System draft environmental statement examines nine alternatives for management and disposal of wastes from Hanford's 177 underground tanks and approximately 60 miscellaneous underground storage tanks. The EIS also presents four alternatives for the management and disposal of approximately 1,930 Cesium and Strontium capsules stored in the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF). The preferred alternative for tank waste — phased implementation — is retrieval and immobilization of tank waste in a glass-like form. The preferred alternative would carry out the existing program outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement and would allow for the greatest possible retrieval of wastes. No preferred alternative has been selected for disposal of cesium and strontium capsules.

The EIS was prepared jointly by USDOE and the Department of Ecology. A public comment period will run through **May 28**. Public hearings are scheduled in **Pasco** on Thursday, **May 2**, at the Columbia Basin College Hawk Union Building and in **Portland**, Thursday, **May 9**, at the Red Lion Hotel, Lloyd Center. Both meetings will run from 6 to 9 p.m. A public meeting is also scheduled Tuesday evening, **May 7**, in Arlington, Virginia, at the Sheraton National Hotel.

Public meetings tentatively are scheduled in **Spokane** on Wednesday, **May 15**, and in **Seattle** on Wednesday, **May 22**. Call the Hanford hotline 1-800-321-2008 for details. Organizations interested in scheduling briefings, workshops, or meetings also should call the Hanford hotline.

Written comments can be submitted to either Carolyn Haass, TWRS EIS NEPA Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 1249, Richland, WA 99352, or Geoff Tallent, TWRS EIS Project Lead, Washington State Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600. Following consideration of comments, Ecology and USDOE plan to issue the final EIS in July 1996.

For more information, or to obtain copies of the draft EIS, or the summary, call the Hanford toll-free hotline, 1-800-321-2008.

State seeks comments on draft waste water discharge permit

A 30-day public comment period on the draft state waste discharge permit for the 400 Area secondary cooling water will open **May 13** and close **June 11**. An average of 28,900 gallons of treated waste cooling water per day is discharged to the ground from the Fuels and Materials Examination Facility, Fast Flux Test Facility, Maintenance and Storage Facility, and the 481-A Water Pumphouse. A fact sheet and the draft permit will be available for review at the Hanford information repositories. No public meeting currently is scheduled. Written comments, or requests for a public meeting, on the draft permit should be submitted to Greta Davis, Department of Ecology, 1315 W. 4th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336.

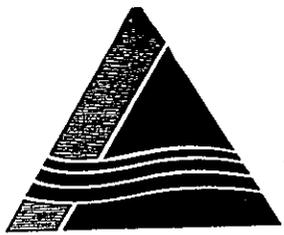
For more information, contact Greta Davis, Ecology (509) 735-3025.

Major savings seen in B Plant transition

B Plant, one of the large plutonium processing "canyons" built during World War II, has not had a mission for years. But systems needed to monitor and safely contain significantly contaminated tanks, pipes and stored wastes still require about \$20 million a year in manpower and energy. USDOE and Ecology will enter negotiations in May to determine what specific actions need to be taken so B Plant can be brought into a safe, stable condition at a much reduced cost. Post transition mortgage costs are expected to be about \$1 to \$2 million a year. The negotiating team plans to bring out for public comment in July a draft set of TPA milestones covering B Plant transition.

The Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF), a much newer building attached to one end of B Plant, would be isolated from some of the older building's utility and waste management systems and remain an active facility where 1,930 highly radioactive cesium capsules are to be stored.

For more information, contact Paul Krupin, USDOE (509) 376-1112, or Laura Russell, Ecology (509) 736-3023.



Hanford Happenings

Tri-Party Agreement

April 18, 1996

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

| April | Program | Contact |
|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| April 30 | Plutonium Disposition Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement public meeting (Plutonium Forum). Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle. 7-10 p.m. | Mark Wallace (360) 407-7121 |

| May | Program | Contact |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| May 2 | Tank Waste Remediation System Draft Environmental Impact Statement public meeting. Columbia Basin College, Hawk Union Building, West Dining Room, 2600 North 20th Avenue, Pasco. 6-9 p.m. | Jon Yerxa (509) 376-9628 |
| May 2-3 | Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Shilo Inn, 50 Comstock Blvd., Richland. Agenda to be determined. | Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663 |
| May 7 | Tank Waste Remediation System Draft Environmental Impact Statement public meeting. Sheraton National Hotel, 900 Orme Street, Arlington, VA. 6-9 p.m. | Jon Yerxa (509) 376-9628 |
| May 8 | Ecology/Hanford Public Interest Group bimonthly meeting. Ecology Headquarters Building, Room ROA-36, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey. 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Michelle Davis (360) 407-7126 |
| May 9 | Tank Waste Remediation System Draft Environmental Impact Statement public meeting. Red Lion Hotel/Multnomah Room a Lloyd Center, 1000 Northeast Multnomah Drive, Portland, Oregon. 6-9 p.m. | Jon Yerxa (509) 376-9628 |
| May 29 | Tentative Acceptance of Demonstration of Compliance with criteria for siting of the thermal destruction portion of a new mixed-waste storage unit for Allied Technology Group, Inc., public hearing. Ecology's Kennewick offices, 1315 West 4th Avenue, Kennewick, WA. 7-9 p.m. | Pat Irlie (509) 736-5708 |

| Comment Periods | Program | Contact |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| March 8- May 7 | Plutonium Disposition Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). The Plutonium PEIS examines alternatives for the disposition of the USDOE's plutonium stockpiles. | Jim Mecca (509) 376-7471 |
| April 1- April 30 | Two Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment reports, "Human Scenarios for the Screening Assessment" and "Species for the Screening Assessment," will be available for public comment. These reports will become part of the final document "Screening Assessment and Requirements for a Comprehensive Assessment," that will be available for public comment later this year. | Nancy Myers (509) 372-9059 |
| April 12- May 28 | 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. | Carolyn Haas (509) 372-2731 |
| April 22- June 6 | Waste Retrieval and Processing Facility Module II proposed Tri-Party Agreement changes. The proposed changes revise milestones to allow alternate treatment and direct disposal options for low-level mixed wastes. | Peter Bengtson (509) 376-9524 |
| May 13- June 11 | 400 Area Waste Discharge Permit. Ecology is seeking public comment on a State Waste Discharge Permit for the 400 Area Secondary Cooling Water discharge. | Greta Davis (509) 736-3025 |

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

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|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| May 13- June 25 | Tentative Acceptance of Demonstration of Compliance with criteria for siting for the thermal destruction portion 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 Irlé (509) 736-5708 |
| Summer <i>Tentative</i> | Tri-Party Agreement Community Relations Plan. The Tri-Party Agreement 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 Hanford 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 Hanford 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 alternate format, please contact Michelle Davis at (360) 407-7126 (Voice) or (360) 407-6206 (TDD).

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Focus

400 Area Secondary Cooling Water Draft State Waste Discharge Permit

Background

Ecology proposes to issue a State Waste Discharge Permit under Chapter 173-216 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for the 400 Area Secondary Cooling Water discharge. The permit will regulate the discharge of this effluent via infiltration through soils to the groundwater of the state.

The 400 Area Secondary Cooling Water Facilities

Hanford's 400 Area, which lies about seven miles northwest of Richland, discharges an average of 28,900 gallons per day of wastewater to two percolation ponds located near the area fence line. Four facilities discharge wastewater to the two 400 Area ponds. The facilities are:

Fuels and Materials Examination Facility (FMEF). The FMEF was built as a high security, multi-storied structure to handle radioactive material. Due to program and funding changes, most of the specialized equipment has never been installed and radioactive material has never been introduced to the facility. The facility now is used for administrative personnel offices. Its wastewater discharge comes from batch discharges from four retention tanks (system 36-B and 36-D) and heating and ventilation.

Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). FFTF is a sodium-cooled test reactor facility, which operated from 1980 to 1992. The facility is in a transition process which will shift it from an operational standby condition to a less costly and environmentally less hazardous surveillance and maintenance condition by December 2001. Its small wastewater discharge comes from cooling towers and heating and ventilation systems.

Maintenance and Storage Facility (MASF). It serves as a maintenance, repair, and storage facility for equipment used in support of FFTF. The facility discharges wastewater from floor and equipment drains, bearing condensate, cooling water from pump test runs, and a large diameter cleaning vessel.

481-A Water Pumphouse. The concrete-block pumphouse provides space for a diesel fire pump and two sanitary water pumps. No radioactive material is in the building. Pump packing leakage produces the facility's very small wastewater discharge.

The Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency and does 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.

Cooling towers from the FFTF and the FMEF contribute 85 percent of the 400 area cooling water discharge, with the remaining 15 percent coming from cooling systems, equipment drains and floor drains in the four facilities. Wastewater discharged into the two ponds is released to the environment by natural evaporation and percolation into the soil column.

400 Area Water Supply

The 400 Area water supply is pumped from the 400-foot level of a deep well located within the 400 Area. Small amounts of the contaminants tritium, the radioactive form of water, and nitrate, exist in the well water because underground water contamination has migrated southeast from the 200 Area. The 400 Area Sanitary Water Supply System meets safe drinking water standards at the point where the water is drawn. The 400 area well water is chlorinated and pumped into one of three storage tanks. Additionally, chemicals are added to the 400 Area cooling water system to control biological growth within the cooling towers and to prevent scale formation on the cooling tower coils.

Regulation of the Discharge

The treatment applied to these streams will be to control pollutants at the source before they enter the wastewater discharge. An active water pollution prevention program is conducted in the 400 Area facilities to prevent water contamination. No additional treatment of the discharge is needed. The draft permit complies with the regulatory requirements of the Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington. The regulation is premised on the fact that all contaminants should be regulated to protect all existing and future beneficial uses of the groundwater. Groundwater monitoring will be required both upgradient and downgradient from the 400 Area percolation ponds.

The 400 Area wastewater is monitored continuously for pH and conductivity at a weir. A composite sample is collected monthly at the weir. After review of all available data, limits were set in the permit for constituents of concern. Quarterly monitoring reports will be required for all constituents. Early warning monitoring also has been established for the groundwater to protect against degrading water quality below the drinking water standards for the 400 Area water supply well. Discharges from the 400 Area ponds also mingle with the underground concentrations of tritium and nitrate which were discharged to the soil in the 200 Area. Overall, the discharges from the 400 Area ponds will have a negligible effect on the groundwater.

How You Can Be Involved

A 30-day comment period will begin May 13, 1996, and end June 11, 1996. Written comments can be sent to Ecology during this time. No public meetings or hearings are scheduled for this state waste discharge permit. A public meeting during the public comment period may be requested. To provide adequate notice for all Hanford stakeholders, public meeting requests should be submitted by May 27, 1996, to Greta Davis of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program at the address or phone number listed below.

The draft permit may be changed as a result of public comment. Issuance of the permit will occur after all comments are considered. Ecology will distribute a summary of the agency's response to all public comments by July 30, 1996. Inquiries, requests for information, and written comments should be directed to: Greta Davis, Department of Ecology, 1315 W. 4th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336-6018, (509) 736-3025 or Hanford Cleanup toll free, 1-800-321-2008

The draft permit, plus the administrative record, can be reviewed at the administrative record site listed on page 3 of the *Hanford Update*.

The draft permit and related information are also available for reading and copying in the Hanford Information Repositories listed on page 3 of the *Hanford Update*.

Visit repositories to find current cleanup documents

Most documents cited in Hanford Update articles can be found at the Hanford Information Repositories listed below. Besides documents relating to current formal comment periods, the Tri-Party Agreement, Community Relations Plan, TPA Milestone Summary Report and many other cleanup related documents are available there.

Documents may not be checked out and each library has its own copying service and procedures. Many documents can be obtained for free by calling the TPA agencies or the Hanford toll-free hotline 1-800-321-2008. There may be charges for large documents which must be photo copied.

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
(206) 543-4664

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
S.W. Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
(509) 328-4220 Ext. 3844

Richland

Washington State University, Tri-Cities
USDOE Public Reading Room, Room 130 W.
100 Sprout Road
(509) 376-8583

The complete legal record for each cleanup project, milestone change, or other official action covered by the TPA, including correspondence, public comments and official responses, can be reviewed at the Administrative Record site. The USDOE keeps the official files in Richland.

Richland

Westinghouse Hanford Co.
Environmental Data Management Center
2440 Stevens Center Place
(509) 376-2530 Attn: Debbi Isom

Hanford's '98 budget getting a massage at headquarters

Like taxes, the proposed fiscal year 1998 budget for Hanford cleanup had to be submitted to USDOE headquarters on April 15. After an internal review currently in progress at headquarters, managers from all USDOE sites doing cleanup work will meet the week of May 20 to work out how their individual proposals fit in the department's overall environmental management budget picture. USDOE's national cleanup budget will be presented to the public via video teleconference in late June. Details on the date, times and downlink sites will be announced when they become available. In September, USDOE's will send its 1998 budget to the Office of Management and Budget, the agency which will fit it into the president's proposed 1998 federal budget. The president's 1998 budget is scheduled to be sent to Congress in February, 1997.

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Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
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