

Meeting Minutes
Inter Agency Management Integration Team (IAMIT)
EPA Conference Room
712 Swift Blvd., Richland
May 27, 1997

Appvl.: Charles A. Hansen Date: 7/22/97
Charles A. Hansen, RL (S7-41)
IAMIT Representative

Appvl.: Douglas R. Sherwood Date: 7/22/97
Douglas R. Sherwood, EPA (B5-01)
IAMIT Representative

Appvl.: Michael A. Wilson Date: 7/22/97
Michael A. Wilson, Ecology (B5-18)
IAMIT Representative

Prepared by Margliann McLaughlin Date: 7/21/97
Appvl.: Mary Ann McLaughlin
Fluor Daniel Hanford, Inc.



Distribution

Alexander, S. M.	Ecology	B5-18	Jackson, D. E.	RL	A5-15
Almquist, R. A.	RL	R3-79	Jackson, Z. M.	Ecology	B5-18
Arnold, L. D.	WHC	B2-35	Klos, D. B.	FDH	N2-51
Bauer, L. K.	RL	H0-12	Kinmark, J. M.	Ecology	B5-18
Bengtson, P. J.	ODOE		Kinzer, J. E.	RL	S7-50
Blancq, M. P.	RL	H0-12*	McLaughlin, M.A.	WHC	B2-35
Blazek, M. L.	ODOE		Miera, F. R.	RL	A5-15*
625 Marion N.E.,	Salem, OR	97310*	Morrison, R. D.	FDH	B2-35*
Brown, W. R.	FDH	B2-35*	Myers, N. B.	BHI	H0-14
Dahl, S. L.	Ecology	B5-18*	Rasmussen, J. E.	RL	A5-15*
Donnelly, J. W.	Ecology	B5-18	Sanders, G. H.	RL	A5-15*
Ellis-Balone, G.	RL	A5-15	Selby, M. A.	Ecology	B5-18
Farabee, O. A.	RL	R3-79	Sherwood, D. R.	EPA	B5-01*
Haass, C. C.	RL	S7-51*	Skinnarland, R	Ecology	B5-18*
Hansen, C. A.	RL	S7-41*	Werdell, N. A.	RL	H0-12
Hensley, J. L.	Ecology	B5-18	Wilson, M. A.	Ecology	B5-18*
Holten, R. A.	RL	H0-12*	Yerxa, J. K.	RL	A7-75
Hughes, E. J.	RL	R3-79	EPIC		H6-08*
Hunemuller, M. A.	RL	S7-50			

cc:

* W/Attachments

IAMITMIN.527

**AGENDA
INTER AGENCY MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION TEAM (IAMIT) MEETING**

**MAY 27, 1997
1:00 PM - 3:50 PM**

EPA CONFERENCE ROOM, 712 SWIFT BLVD., SUITE 5

(CHAIRPERSON: C. A. Hansen)

- 1:00 pm FTF STANDBY DECISIONS AND TPA MILESTONE CHANGES
(O. Farabee, J. Hensley)
- 1:45 pm APPROVAL OF TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT CHANGE REQUEST
- P-03-97-01 MODIFY TPA SECTION 3.5 - HSWMUR REQUIREMENTS
(R. Blancq)
- 1:50 pm IAMIT DECISION DOCUMENTATION METHODS
(M. Selby, R. Morrison)
- ~~2:05 pm FIVE YEAR REVIEW
(G. Ellis Balone, R. Morrison)~~
- 2:20 pm CLARIFY CORRESPONDENCE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN AGENCIES
(M. Selby)
- 2:35 pm DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PACKAGE FOR M-34 (SNF)/ M-93 (8 Rx)
(G. McClure, D. Palenshus, D. Faulk)
- 2:50 pm BREAK
- 3:00 pm MILESTONE M-40-07 DISPUTE RESOLUTION
(C. Haass, S. Dahl)
- 3:15 pm MILESTONE M-44 DISPUTE RESOLUTION STATUS
(J. Poppiti, D. Dougherty, J. Kristofzski)
- 3:35 pm 200 AREA STRATEGY - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
(B. Foley, J. Donnelly, D. Faulk)
- 3:50 pm ADJOURN

IMAGENDA.MAY

**IAMIT MEETING
MAY 27, 1997**

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 22, 1997 IAMIT Meeting were approved by Messrs. Hansen, Wilson and Sherwood.

2. M-92 Milestone Status

(Attachment 1)

3. Fast Flux Test Facility Standby Decisions and (M-81) Status Update

Al Farabee, DOE, discussed the proposed milestone changes for the FFTF M-81 milestones (Attachment 2). The change request will retain the existing milestones but change the dates to "to be established." The dates would be established 90 days after a decision is reached on the future of the FFTF.

In response to the question raised at the April IAMIT meeting, it was stated that there is no known non-FFTF sodium which is not addressed by current programs.

4. Issues Update

C. Hansen, DOE, provided updates on several Hanford issues, including the Canister Storage Building safety issue; plans for review of the TWRS budget; the Multicanister Overpack pressurization and the Multicanister Overpack Handling Machine; and the ongoing discussion of possible privatization of some WSCF laboratory work.

5. P-03-97-01 Change Request

The P-03-97-01 Change Request, Modify TPA Section 3.5 - HSWMUR Requirements, was approved by Messrs. Hansen, Sherwood and Wilson.

6. Clarification of Correspondence between Agencies

A draft letter was distributed by Ecology outlining guidance for addressing letters to the Ecology Nuclear Waste program. (Attachment 3)

7. IAMIT Decision Documentation

Ron Morrison, Fluor Daniel Hanford TPA Integration, presented a draft form (Attachment 4) to be used in documenting decisions by the IAMIT. This would be intended to provide more timely information to affected parties of IAMIT actions. After some discussion, it was decided to have the process further defined and continue the discussion at the June 24, 1997 meeting.

8. Public Comment Packages for M-34 (SNF) and M-93 (8 Reactors)

Nancy Werdel, DOE, discussed the draft public comment package for the 8 reactors (Attachment 5) and the K-Basin fuel (Attachment 6). Two focus sheets will be distributed, along with supporting documentation. The public comment period is tentatively scheduled to start June 9, 1997 and run for 45 days. A discussion followed on the mechanics of distributing the materials. Doug Sherwood, EPA, asked that the material be in the repositories before the comment period begins. Mike Wilson, Ecology, stated that budget information should be distributed with the focus sheets. Messrs. Sanders, Stanley and Sherwood will be listed as contacts, with comments to go to George Sanders, DOE. The fact sheets, the AIP suspending negotiations and all supporting documents will be on the Internet.

The final packages are to be reviewed by Beth Sellers for K-Basins and Rich Holten for the Reactors.

9. Public Involvement Activities

The TPA Public Involvement staff from Ecology and DOE discussed two documents which were distributed. These are, respectively, a report on activities conducted from December 1996 through March 1997 (Attachment 7), and a six month look ahead for March 1997 through August 1997 (Attachment 8). Hanford Update protocols were discussed. Ecology will draft information and send to the Program Managers. Ecology will get approval of material before it is published. Timeliness of publication is a concern.

Evaluation of Public Involvement activities by the IAMIT was discussed, with the agreement that a quarterly review of activities, similar to the milestone reviews, would be useful. Doug Sherwood, EPA, suggested that success measures are needed for this activity, and that input from the HAB might be solicited. Discussion should be continued at the next IAMIT meeting.

10. M-40-07 Dispute (C-103 Ventilation System)

Carolyn Haass, DOE, reported that she had met with Suzanne Dahl and Alex Stone, Ecology, to discuss the M-40-07 issues. Three issues were identified: 1) the question of a safety issue in C-farm; 2) a response to the other concerns expressed in the March 25, 1997 Ecology letter; and 3) the procedural issue of meeting the milestone. An additional meeting between DOE and Ecology is scheduled for June 2, 1997. An AIP was signed by Messrs. Hansen, DOE, and Wilson, Ecology, to extend this dispute at the Project Manager level through June 27, 1997.

11. M-44 Dispute (Characterization)

Jim Poppiti, DOE, stated that the M-44-00 TPA Change Request has been drafted and will be circulated for concurrence starting May 27, 1997. The change package will need concurrence by DOE Headquarters. The issue of proposed additional DQO milestones for TWRS programs remains to be resolved. The working group will be meeting the week of May 26, 1997 to

work out the DQO issues. Carolyn Haass, DOE, stated that any additional milestones should be related to characterization only.

Discussion was then held on the process for obtaining approval of the change package. This change initially was to be an interim milestone change, but will now be a major milestone change and requires approval by the signatories. The change package will be sent unsigned to both Ecology and EPA, with a signed AIP stating that the change will go out for public comment before approval by the Parties. The Change Request remains unsigned by the Parties until public comment has been obtained. Doug Sherwood, EPA, will need a copy as soon as possible to brief Chuck Clarke. The TWRS program will arrange to brief the HAB Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee. George Sanders, DOE, will brief the RL Acting Manager.

12. 200 Area Strategy - Public Involvement

Greg Mitchem, Bechtel Hanford, discussed the 200 Area Strategy public involvement process. There will be a presentation to the HAB HS&WM committee at the Portland meeting in June. The target is now June 30, 1997 for the public comment period. Doug Sherwood, EPA, expressed the concern that the criteria document does not spell out all the criteria for cleanup decisions. He is concerned that decisions as to cleanup methods not be made prematurely during the investigation process. Doug Sherwood will attend the next HAB ER Committee meeting.

It was noted that the HAB has not seen the Change Request package for some time. M-20, M-13 and possibly the text of the action plan will be discussed with the HAB. If Dick Belsey is not satisfied with the presentation at the HAB, George Sanders will set up senior management briefings for DOE.

ATTENDEES

INTER AGENCY MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION TEAM (IAMIT) MEETING

DATE: 5-27-97

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>MAILSTOP</u>	<u>(✓) FOR ATTACHMENTS</u>
<u>Merid P (Red) Blong</u>	<u>RL-ER</u>	<u>H0-12</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Nancy Wendel</u>	<u>DOE-RL</u>	<u>H0-12</u>	
<u>Row MORRISON</u>	<u>EDH/TPAI</u>	<u>B3-75</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Nancy Myers</u>	<u>BHI</u>	<u>H0-14</u>	
<u>Jay Kunmail</u>	<u>Ecy</u>	<u>B5-18</u>	
<u>Genina Jean Jones</u>	<u>DOE-RL</u>	<u>A5-15</u>	
<u>Felix R. Miera</u>	<u>RL/EAP</u>	<u>A5-15</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>CAROLYN HAASS</u>	<u>RL/TWRS</u>	<u>57-51</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Maureen Hummuller</u>	<u>RL-TWRS</u>		
<u>Greg Mitchem</u>	<u>BHI</u>	<u>H0-17</u>	
<u>Devin Roberts</u>	<u>DOE-ER</u>		
<u>Linda K Bauer</u>	<u>DOE</u>	<u>H0-12</u>	
<u>CA Hansen</u>	<u>DOE</u>	<u>57-41</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>DOE</u>		

ATTENDEES

INTER AGENCY MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION TEAM (IAMIT) MEETING

DATE: 5-27-97

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>MAILSTOP</u>	<u>(✓) FOR ATTACHMENTS</u>
<u>Paul Almqvist</u>	<u>RL/SPO</u>	<u>R3-79</u>	
<u>AL Farabee</u>	<u>↓ ↓</u>	<u>↓ ↓</u>	
<u>MIKE WILSON</u>	<u>ECOLGY</u>		
<u>GEORGE H. SANDERS</u>	<u>DOE-RL</u>	<u>A5-15</u>	
<u>JON YERXA</u>	<u>DOE-RL</u>	<u>A5-15</u>	
<u>Zelma M. Jackson</u>	<u>Ecology</u>		
<u>Rm Skinnarham</u>	<u>Ecology</u>		
<u>D.B. KLOS</u>	<u>FDH</u>	<u>N2-S1</u>	
<u>ERNE HUGHES</u>	<u>RL/SPO</u>	<u>R3-79</u>	
<u>Jerry Hensley</u>	<u>WDOE</u>	<u>B5-18</u>	
<u>Miss Brown</u>	<u>FDH-TPAI</u>		
<u>Doug Sherwood</u>	<u>EPA</u>	<u>B5-01</u>	
<u>Mary Ann McLaughlin</u>	<u>FDH/TPAI</u>		
<u>Peter Bingham</u>	<u>Oregon Office of Energy</u>	<u>625 Marion St. N.E. Salem, OR 97310</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

M - 92 Milestones Status

- ◆ M - 92 - 09, *no actions
 - ◆ M - 92 - 10, *no actions
 - ◆ MX - 92 - 11T
 - ❖ Moved a 5,000 gallon sodium storage tank from 100D Area to the 300 Area and drained the 4,500 gallons of sodium into a commercial user's railroad tank car on March 14, 1997.
 - ❖ Preparing to transfer approximately 42,000 gallons of sodium from the 3718M storage tank in the 300 Area to a commercial user's railroad tank cars by September 5, 1997 ready for safe shipment off site.
- * May require milestone extensions depending upon the Secretarial decision on FFTF.

May 27, 1997

Mr. Thomas Fitzsimmons
Director,
Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, WA 98504

Mr. Chuck Clarke
Administrator, Region 10
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Messrs. Fitzsimmons and Clarke:

RE: Draft Fast Flux Test Facility Tri-Party Agreement (TPA)
Milestones Change Request

Attached for your review and approval is a draft change request for the M-81 series and M-20-29A TPA milestones. As you are aware the Secretary of Energy has recently stated that a final decision on the ultimate disposition of FFTF will not be made until sometime between December 1997 and December 1998. Until such a decision is made the facility is being kept in a standby condition.

RL, Ecology, and EPA staff personnel have been working together to determine an acceptable path forward for the above milestones while the FFTF is in its current standby condition. The attached change request package recommends keeping all FFTF milestones within the TPA and changing the current existing specific due dates to "to be determined" dates for all these milestones. In this manner the commitments made to cleanup the facility remain intact while officially recognizing the current standby status of the facility.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change package please contact Mr. Rod Almquist of my staff at (509) 376-2171.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Piper
Acting Manager

Milestone	Description	Due Date
M-81-00	<p>Complete FFTF Facility Transition and initiate the surveillance and maintenance phase.</p> <p>This major milestone will be achieved by completion of all activities necessary to achieve the end point criteria for placing the facility in a safe and stable surveillance and maintenance mode.</p>	<p>12/31/2001 TBE</p>
M-81-00-T01	<p>Complete Reactor Defueling.</p> <p>At the completion of defueling, there will be 236 non-fueled components in the reactor vessel, 113 fueled components in the interim decay storage and 258 fueled components in the fuel storage facility.</p>	<p>9/30/95 Completed 4/19/95</p>
M-81-00-T02	<p>Complete transfer of Irradiated Fuel to Dry Cask Storage.</p> <p>The Irradiated Fuel assemblies and pin containers will be transferred from the interim decay storage vessel and the fuel storage facility to the IEM cell for residual sodium removal, loaded into a core component container, transferred to the reactor service building cask loading station for placement into an interim storage cask for dry storage, and transferred to the interim storage area located in the northeast corner to the FFTF complex.</p>	<p>10/31/98 TBE</p>
M-81-00-T03	<p>Complete transfer of unirradiated fuel to the Plutonium Finishing Plant.</p> <p>Thirty two unirradiated fuel assemblies presently stored in the interim decay storage vessel will be transferred to the IEM cell for washing and drying, loaded into existing approved shipping containers, and transferred to an appropriate storage area in the Plutonium Finishing Plant.</p>	<p>10/31/98 TBE</p>
M-81-00-T04	<p>Complete transfer of special fuel to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for consolidated storage.</p> <p>Sodium-bonded irradiated metal and carbide fuel pins from assemblies cleaned and disassembled in the IEM Cell will be loaded into existing, approved shipping casks, and transported to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory in Idaho Falls, Idaho, for consolidated storage. One unirradiated metal fuel assembly will also be dispositioned in a similar manner.</p>	<p>10/31/98 TBE</p>
M-81-00-T05	<p>Complete auxiliary systems deactivation.</p> <p>A major portion of the plant auxiliary systems are required to support hot sodium circulation prior to draining the sodium. As these systems, and the balance of plant systems, become available for shutdown, they will be deactivated to a safe, stable condition.</p>	<p>3/21/2001 TBE</p>
M-81-01	<p>Initiate sodium storage facility construction.</p> <p>This milestone will be achieved when the construction contractor is issued the notice to proceed with construction by the contracting officer.</p>	<p>2/28/97 completed 10/09/95</p>

M-81-02

Complete sodium storage facility startup.

7/31/98
completed
01/97

This milestone will be achieved by completion of the sodium storage facility startup activities which include final testing of the mechanical and electrical systems and confirmation that the facility is ready to receive sodium from FFTF. Construction of the new facility closely coupled to the FFTF complex is required to support sodium drain operations. This new facility will be designed, constructed and operated in compliance with RCRA and WAC 173-303 storage requirements. The facility will provide storage capacity for the 260,000 gallons of FFTF metallic sodium coolant.

M-81-02-T01

Submit final sodium disposition evaluation report/decision point.

6/30/98
TBE

Under this target DOE will submit its final report following evaluation of the acceptable sodium product form for the TWRS Tank Sludge Pretreatment Process (i.e., caustic washing). This evaluation will be conducted in concert with TWRS TPA Milestone M-50-03 (due date March 31, 1998). This Hanford Site Radioactive (FFTF, Hallam, and Sodium reaction experiment) sodium evaluation will address other conversion options for disposal of the sodium if the product use for TWRS is not viable, regardless of which option is selected, a new sodium reaction facility will be constructed adjacent to the sodium storage facility to convert the bulk metallic sodium to the appropriate chemical form. This report will include a decision on the final disposition of the Hanford Site Radioactive Sodium (e.g., disposal or reuse). Appropriate milestones and target dates will be established for construction and operation of the sodium reaction facility based on the option selected.

M-81-03

Submit FFTF End Point Criteria Document.

12/31/98
TBE

A document identifying the end point criteria necessary to place the FFTF in a safe and stable configuration will be developed. This document will be provided to EPA and Ecology for review, and approval for the hazardous substances proposed to remain at the facility.

M-81-04

Complete FFTF Sodium Drain.

3/31/2000
TBE

This milestone will be complete when all of the sodium coolant has been drained from the plant to the new sodium storage facility to the maximum practical extent. The sodium residuals that remain are integral to the system, are solid in form, and adhere to the surfaces to the system components. The residuals will be maintained under an inert gas blanket to minimize potential reactions during the long-term surveillance and maintenance phase. During final disposition of the facility, any regulated wastes generated from the cleaning or dismantlement of these systems, will be appropriately managed.

- M-81-04-T01 Complete reactor and heat transport system sodium drain. 4/30/98
TBE
- The reactor and primary and secondary heat transport system sodium coolant and supporting sodium systems will be maintained in a safe configuration, molten and circulating until the fuel is removed from the FFTF Reactor vessel and the sodium storage facility is operational. The sodium will then be drained to the tanks located in the sodium storage facility and allowed to freeze.
- M-81-04-T02 Complete interim decay storage vessel and fuel storage facility sodium drain. 12/31/98
TBE
- The interim decay storage vessel and fuel storage facility sodium will be maintained in a molten state until the fuel is removed from these storage locations. The sodium will then be drained to the tanks located in the sodium storage facility and allowed to freeze.
- M-81-05 Submit FFTF Surveillance and Maintenance Plan. 6/30/2001
TBE
- A plan describing the S&M phase will be developed. This plan will be provided to EPA and Ecology for review, and approval for the hazardous substances proposed to remain at the facility. This plan will include documentation of lists of hazardous substances, including dangerous waste that remain in the FFTF Facility upon completion of Phase I activities because the hazardous substance: (1) contains non-dangerous waste components that are highly radioactive, (2) is part of the plant structure and/or (3) is an intact piece(s) of equipment.
- M-81-06 Complete PCB Transformer disposal. 9/30/2001
TBE
- The nineteen Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) electrical transformers at the FFTF will be disposed of after the transformers are removed from service. Twelve of the nineteen transformers, will be drained, flushed and removed from FFTF within thirty days after being removed from service as specified in 40 CFR 761. Seven of the transformers, which are in areas that are difficult to obtain access, will be drained, flushed and removed from FFTF within nine months of cessation of service to ensure their disposal within one year from the start of the storage. Cessation of service constitutes the start of the storage, and 40 CFR 761 limits the storage and subsequent disposal to a one-year period.

Submit sodium storage facility and sodium reaction facility closure plan or request for procedural closure as defined in section 6.3.3 of this Tri-Party Agreement to EPA and Ecology.

12/31/99

TBE

A potential use for the sodium as feedstock in the TWRS Program has been identified and will be evaluated as discussed pursuant to M-81-02-T01. The sodium will be stored as product material in the sodium storage facility until the final disposition of the material is determined. FFTF is proceeding on the basis of providing RCRA and WAC 173-303 compliant storage for the sodium. The sodium reaction facility is included in the permit request, even though the sodium reaction facility is included in the permit request, even though the sodium reaction facility availability and regulatory status will be determined by the 1998 evaluation/decision point. If the sodium use for the TWRS is confirmed, a request for procedural closure as defined in section 6.3.3 of the Tri-Party Agreement will be submitted for the sodium storage facility and sodium reaction facility units. If the sodium is determined to be a waste, a closure plan will be submitted for the two units.

DRAFT

Dept of Ecology / NWP
1315 W. 4th Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336

May 22, 1997

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US Department of Energy
PO Box
Richland, WA 99352

Dear [*Recipient*]:

The Department of Energy has requested clarification regarding correspondence sent to the Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program. This general guidance is to assist you in addressing correspondence. The following principles should be used.

- In general, address letters to the person who would have authority to sign a change request if one were generated for this issue. In most cases, this will be the project manager.
- If an issue involves more than one project, send letters addressed to the affected project managers. If Ecology has assigned a lead person to a specific issue (e.g. the 200 Area strategy) address the letter to the contact.
- Please send courtesy copies to the appropriate section manager or team leader. If the letter is not addressed to project managers, please send courtesy copies to affected project managers.
- If you are not sure to whom a letter should be addressed, or who should receive copies, please call your Ecology contact for the project, our project management coordinator (currently Melodie Selby) or the appropriate section manager. They will be happy to assist you.

Enclosed are a list of Ecology project managers, team leaders and supervisors and a milestone contact list. Please note that the project management roster and the milestone contact list change periodically. If you designate a contact person, we would be happy to provide you with updated copies as changes are made. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Melodie Selby at (509) 736-3021.

HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER
INTER AGENCY MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION TEAM (IAMIT)
DECISION / DETERMINATION / ACTION ASSIGNMENT

This form is intended to document the decisions and determinations made by the IAMIT within their authorities under the terms and conditions of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order. This form is also intended to provide notification, to the affected persons, of the IAMITs decisions / determinations.

SUBJECT (Note the change request number, disputed subject or milestone addressed)

DECISION / DETERMINATION / ACTION ITEM (Note the assignee and due date)

IS THIS DECISION / DETERMINATION / ACTION ITEM

FINAL INTERIM (Further action to be taken)

IAMIT Member Approvals

DOE Date

EPA Date

Ecology Date

DRAFT



New Milestones for K Basins Spent Nuclear Fuel Project and K Basins Facility Transition Activities

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

Your review and comment is requested on proposed Tri-Party Agreement milestones, target dates and associated language which will direct current project activities and removal of 2,100 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel from two basins near the banks of the Columbia River. Milestones also are proposed for the completion of subsequent basin cleanout and transition to USDOE's Environmental Restoration program.

Background

The highest near-term cleanup priority at the Hanford Site is the K Basins, two million-gallon pools that store 80 percent of the Department of Energy's national inventory of spent nuclear fuel. Less than a quarter-mile from the Columbia River, the basins are adjacent to the retired K East and K West reactors. Each basin measures approximately 20 meters wide (67 feet) by 38 meters long (125 feet) by 6 meters deep (20 feet). The water cools the irradiated fuel and provides a radiation shield for facility workers.

Designed for approximately 20 years of use, the concrete basins are more than 40 years old. Some of the fuel has been in the basins for 25 years. The East basin is known to have leaked at least twice, releasing more than 57 million liters (15 million gallons) of water to the surrounding soil and groundwater.

The basins contain an estimated 105,000 individual spent fuel assemblies which measure about 66 centimeters (26 inches) in length, 2.3 centimeters (2.5 inches) in diameter and weigh about 52 pounds. Each assembly contains two concentric (internal and external) tubes of metallic uranium clad with zirconium alloy for corrosion protection.

The fuel rods are "spent," meaning they have been exposed to a sustained chain reaction in a reactor, in this case Hanford's N Reactor. This process made the fuel highly radioactive. Although most of the elements were grouped together in either sealed or open canisters, no provisions were made for long-term storage. Cladding on more than half the elements has been breached, exposing the uranium to corrosion and degradation.

As the damaged fuel corrodes, radioactive materials are being released into the basins. Sampling activities and

engineering calculations have determined that approximately 70 cubic meters (2,472 cubic feet) of sludge has accumulated in the K Basins, primarily in the K East basin. The sludge contains a variety of materials, including fine particles of corroded fuel, empty fuel storage canisters, sand and concrete aggregate from the basin walls and floors, dust and dirt, and a variety of debris, such as hoses, poles and tools. The water is contaminated with tritium and lesser concentrations of other radionuclides.

Initial Plan

The Secretary of Energy has noted that Hanford's K Basins represents the #1 spent nuclear fuel safety issue in the DOE complex. In 1994, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board cautioned that unless fuel removal is accomplished in three to four years, an imminent hazard situation could develop.

The Tri Parties' initial spent fuel management strategy centered on encapsulating the K Basin fuel and sludge, retaining one basin for storage and reducing tritium levels in the water in the K East basin. Decontaminating and decommissioning the basins for transition to USDOE's Environmental Restoration Program was not included in the strategy.

Mounting safety, public health and environmental concerns led USDOE to propose a more aggressive and technically viable solution. After extensive public involvement, USDOE issued a Record of Decision on an Environmental Impact Statement in 1995.

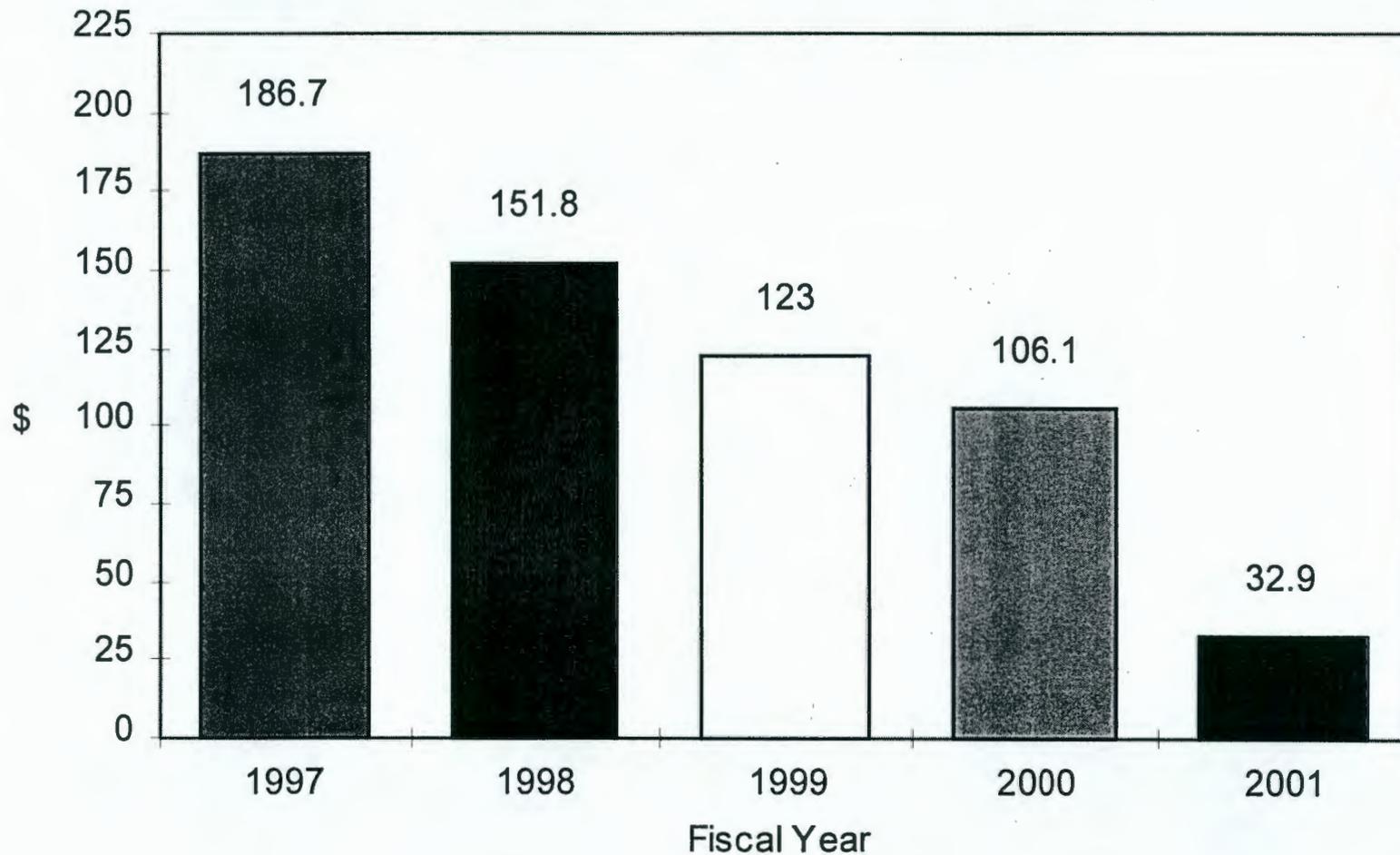
The Record of Decision called for the removal and stabilization of the fuel from both basins and transfer to a dry storage facility currently under construction in the 200 East Area, near the center of the 560 square-mile Hanford Site. The decision also specified that the basin sludges be removed and disposed of using the high level waste vitrification process. Disposal of debris and other articles from the basins will be accomplished through existing Hanford site waste disposal practices.

This change in direction required renegotiation of Tri Party Agreement spent fuel milestones and commitments. Facility transition milestones also are proposed which ensure that the basins will be properly decontaminated and decommissioned and transferred to the Environmental Restoration program for final disposition.

Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

SNF Project Budget Profile

(\$ in Millions)





Changes Proposed to Hanford's Tri-Party Agreement Negotiations for Disposition of Hanford Surplus Reactors

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

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The U. S. Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and Washington Department of Ecology (the Parties) are seeking comment on proposed modifications to the Tri Party Agreement. These proposed modifications document agreed-to work schedules and associated language which will govern the decommissioning and final disposal of DOE's nine surplus reactors along the Columbia River. **Public comments will be accepted from June _ to July _, 1997.**

BACKGROUND

Along the Columbia River in DOE's 100 Area are nine reactors that produced plutonium for the nation's defense programs (identified as reactors C, F, B, D, DR, H, KE, KW, and N). The oldest of these, the B Reactor, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, and may be retained as a national engineering landmark or museum. With the exception of N reactor, which was retired from service in 1989, DOE's reactors had all been shut down by 1971.

In 1993, DOE issued its reactor Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, documenting its selected alternative of interim safe storage followed by one piece reactor core removal to the interior of the Hanford site for disposal. DOE's Record of Decision excluded N reactor, which had not yet been formally shut down. The Parties have subsequently agreed that N reactor will follow a similar path.

In early 1994 the DOE, EPA, and Ecology agreed to negotiate necessary reactor cleanup and removal schedules by December 1996. A November 1996 agreement in principle extended the negotiation deadline to March 31, 1997.

During the Parties' negotiations the disposition of the reactors was broken into two phases. **Phase one** is defined as Interim Safe Storage. Safe storage consists of ensuring that facility hazardous substances are, and will remain safe and secure; reducing the "footprint" of the reactor building to its primary shield wall; and sealing all shield wall openings such that the facility can be maintained in an environmentally safe and secure condition prior to initiation of disposition phase two.

With the noted potential exception of B Reactor, disposition **phase two** (final disposition) will consist of removing the reactor cores from their present location to a disposal facility in DOE's 200 Area in the interior of the Hanford site. Wastes generated during phases one and two will be removed so as to meet established cleanup requirements pertaining to the Columbia River shoreline (DOE's 100 Area). The Parties expect that resulting wastes will be disposed of at DOE's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (also in the interior of the site).

In the years since DOE's reactors were shut down, surveillance and maintenance has continued, and some decontamination and decommissioning has taken place already.

C Reactor is currently being put into interim safe storage as a large scale technology demonstration project. During this project all C Reactor ancillary facilities will be removed. On completion, all that will remain is the reactor core and shield wall. A new long life roof will be installed over the shield wall/reactor core building. During this demonstration project a wide range of decommissioning technologies aimed at reducing costs, enhancing worker safety and the long term integrity of the remaining structure will be tested.

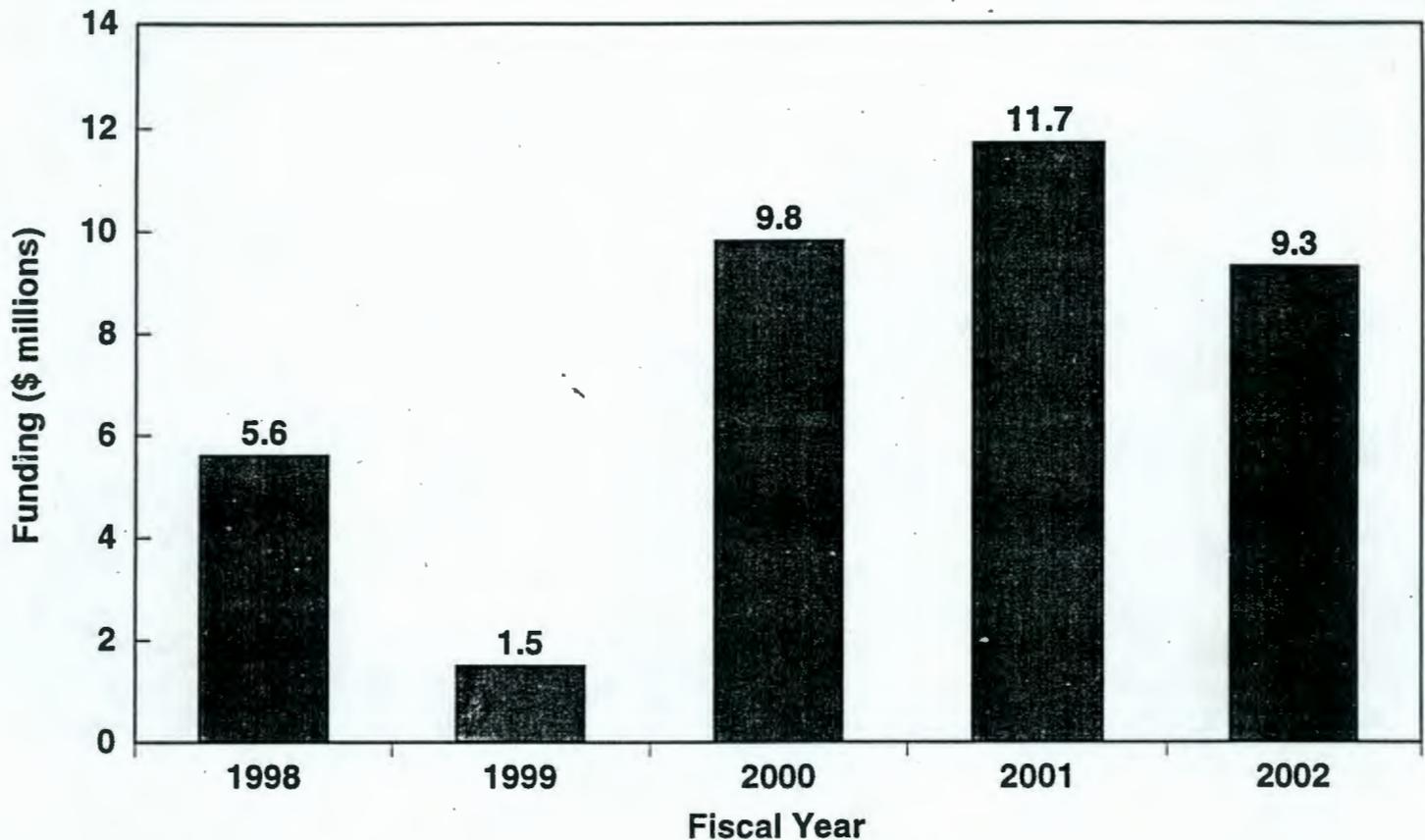
PROPOSED CHANGES

Key elements of the Parties' proposed changes include the following:

- ▲ Milestones are established requiring the completion of all activities necessary to place C Reactor facilities in interim safe storage. (September 1998)
- ▲ Milestones are established requiring the completion of all activities necessary to place F Reactor facilities in interim safe storage. (September 2003)
- ▲ An interim milestone is established requiring issuance of a (DR Reactor) competitive procurement initiative. Initiative objectives include, but are not limited to reassessing reactor Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision assumptions, and private sector state of the art decommissioning technologies. This information will aid the Parties in making course adjustments, and in determining whether or not the parties should continue on an interim safe storage path (reactor by reactor), or move directly to final disposition. (October 2002)
- ▲ Interim milestones are established supporting decision processes regarding the future of B Reactor. (June 2000)
- ▲ A commitment between the Parties is established to complete negotiation of remaining reactor disposition schedules. (December 2003)
- ▲ Section 8 of the Agreement is modified so as to more accurately describe provisions relating to the decommissioning of Hanford site key facilities. The Reactor buildings are proposed for classification as key facilities.
- ▲ Definitions for the terms Interim Safe Storage and Final Disposition are proposed for addition to Agreement, Appendix A.

REACTOR NEGOTIATION FUNDING PROFILE

The Tri-Parties utilized projected lower case funding profiles for purposes of their negotiation and schedule establishment, in order to avoid conflicts with other Environmental Restoration program or site cleanup projects. The reader is cautioned that budget determinations have not yet been made.



* Note: Negotiations were based on the 10 Year Plan low budget case for the reactors.

E9705057.1

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PARTIES' PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Roger Stanley

Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 97600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(360) 407-7108

George Sanders

U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 559 (A5-15)
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-6888

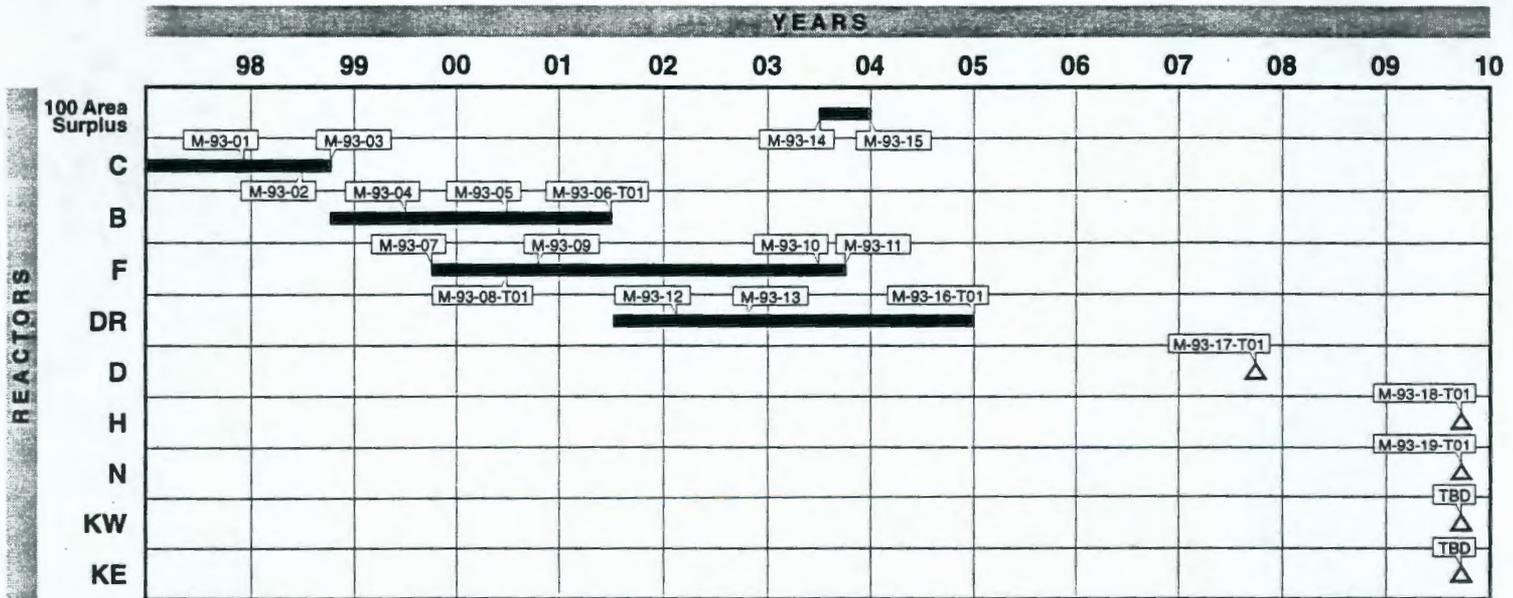
Doug Sherwood

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, WA 99361-52
(509) 376-9529

Or Call the Hanford Cleanup Toll-free Line at 1-800-321-2008.

E9705120.2

PROPOSED 100 AREA SURPLUS REACTOR NEGOTIATIONS MILESTONES



E9704102

- M-93-01 Submit recommendation for final disposition of 105-C Fuel Storage Basin to EPA for approval.
- M-93-02 Submit 105-C Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for EPA approval in part.
- M-93-03 Complete 105-C Reactor Interim Safe Storage Large-Scale Demonstration Project.
- M-93-04 Submit 105-B hazards assessment and characterization report to EPA.
- M-93-05 Issue B Reactor Phase II Feasibility Study Engineering Design Report for public comment.
- M-93-06-T01 Submit B Reactor Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for EPA approval in part.
- M-93-07 Initiate 105-F ISS characterization and design.
- M-93-08-T01 Submit 105-F hazards assessment and characterization report to EPA.
- M-93-09 Initiate 105-F ISS field activities.
- M-93-10 Submit 105-F Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for EPA approval in part.
- M-93-11 Complete 105-F Interim Safe Storage.
- M-93-12 Issue 105-DR disposition competitive procurement package for ascertaining the most effective and efficient approach to FEIS ROD selected alternative implementation.
- M-93-13 Initiate Characterization and Design of ISS for the 105-DR reactor.
- M-93-14 Initiate negotiation of remaining surplus reactor disposition schedules.
- M-93-15 Complete negotiation of remaining surplus reactor disposition schedules.
- M-93-16-T01 Complete 105-DR Reactor Interim Safe Storage.
- M-93-17-T01 Complete Interim Safe Storage for the 105-D Reactor.
- M-93-18-T01 Complete Interim Safe Storage for the 105-H Reactor
- M-93-19-T01 Complete 105/109N Reactor ISS design.
- M-93-20-T01 Complete 105-N Interim Safe Storage. (TBD)
- M-93-21-T01 Complete 105-KW Interim Safe Storage. (TBD)
- M-93-22-T01 Complete 105-KE Interim Safe Storage. (TBD)

Public Involvement Activities Conducted December 1996 - March 1997

Purpose

This enclosure lists public involvement activities conducted during the last four months at Hanford. At the Quarterly meeting, the Tri-Party Agencies will discuss what they learned from these activities and briefly explain why the process seemed to go well or why it needs improvement.

December

Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement/Comprehensive Land Use Plan: The scope of this EIS has been reduced to land use planning due to stakeholder comments received on the draft. The environmental impacts associated with remedial actions will now be addressed in each controlling CERCLA or RCRA document. This document provides information and analyses of a range of future land uses that reflect a vision for the Hanford Site after a 50 year time frame. Five alternatives and a "no action" baseline are discussed. The Hanford Advisory Board discussed the issues but did not provide advice. The work is a requirement of the National Defense Authorization Act P.O. 104-201 Section 3153. Lead Agency: DOE

- ▶ *Focus sheet was sent to the DOE site mailing list.*
- ▶ *Flyers were sent to individuals on the HRA EIS list in each area.*
- ▶ *Announcements were made at the Hanford Advisory Board.*
- ▶ *Public meeting in Hood River (approximately 40 attendees); advertisement in the Hood River News and all local area newspapers.*
- ▶ *Public meeting in Portland (approximately 30 attendees); advertisement in the Oregonian newspaper.*

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for 100 Area Decontamination and Decommissioning: This includes five facilities in the 100 B/C Reactor Area and one facility in the 100 F Reactor Area. The public comment period closed December 17. The Hanford Advisory Board endorsed the preferred alternative. Work is currently ongoing and is required under the Superfund Law. Lead Regulatory Agency: EPA.

- ▶ *Fact sheet announcing public comment period sent to highly interested site mailing list*
- ▶ *Published advertisement in Tri-City Herald newspaper.*

January

Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA): This project evolved from public concerns about effects of Hanford on the Columbia River to human health, the river environment, and cultural resources. The project is steered by weekly meetings of representatives from DOE, EPA, Ecology, Oregon Office of Energy, Hanford Advisory Board, and the affected tribal nations. The initial phase of the assessment includes a screening assessment of risk and requirements for a comprehensive assessment. The screening assessment evaluates current environmental conditions. The requirements for a comprehensive assessment, written by the stakeholders and tribal representatives involved with the project, defines what is needed for a comprehensive assessment of the river. The document will be available for public comment the first part of May. Public meetings are tentatively scheduled in Tri-Cities on May 15, Hood River on May 20, Portland on May 21 and Seattle on May 22. Lead Agencies: DOE, EPA, Ecology.

- ▶ *Presentation to the Hanford Advisory Board and Committees in January and February.*

100 Area Record of Decision Amendment: The agencies are adding 34 liquid waste sites to the current 100 Area Record of Decision. (The public comment period closed January 15.) The public provided one comment (no objection). The Hanford Advisory Board was supportive of this proposal. This action is being conducted under the Superfund Law. Lead Regulatory Agency: EPA.

- ▶ *Fact sheet announcing public comment period sent to highly interested site mailing list.*
- ▶ *Published advertisement in Tri-City Herald newspaper.*

February

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility: The agencies are proposing to decontaminate and demolish the structures and dispose of associated wastes. Two public comments were received that did not oppose taking the action. (The public comment period closed February 25.) This action is being conducted under the Superfund Law. Lead Regulatory Agency: EPA.

- ▶ *Fact sheet announcing public comment period mailed to highly interested site mailing list.*
- ▶ *Published advertisement in Tri-City Herald newspaper.*

Community Relations Plan: As required by the Tri-Party Agreement, the three agencies have revised the Community Relations Plan to reflect current public involvement responsibilities of each agency under the cleanup agreement. The

agencies worked with the Hanford Advisory Board and members of the public in crafting the new plan. To obtain a copy, call the Hanford information line at 1-800-321-2008. The plan also will be available on the DOE Internet site: <http://www.hanford.gov> and on the Ecology Internet site: <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/nwp/wordpage.html>. This plan is required under the Tri-Party Agreement. Lead Agencies: DOE, EPA, Ecology

- ▶ *Comments were assembled into a draft TPA public involvement strategy and annual update process in late 1994.*
- ▶ *Representatives from local Tri-City area governments, the state of Oregon, tribal nations, Hanford public interest groups, labor unions, and other individuals and organizations were interviewed by a consultant engaged to review TPA public involvement activities.*
- ▶ *The Public Involvement Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board submitted recommendations in June 1994.*
- ▶ *In November 1995 the agencies and an ad hoc HAB committee began work on Community Relations Plan changes and submitted a revised Plan in March 1996.*
- ▶ *The revised plan was presented to the Hanford Advisory Board in May 1996 and to the Oregon Hanford Waste Board in June 1996.*
- ▶ *The agencies conducted a 45-day public comment period from June 17 to July 31, 1996. In addition, a workshop was held in Seattle on July 9 and a focus group met in Portland on July 10.*
- ▶ *Comments from all the activities were considered in preparation of the final plan issued in February 1997.*

Hanford Advisory Board's Nominations for two "Public at Large" Seats:

Nominations were accepted in mid-December to mid-January. Approximately 40 nominations were received. Jerry Hess (from Spokane) and Don Worden (from Pasco) were selected as new members in January and seated at the Board in February. Lead Regulatory Agencies: EPA, Ecology

- ▶ *Focus sheet and news releases were issued to solicit nominations.*
- ▶ *Targeted weekly newspapers and radio stations in the Central Valley.*

March

200 Area Strategy: The Tri-Party Agencies are currently developing a new strategy that focuses on the assessment and remediation of 200 Area waste sites within the Environmental Restoration program. These waste sites include cribs, ponds, ditches and burial grounds. The strategy team has finalized the technical documents and are awaiting final management concurrence. The documents will be available for a 45-day public comment period. Lead Agencies: DOE, EPA, Ecology

- ▶ *Periodic briefings were held with the Hanford Advisory Board and Committees.*

Reactor Disposition Negotiations: The Tri-Party Agencies are negotiating schedules for interim safe storage and final disposition of DOE's nine surplus reactors. The Agreement in Principle signed by the Agencies required completion of the negotiations by March 31. Lead Agencies: DOE, EPA, Ecology.

- ▶ *Briefings to the Hanford Advisory Board, local governments, State of Oregon, and affected tribal nations during negotiations on January 14 and February 7.*

Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF): The FFTF is currently in a standby condition while the DOE evaluates the possible use of the reactor to produce tritium for national defense purposes. DOE Headquarters is scheduled to announce a decision on its national tritium strategy in December 1998. Three TPA milestones associated with FFTF have been completed. Although work is continuing toward completing milestones not affected by the standby order, progress on other milestones is on hold. Lead Agency: DOE

- ▶ *Presentation made to the Hanford Advisory Board and Committees.*

Hanford Budget Cycle 1997 -'99: Briefings, workshops and consultations will be available for Hanford regulators, local governments, State of Oregon, tribal nations and stakeholders. Lead Agency: DOE

- ▶ *Workshops were held in Richland (140 attendees), Spokane (15 attendees), and Portland (20 attendees).*
- ▶ *Change format and content of meeting and newspaper ad due to stakeholder input.*
- ▶ *PSA's, news releases and newspaper ads were run in Richland Hood River, Spokane, Portland, and Seattle.*
- ▶ *Coordinated meeting locations with interest groups.*
- ▶ *Mailed information to the Hanford site mailing list.*

Ten Year Plan: Sites across the USDOE complex are drafting plans specific to their site that attempt to accelerate cleanup over 10 years. Lead Agency: DOE

- ▶ *The regulators, Hanford Advisory Board and the Dollars and Sense Committee have been briefed on the status of the plan.*

Public Involvement Opportunities A Six-Month Look Ahead March - August 1997

Background

A key purpose of public involvement is to gain stakeholder perspective on issues affecting the Tri-Party Agreement and to facilitate broad-based participation in the Hanford decision making process. Described below are the principal topics expected to be of interest for the next six months. The particular type of involvement opportunity will vary according to the issue. For additional information on any of these topics, call 1-800-321-2008.

Key Public Involvement Items

Hanford Budget Cycle 1997 -'99:

Hanford's FY 1999 budget is being developed and submitted to USDOE Headquarters by the end of April. DOE has continued during the FY 1999 budget process to engage the public and other interested parties in identifying cleanup and funding priorities before forwarding DOE's recommendations to Headquarters. Input is used by DOE in its final budget decisions. Comments received by April 10 will be considered for DOE's budget submission due to Headquarters by late April. Comments received after April 10 related to FY 1999's budget proposal will be considered as late as May. The Ten Year Plan public comment process will have some overlap with FY 1999. Briefings and consultations will be available for Hanford regulators, local governments, State of Oregon, stakeholders and Tribal Nations.

Public participation: Compile and distribute a response to comment document on the fiscal year 1999 budget comments received at the all-day workshop in Richland on March 13, evening meetings in Spokane on March 18, Portland on March 19 and an evening workshop scheduled in Seattle on April 2. The Hanford Advisory Board, particularly the Dollars and Sense committee will receive timely information during the budget cycle.

Contact: Jim Peterson, DOE, (509) 376-7631

USDOE's Hanford Ten Year Plan:

Sites across the USDOE complex are drafting budget plans specific to their site that accelerate cleanup over 10 years. Hanford's draft proposal and a USDOE complex wide draft plan are due for public review in April.

Public participation: Ongoing dialogue will occur during the budget process with the Hanford Advisory Board, regulators, State of Oregon and Tribal Nations (see budget information above). Additional Ten Year Plan interactions will occur, including a 45 day public comment period when the draft plans are released. There will be a stakeholder video conference on May 20. Other activities are still being considered, including a national dialogue meeting. Between now and September, the department will continue to work with its stakeholders and regulators to resolve issues as it develops the Ten Year Plan.

Contact: Jim Daily, DOE, (509) 376-7721

Non-union, Non-management Board Members for the Hanford Advisory Board:

A letter from John Wagoner to all Hanford companies, dated March 19, transmitted Marilyn Reeves letter requesting support for the selection of non-union, non-management employees to participate on the Hanford Advisory Board. This letter is soliciting applications and nominations to fill two seats and two alternate seats. The application forms are due to EPA and Ecology by May 15, 1997.

Public Participation: A sitewide message was transmitted to all Hanford employees requesting nominations. An article will appear in the *Reach* newspaper on April 7.

Contacts: Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 372-8631; Max Power, Ecology, (360) 407-7118; Gail McClure, DOE, (509) 373-5647

Reactor Disposition Negotiations:

The Tri-Party Agencies finalized negotiations on March 29, 1997, for interim safe storage and final disposition of DOE's nine surplus reactors. A schedule and change package were developed.

Public participation: A 45-day public comment period on the Tri-Party Agreement change package is scheduled to begin on May 1. The number of public forums/meetings offered during the comment period will be dependent on level of interest. Final approval is scheduled for August 31, 1997.

Contacts: Roger Stanley, Ecology, (360) 407-7108; Doug Sherwood, EPA, (509) 376-9529; George Sanders, DOE, (509) 376-6888

N Area Remediation:

Work is under way to finalize the corrective measure study and proposed plan for 100-NR-1/100-NR-2 Operable Units, and the corrective measure study for the 100-NR-1 Treatment, Storage and Disposal facility and other past practice waste sites. Work is also underway to finalize the engineering evaluation/cost analysis for the 100-N Area ancillary facilities and integration plan. The documents are scheduled to go out for public comment on June 16, 1997.

Public participation: The public comment period will be announced with a fact sheet and newspaper advertisement. Updated information will be provided to the Hanford Advisory Board through the Environmental Restoration Committee. A public hearing/public meeting (on the waste permit) is tentatively scheduled for mid-July.

Contacts: Phillip Staats, Ecology, (509) 736-3029; David Olson, DOE, (509) 376-7142

200 Area Soil Remediation Strategy:

The Tri-Party Agencies are currently developing a new strategy that focuses on the assessment and remediation of 200 Area waste sites within the Environmental Restoration program. This strategy applies a combination of lessons learned from 100 and 300 Areas investigations, aligns Milestones 13 and 20, and changes the investigation approach from operable units to waste type sites. The strategy is also projected to save \$10 million over the next ten year.

Public participation: The documents will be made available for a 45-day public comment period beginning in early June.

Contacts: Bryan Foley, DOE, (509) 376-7087; Jack Donnelly, Ecology, (509) 736-3013, Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 376-8631

Plutonium Finishing Plant Negotiations:

The Tri-Party Agencies have been unable to reach an Agreement in Principal under which negotiations will be conducted to establish milestones and other requirements for a facility transition program for the Plutonium Finishing Plant. Discussions on the Agreement in Principal have been referred to the Inter Agency Management Integration Team for resolution of issues.

Public participation: The Hanford Advisory Board, local governments, State of Oregon and affected tribes will continue to receive periodic updates on the status of negotiations. A 45-day comment period will begin upon completion of the

milestone negotiations, about five months after the Agreement in Principle is signed. It is anticipated that a number of public forums and/or meetings will be offered during the comment period.

Contacts: Roger Stanley, Ecology, (360) 407-7108; Doug Sherwood, EPA, (509) 376-9529; George Sanders, DOE, (509) 376-6888

Spent Nuclear Fuel Negotiations:

Negotiations to establish Tri-Party Agreement commitments for removal of fuel, sludge, debris and water from the K Basins resumed in January. However, the Agencies have been unable to reach consensus, and negotiations have been elevated to dispute resolution. The dispute resolution process will be continued on April 1, with informal negotiation discussions among the Tri-Parties.

Public participation: The Hanford Advisory Board, local and regional governments, and affected tribes are being kept informed on the issues and status of negotiations. A 45-day public comment period will begin when negotiations are complete.

Contacts: Roger Stanley, Ecology, (360) 407-7108; Doug Sherwood, EPA, (509) 376-9529; George Sanders, DOE, (509) 376-6888

Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment:

This project evolved from public concerns about effects of Hanford on the Columbia River to human health, the river environment, and cultural resources. The project is steered by weekly meetings of representatives from DOE, EPA, Ecology, Oregon Office of Energy, Hanford Advisory Board, and the affected tribal nations. The initial phase of the assessment includes a screening assessment of risk and requirements for a comprehensive assessment. The screening assessment evaluates current environmental conditions. The requirements for a comprehensive assessment, written by the stakeholders and tribal representatives involved with the project, defines what is needed for a comprehensive assessment of the Columbia River. The document will be available for public comment on May 1, 1997.

Public participation: Outreach activities so far have included presentations to the Oregon Hanford Waste Board, the Hanford Advisory Board, and the tribal nations. Scheduled activities include public meetings in Richland (May 15), Hood River (May 20), Portland (May 21); and Seattle (May 22). In each area we propose to work with the interest groups. A focus sheet will be mailed out in the Hanford Update, newspaper advertisements will be placed in newspapers, and news releases, and public announcements will be issued. Additionally, a

meeting will be held with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and consultations will be held with the affected tribal nations.

Contacts: Bob Stewart, DOE, (509) 376-6192. Dave Holland, Ecology, (509) 736-3027, and Larry Gadbois, EPA, (509) 376-9884

Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement & Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

The scope of this IS has been reduced to land use planning due to stakeholder comments received on the draft. The environmental impacts associated with remedial actions will now be addressed in each controlling CERCLA or RCRA document. This document provides information and analyses of a range of future land uses that reflect a vision for the Hanford Site after a 50 year time frame. Five alternatives and a "no action" baseline are presented. The Hanford Advisory Board discussed the issues but did not provide advice. The work is a requirement of the National Defense Authorization Act P.O. 104-201 Section 3153.

Public participation: Future public involvement will involve the conferring of "Cooperating Agency" status to Benton County, Franklin County, City of Richland, the Department of Interior and the Nez Perce Indian Nation. DOE also committed to conduct a 45-day public comment period (scheduled to begin in December 1997) that will follow publication of the Final HRA EIS/CLUP. A Record of Decision could be published as soon as 30 days after the public comment period on the Final HRA EIS is closed.

Contact: Tom Ferns, DOE, (509) 372-0649

National Dialogue:

Over the next several years, the USDOE will be faced with a number of difficult and challenging decisions regarding the ultimate disposition of surplus plutonium, spent nuclear fuel and a variety of radioactive wastes. These decisions will have important implications for the region, state and nation. The State believes that a broadly based and informed public decision on the disposition of nuclear materials and wastes is essential to making implementable and sustainable decisions.

Public participation: DOE has agreed to pursue national dialogue. The National League of Women Voters has agreed to help the Department in organizing the dialogue. Key activities for 1997 include:

- Conducting three regional or field workshops by the end of July.

- Completing a plan for conducting additional regional and national discussions.
- Convening additional regional and national discussions with the goal of developing national principles and values to guide DOE decision-making.

The League of Women Voters of Washington has submitted a proposal to sponsor a series of public involvement events as a "field workshop" to be funded by the LWV Education Fund. If funding is forthcoming, a steering committee including the League, the Oregon Office of Energy, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Hanford communities, Ecology and others will provide planning and coordination. The events would occur between June and August.

Contacts: Jeff Breckel, Ecology, (360) 407-7148; Gail McClure, DOE, (509) 373-5647

Waste Tank Leakage Limits:

DOE and Ecology will be working with stakeholders to determine criteria for several important issues associated with sluicing of tank wastes. By examining past practices of this technology, criteria such as: leak monitoring and detection measures, leakage volumes, fate and transport of contaminants, worker safety, etc. will be discussed in relation to possible future use scenarios for sluicing retrieval. The criteria developed will be used in the future development of baselines for Hanford tank waste retrieval. (Note: The name of the project has been changed to Retrieval Performance Criteria Evaluation Analysis)

Public participation: The public comment period has not been set; however, it is anticipated that the level of public interest on this topic will remain high and therefore a number informal briefings, as well as public forums/meetings, will be offered.

Contacts: Scott McKinney, Ecology, (206) 407-7146; Wendell Wrzesinski, DOE, (509) 376-6751

Hanford Title V Air Operating Permit:

The Washington State Departments of Health and Ecology are working in tandem to issue a permit that will cover all emissions to the air from Hanford facilities. The Department of Health has regulatory authority over radioactive emissions, while Ecology has authority to regulate all non-radioactive dangerous waste emissions. The current permit schedule allows for formal approval in November, pending EPA concurrence. Under current planning, off-site facilities that accept USDOE wastes will not be included in this permit.

Public Participation: A comment period and public meeting in the Tri-Cities will occur in late summer.

Contact: Oliver Wang, Ecology, (509) 736-3040

TWRS Privatization Bi-Annual Public Forums:

Ecology and DOE agreed to conduct bi-annual public forums on TWRS Privatization to ensure active information sharing with interested individuals and organizations in the region. Based on input from the Hanford Advisory Board, these forums will discuss technical and regulatory issues, TWRS program management, and budget. The forums are scheduled to occur in the Spring and Fall through 2002.

Public Participation: A forum is tentatively scheduled for April 30 in Richland. Ongoing TWRS privatization discussions continue with the Hanford Advisory Board and Committees.

Contacts: Suzanne Dahl, Ecology (509) 736-5705; Bill Taylor, DOE, (509) 372-3864

Commercial Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility:

The Department of Health and Ecology will co-prepare an environmental impact statement examining the commercial low-level radioactive waste facility operated by U.S. Ecology, Inc., at the Hanford Site. The first phase in this process was a public scoping period which concluded March 27. The agencies expect to develop and issue responses to comments on or before May 12. The next step will involve writing a draft impact statement, and the IS team hopes to complete that work by January 1998.

Three coinciding actions led to the decision to go forward with an environmental impact statement.

1. US Ecology has filed a final closure plan.
2. Amended regulations covering naturally-occurring and accelerator-produced radioactive materials (NARM) must be written,
3. The facility must renew its operating license.

This summer, a field investigation will attempt to learn whether dangerous wastes disposed of in earlier years, have migrated into soils below some of the older disposal trenches. Ecology and Health plan to keep interested groups and individuals updated on the progress of the IS project.

Public participation: The state plans a thorough public involvement process, including frequent communication with citizens, tribes, interest groups, government bodies, etc., already interested in Hanford issues; member states of the Northwest and Rocky Mountain low level waste compacts; and the generators, brokers, and shippers that use the facility. This is a proposed SEPA action. A pre-decisional information mailing was distributed to the highly interested site mailing list. Involvement opportunities will include a 30-day scoping period with one or more hearings, and response to comments; a comment period in the summer on alternatives resulting from the dangerous waste investigation; and a comment period when a draft EIS is released.

Contact: Geoff Tallent, Ecology, (360) 407-7113

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Site-wide Permit Modification:

Work began in January on the third in an annual series of additions to the Hanford RCRA permit. Key facilities expected to be added as permit chapters include the 200 Area Liquid Waste Complex and the Low Level Burial Grounds.

Public participation: Ecology's RCRA permitting team will emphasize informal, pre-decisional public involvement, including consultations with the HAB, the affected tribes, and other interested groups and individuals before going out for a 45-day public comment period and hearing in the summer.

Contact: Moses Jaraysi, Ecology, (509)736-3016

Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF):

The FFTF is currently in a standby condition while the DOE evaluates the possible use of the reactor to produce tritium for national defense. DOE Headquarters is scheduled to announce a decision on its national tritium strategy in December 1998. Three TPA milestones associated with FFTF have been completed. Although work is continuing toward completing milestones not affected by the standby order, progress on other milestones is on hold.

Public participation: If DOE determines that FFTF is to play a role in tritium production, the Department will consult with the public through the National Environmental Policy Act process.

Contact: Jim Mecca, DOE, (509) 376-7471