



FOCUS

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

Biological Treatment Test Facilities

Background

More than 50 units operate at Hanford under interim or final status Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permits for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous and/or mixed wastes. Mixed wastes contain both radioactive and chemically hazardous waste. The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) proposes to end interim status and procedurally close one unit, the Biological Treatment Test Facilities, located in the 300 Area just north of Richland, Wash. These facilities were designated in 1988 as sites for research on ways to treat hazardous and mixed wastes using plants, or other organisms. However, the unit was never used for such activities.

In December 1995, USDOE asked the Department of Ecology to remove the Biological Treatment Test Facilities from the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Part A application under terms of the Tri-Party Agreement's procedural closure provisions (Section 6.3.3). Ecology has inspected the unit to verify that it qualifies for procedural closure. If the closure is approved, the unit would no longer be managed according to hazardous waste facility regulations.

How you can be involved

A 45-day public comment period will start Monday, September 16, and end Wednesday, October 30, 1996. No public hearing is planned, but one can be scheduled if requested. Requests for a public hearing, or meeting, should be submitted by Monday, September 30, to Ron Effland of Ecology at (509) 736-3008 to allow for timely notice to other interested Hanford stakeholders. Please mail written comments to:

Ron Effland
Washington State Department of Ecology
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336-6018
(509) 736-3008

All comments will be considered and responded to by Ecology.



More information on the proposed procedural closure of the Biological Treatment Test Facilities is available for review and copying at the following Hanford Information Repositories:

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

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

PORTLAND
Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
(503) 725-3690

RICHLAND
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
USDOE Public Reading Rm, Rm 130 West
100 Sprout Road
(509) 376-8583

If you require this material in an alternative format, please contact Michelle Davis at (360) 407-7126 (voice), or (360) 407-6206 (TDD), or e-mail mdav461@ecy.wa.gov.



Focus on Hanford

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