



HANFORD UPDATE

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Volume 8, Number 4 - May/June 1996

Changes proposed for the ERDF record of decision

The Tri-Party agencies will issue in June an Explanation of Significant Difference expanding the list of Hanford sites which could send clean-up wastes to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) landfill. The basic change would allow waste from Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) clean-up sites to go to ERDF, as well as waste from the original list of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites. An Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) is published when a Record of Decision is significantly modified. This ESD reaffirms that only waste originating on the Hanford Site will be disposed of in the ERDF, and the criteria governing what sorts of waste can be placed in the ERDF will stay the same. It also clarifies that these wastes include material coming from old buildings, site investigations and many inactive liquid disposal areas.

The Explanation of Significant Difference also modifies the handling options for certain liquids generated in the ERDF. Leachate may be used to control dust in the disposal trench, provided certain environmental limits are met. Wastewater contaminated above the environmental limits will, however, be sent to the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility.

A 30-day review period will run from **June 3** through **July 2**. Comments will be accepted and responded to by EPA. Send written comments to Pamela Innis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 712 Swift, Suite 5, Richland, WA 98352. Copies of the ESD and other documents, including the ROD, are available for review at the Hanford Information Repositories.

For more information, or a copy of the ESD, contact Pamela Innis, EPA (509) 376-4919, or Hanford cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.

River assessment data report available

The Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment team will soon be releasing a fourth report for public comment. The two-volume *Data for the Screening Assessment* report contains data to be used in the screening assessment and describes how data was selected and processed. A public comment period will run from **June 17** through **July 17, 1996**. The public will be able to comment a second time on this report when it appears later this year in the draft final document, *Screening Assessment and Requirements for a Comprehensive Assessment: Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment*. No public meeting is scheduled on the report, but public meetings are under consideration for the draft final document.

For more information, contact Bob Stewart, USDOE (509) 376-6192; Larry Gadbois, EPA (509) 376-9884; or Dave Holland, Ecology (509) 736-3027.

Final TWRS impact statement due July 28

The public comment period for the Tank Waste Remediation System draft environmental impact statement (EIS) closed May 28. Public meetings were held in the Tri-Cities, Washington, D.C., Portland, Oregon, Spokane and Seattle. The EIS team members from USDOE and Ecology expect to respond to concerns raised at the meetings and from written comments, then issue a final TWRS impact statement on July 28. Based on comments heard at the public meetings, the team believes support for the draft preferred alternative – a phased approach to tank waste removal and waste vitrification (turning the waste into a glass-like material) – is strong. A responsiveness summary will become part of the final EIS. A record of decision based on the final preferred alternative is expected to be issued on August 28.

For more information, or copies of the final documents, call Hanford Cleanup toll-free at 1-800-321-2008.

Hanford strategic planning seeks integrated approach

The Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office will update the Hanford Strategic Plan, first issued in 1994. The new plan will be the key document in an integrated planning system that will include a Mission Direction Document and Multi-Year Work Plans for all site activities. The strategic plan will also mesh with the Department's plan at the national level to meet requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act.

Members of the Hanford Advisory Board participated in workshop sessions on May 2 and 3 in Richland to assess some key assumptions and goals of the new strategic plan. Generally, the Board supported the geographic area-by-area cleanup scenarios recommended by the 1992 Future Site Uses Working Group. The HAB will work with USDOE and others to examine the nature, extent, and duration of future restrictions on access to Hanford lands and groundwater. The Board noted the need for a site-wide strategy to deal with contamination in the ground above the water table (the vadose zone).

The Board will also continue to explore concepts of entombing wastes in decommissioned facilities and safe interim storage of old nuclear reactors along the Columbia River. The next Hanford Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for July 11 and 12 in Portland at the Red Lion Hotel, Lloyd Center.

For more information, contact Max Power, Ecology (360) 407-7118.

300 Area Record of Decision set for signing

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Record of Decision for the 300-FF-1 and 300-FF-5 Operable Units is expected to be signed by late June or early July. The Record of Decision (ROD) documents the clean-up action decisions for the major wastewater disposal sites in the 300 Area and four burial grounds, or landfills (300-FF-1), as well as the underlying groundwater (300-FF-5). The actions outlined in the ROD call for selective excavation and removal of wastes from the 300-FF-1 sites. The groundwater would continue to be actively monitored and its use restricted.

For more information, contact Dave Einan, EPA (509) 376-3883.



Hanford Happenings

Tri-Party Agreement

May 30, 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.

June	Program	Contact
June 12 <i>Tentative</i>	Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council meeting. Richland, The Atrium, 639 Cullum. Agenda to be determined.	Kay Kimmel (509) 946-3692
June 13	Hanford Advisory Board, Dollars & Sense Committee meeting. Portland, International Airport Conference Center. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
June 14	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Portland, Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, 8235 NE Airport Way. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Barb Wise (509) 372-4327
June 26	Fiscal Year 1998 Environmental Management Budget Development Video teleconference. Agenda and sites to be determined. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Jim Peterson (509) 376-6731
June 26-27	Oregon Hanford Waste Board meeting. Baker City, Oregon, Quality Inn.	Rose Gentry (503) 373-7400

July/August	Program	Contact
July 10	Hanford Advisory Board Environmental Restoration Committee meeting. Portland, Red Lion Hotel at Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah Dr. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Agenda to be determined.	Nancy Myers (509) 372-9059
July 10	Public Involvement Quarterly meeting. Tri-Party Agreement Public Involvement Officers will look-ahead and discuss with stakeholders upcoming issues and recommendations for public involvement activities. Portland, Red Lion Hotel at Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah Dr. 1-3 p.m.	Peter Bengtson (509) 376-9524
July 10	Community Relations Plan Focus Group. Meeting with public affairs experts to discuss how the public can be better informed and provide input to Hanford's decision-makers.	Rob Harper (360) 407-7122
July 11-12	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Portland, Red Lion Hotel at Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah Dr. Agenda to be determined.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
July 11-12	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Portland, Columbia River Red Lion.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0230
August 7-8	TRICIPE IV Trade Show & Conference. Pasco, TRAC Facility, 6600 Burden Blvd.	Ken Sellinger 800-776-1314

Comment Periods	Program	Contact
March 8- June 7	Plutonium Disposition Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), the PEIS examines alternatives for the disposition of the USDOE's plutonium stockpiles. Comment period extended.	Jim Mecca (509) 376-7471
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/June	Preliminary Notice of Waste Discharge Permit Application. Ecology will seek public comment on issues to be considered in development of a draft permit for Hydrotest, Maintenance, and Construction Discharges. Comments will be used to prepare a draft permit for public review in the summer of 1996.	Dave Dougherty (509) 736-3047
June 3- July 2	Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) modifying Record of Decision for the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. EPA is seeking public comment on the ESD.	Pamela Innis (509) 376-4919
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
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 Irlie (509) 736-5708
June 17- July 31	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
Rob Harper (360) 407-7122

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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M-33 negotiators pointing toward mid-summer comment

Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-33 calls for the agencies to propose milestones for acquiring facilities, new or existing, "for storage, processing and/or disposal of solid waste and materials" at Hanford. Among waste or product streams being examined by the M-33 negotiating team are transuranics and mixed transuranics, low-level mixed waste, sodium, strontium and cesium capsules, unirradiated uranium, and spent nuclear fuels. The negotiators have set a deadline of June 14 for completing negotiations. A draft package of new milestones and project plans will then be offered for public comment. The comment period schedules will be set after negotiations conclude.

For more information, contact Moses Jaraysi, Ecology (509) 736-3016.

Soil removal set to start in 100 B Area

Soil cleanup along the Columbia River has come one step closer to reality with the awarding of an excavation contract to remove contaminated soils from six inactive liquid waste disposal sites and associated pipelines in the 100-BC Area. Envirocon, Inc., of Missoula, Montana, received the contract in late April to provide excavation services. The waste will be transported to the 200 Area for disposal in the newly constructed Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. Excavation is slated to begin in July. Removal at another 10 inactive liquid waste disposal sites and associated pipelines in the 100-D Area is scheduled to start in December.

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

Updated Community Relations Plan readied for comment

Tri-Party agencies plan to start formal public comment **June 17** on revisions to the TPA Community Relations Plan. The comment period would run 45 days and end **July 31**. A detailed public meeting schedule and focus sheet will be mailed in early June.

The community relations plan acts as a guide to show citizens how to become informed about and involved in Hanford cleanup decisions. New parts of the plan, which was last revised in 1993, include: establishment of a semi-annual public meeting process to discuss Hanford's budget and cleanup activity; a schedule of Hanford permit and cleanup activities expected to occur in the next several months; and a description of the Hanford Advisory Board's mission, members and charter.

For more information, contact Robert Harper, Ecology, (360) 407-7122.

100-N Area work plans available

The RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study Work Plan for 100-NR-1 Operable Unit and RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study Work Plan for 100-NR-2 Operable Unit are available for public review at the Hanford Information Repositories. These work plans describe the procedures for conducting a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility investigation and corrective measures study on facilities and unplanned release sites that are potential sources of contamination.

For more information, contact David Olson, USDOE (509) 376-7326, or Phillip Staats, Ecology (509) 736-3029.



Hanford Update

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- RCRA cleanup waste headed for ERDF
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- Community Relations Plan updated

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

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