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Cook, Sylvia V

From: Brown, Madeleine (ECY) [mabr461@ECY.WA.GOV]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2007 4:31 PM
To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: Public comment period starts today

This is a message from the Washington State Department of Ecology

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Public Comment Period

August 27 through October 11, 2007

Fast Flux Test Facility Mixed Waste Storage Areas

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a proposed change to the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit.

The change will add a new treatment, storage, and disposal unit to the sitewide permit. The unit consists of two mixed waste container storage areas at the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). The formal name for this permit modification is the "400 Area Waste Management Unit."

Permittees

Owner/Operator: U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office,
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Co-operator: Fluor Hanford
P.O. Box 1000
Richland, WA 99352

Where is the unit?

The unit is at the FFTF. The FFTF is 10 miles from Richland in a part of the Hanford Site called the 400 Area. It is south of the central plateau and just a few miles west of the commercial nuclear power plant that Energy Northwest runs.

The FFTF was a sodium-cooled research and test reactor that supported the nation's liquid metal fast breeder reactor program. The FFTF's mission has ended, and shutdown is under way.

The two container storage areas are the fuel storage facility and the interim storage area.

The Fuel Storage Facility is called Building 403. It's a steel-frame metal-sided high bay building.

The interim storage area is outdoors. It is a fenced area, 156 x 75 meters, with lighting around the perimeter.

8/27/2007

What wastes are stored there?

The wastes result from FFTF's shutdown. The mixed waste consists of metallic sodium, sodium hydroxide, and sodium-contaminated debris such as piping and equipment. The sodium is in solid form and is stored under inert gas. The permittees store the waste in containers like drums and boxes in the fuel storage facility. They will store unique components from the FFTF in the interim storage area. Unique components are pieces of equipment such as large pumps, valves, tube bundles, cold traps. The permittees will only store only waste from the FFTF's shutdown in the 400 Area Waste Management Unit.

The FFTF's mixed waste storage areas are for long-term storage of mixed wastes. (Mixed wastes have both radioactive and dangerous waste components.) The permittees will store the wastes until treatment is available. There is no treatment or disposal of wastes in this unit.

How will the permit change?

This modification will add a new section to the Hanford sitewide permit. It will appear in Part III (unit-specific conditions) as Operating Unit 16. The new section adds permit conditions that apply specifically to the FFTF mixed waste storage areas. The conditions cover topics like waste management, training, preparedness and prevention, monitoring, and closure.

How can you learn more about the changes?

The draft permit application, its statement of basis (a summary), the State Environmental Policy Act checklist, and proposed determination of nonsignificance are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm>. To review the draft permit changes at Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Office, call 509-372-7920. You can also review the proposal at Hanford's public information repositories.

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Avenue
Attention: Don Frank (503) 725-4132

Richland

U.S. DOE Public Reading Room
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Consolidated Information Center (WSU T-C)
2770 University Drive, Room 101L
Attention: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attention: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
101-L East 502 Boone
Attention: Linda Pierce (509) 323-3834

How can you make a comment?

Send all comments in writing, by Thursday, October 11, 2007, to:

Jeff Ayres
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354
509-372-7971 fax
jayr461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology does not plan to hold a public hearing, but if we receive a request for one, we will consider it. To request a hearing, contact Madeleine Brown at 509-372-7936 or mabr461@ecy.wa.gov.

The public comment period runs from August 27 to October 11, 2007. We will consider all comments we receive during this period. We will issue a response to comments when we issue the final decision on the permit change.

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Nuclear Waste Program
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