



Public Comment Period

400 Area Waste Management Unit
August 27 through October 11, 2007

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).

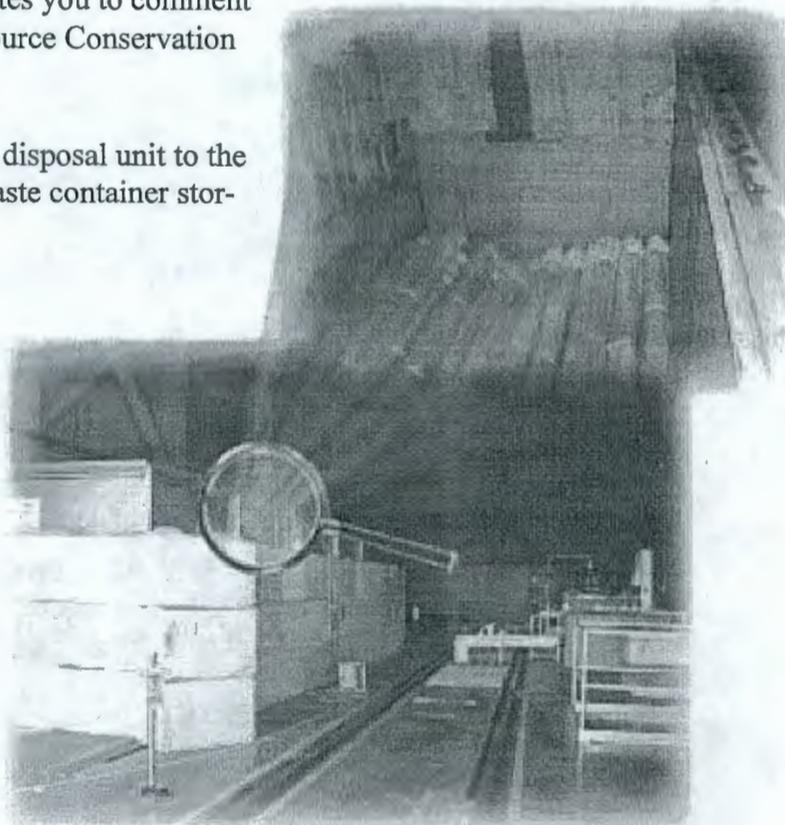
Permittees

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 which is 10 miles from Richland on the Hanford Site in 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.



Waste sodium stored in the Fuel Storage Facility.

The FFTF was a sodium-cooled research and test reactor that supported the nation's liquid metal fast breeder reactor program. Its 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.

What wastes are stored there?

The wastes are a result of the 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 and cold traps. The permittees will only store waste from the FFTF's shutdown in the 400 Area Waste Management Unit.

The 400 Area Waste Management Unit 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 400 Area mixed waste storage. The conditions cover topics like waste management, training, preparedness and prevention, monitoring, and closure.

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Nuclear Waste Program at 509-372-7950. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

How can you learn more about the changes?

The draft permit, 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. The proposal is also available for review at Hanford's Public Information Repositories. They are listed below.

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 at this time. But if the public expresses interest one can be scheduled. 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 and issue a response to comments when we issue the final decision on the permit change.

Hanford Public Information Repositories

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy
Reading Room
Consolidated Information Center,
Room 101-L
2770 University Dr.
Attn: Janice Parthree
509-372-7443

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
502 E. Boone Ave.
Attn: Linda Pierce
509-323-3834

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase
206-543-4664

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Ave.
Attn: Don Frank
503-725-4132

Hanford Cleanup Line 1-800-321-2008

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Nuclear Waste Program
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Richland, WA 99354

