



HANFORD UPDATE

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

Volume 7, Number 4 - May/June 1995

Blueprint for action and cost control at Hanford

A two-day meeting in St. Louis on April 26 and 27 produced an 11-page "Blueprint for Action and Cost Control at Hanford." The document, released on May 4, recaps the joint meeting of management from United States Department of Energy (USDOE) Headquarters, USDOE-Richland, Hanford regulators and contractors.

Environmental cleanup and the costs of maintaining the facilities and safeguarding nuclear materials at Hanford have received intense national scrutiny. The participants examined ways to fundamentally change the way of doing business at Hanford.

They agreed to five major action areas: 1) Managing Successful Projects; 2) Reducing Costs and Increasing Competition; 3) Tracking and Reporting Cost Savings; 4) Streamlining the Regulatory Process; and 5) Establishing Target Endpoints for Cleanup and Ensuring Site-wide Integration.

Taken together, the five areas of redirection represent substantial changes that will make cleanup more effective, protect people and the environment and save tax dollars. The participants committed to evaluate their progress by July 30.

For a copy of the "Blueprint for Change" call Office of External Affairs, USDOE, (509) 376-7501.

Final EIS on Programmatic Spent Fuel Management available

On April 20, USDOE issued the final EIS on Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs. A formal "notice of availability" was published in the Federal Register on April 28.

The final EIS identified "preferred alternatives" for USDOE-wide spent fuel management (pending decisions on ultimate disposal), as well as for cleanup and waste management programs at the INEL. While the final EIS identifies preferred alternatives, it must be emphasized that no final decision has been made. No less than 30 days after issuing the final EIS but not later than June 1, USDOE shall issue a record of decision.

For more information contact Suzanne Clark, USDOE (509) 376-9055.

TPA Annual Meeting, June 1

Come meet with and give your views to managers from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDOE, Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and members of the Hanford Advisory Board. The meeting will be Thursday, June 1 at the Red Lion Columbia River, 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Portland, Oregon.

For more information call Hanford Cleanup toll-free, 1-800-321-2008.



Five Hanford RCRA permit modifications approved

Ecology, in April, agreed to add five unit closure plans to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit. Chapters added to the permit will validate the cleanup of the Simulated High Level Waste Slurry Unit, the 218-E-8 Borrow Pit Demolition Site, the 200 West Ash Pit Demolition Site, the 2101 M Pond, and the 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds.

Two errors in the December 1994 Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit Modification Focus Sheet pertained to the Simulated High Level Waste Slurry Unit. The unit did not store mixed waste and it is correctly identified as a unit consisting of three small open areas comprising about 755 square yards.

A new modification to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit is scheduled for a 45-day public comment period which will start June 5 and end July 19, 1995. The proposal calls for closure of the Hanford Patrol Academy Demolition Sites, the Large Sodium Fire Facility in 100 DR Area, and the 304 Concretion Facility.

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

Comments sought on Site Treatment Plans for mixed waste

Officials from Ecology and USDOE are considering comments from the public meetings on USDOE's Proposed Site Treatment Plans for its mixed wastes. Mixed wastes contain both hazardous chemicals and radioactivity and are generated at two USDOE sites in Washington — Hanford and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton. The Federal Facility Compliance Act requires the shipyard and 39 other USDOE nuclear sites to have plans in place by October 6, 1995, for treatment and storage of mixed wastes. Hanford is specifically exempt because the Tri-Party Agreement fulfills the planning requirements of the Compliance Act.

Thirteen USDOE sites, including the shipyard, propose shipping some of their wastes to Hanford for treatment. Treated wastes would be returned to their originating sites for interim storage. Public meetings on these plans were held during May in Kennewick and Bremerton. Written public comment will be accepted by the Washington State Department of Ecology through July 5, 1995.

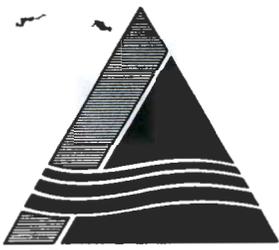
For more information contact Jeff Breckel, Ecology, (360) 407-7148.

Ecology seeks subscribers to SEPA mailing list

Ecology's mailing list of people interested in Hanford-related State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) decisions is three years old. SEPA strives to ensure that environmental values receive full consideration when government bodies make decisions such as issuing permits. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary for a proposed project if the level of harm to the environment is expected to be severe. Public participation is an important part of the SEPA process.

If you would like to comment on Hanford and other nuclear waste related SEPA decisions, please send your name and address to: Ronnie Effland, 1315 W. 4th Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336-6018.

For more information contact Ronnie Effland, Ecology, (509) 735-7581.



Hanford Happenings

May 17, 1995

Tri-Party Agreement

Cleanup is underway at Hanford and the number of actions requiring public participation continues to grow. The three parties, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offer this monthly flier to help you keep track of scheduled meetings, comment periods and events, and the inevitable changes in schedules. For the latest information, call the Hanford Cleanup toll-free hotline at 1-800-321-2008.

JUNE	Program	Contact
June 1	Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Annual public meeting. The three parties encourage your participation in the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Annual meetings. Your input and values are vital to the cleanup and compliance decisions at Hanford. Portland, OR; Red Lion-Columbia River. 7:00 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Agenda to be determined. If you need more information, please call one of the agency representatives listed below, or the Hanford Cleanup toll-free hotline.	Hanford Cleanup (800) 321-2008
June 1-2	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Portland, OR; Red Lion-Columbia River. Agenda to possibly include: Risk Assessment and Review of FY'94 Accomplishments. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
June 8	Stakeholder Budget 1997 Interactive Televideo Conference to discuss USDOE's Environmental Management budget before it is submitted to the Secretary of Energy. Video conference rooms will be available in Richland and Lacey, Washington, and Portland and Salem, Oregon. 8:00 a.m.	Jim Peterson (509) 376-6731
June 9	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Portland, OR. Time, location, and agenda to be determined. <i>Chair: Dick Belsey.</i>	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
June 19	Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Lewiston, ID; Ramada Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
June 20	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project Communications Subcommittee meeting, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Technical Integration Subcommittee meeting, 3:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lewiston, ID; Ramada Inn.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
June 21	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project Lewiston, ID; Ramada Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
June 21	Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit Modifications Public hearing will be held 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in Department of Ecology's Kennewick office, West 1315 4th Avenue.	Moses Jaraysi (509) 736-3016
June Tentative	1996 Workforce Restructuring Plan. USDOE public meeting. Times, dates, locations, and agenda to be determined.	B. Hoffer (509) 376-9906
June Tentative	Pantex Environmental Impact Statement comment period.	L. Thiede (509) 376-1065
JULY-DECEMBER		
July 7	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Agenda to be determined. <i>Chair: Dick Belsey.</i>	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
July 26-28	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. The agenda includes an afternoon session on the 26th with the Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Dose Reconstruction Project.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730
August 3-4	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Spokane; Cavanaugh's River Inn (1401 N. Hayden Island Dr.). Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
August 11	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Agenda to be determined. <i>Chair: Dick Belsey.</i>	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481

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

September <i>Tentative</i>	Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement. USDOE public meetings. Richland, Portland, Seattle. Times, dates, locations, and agenda to be determined.	Lynn Roders (509) 375-0556
September 6	Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Pasco; Red Lion Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
September 7-8	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Pasco, Red Lion Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
September 7	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Richland; Best Western-Tower Inn. Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
September 26-28	Northwest Interstate Compact Low Level Waste Forum. Salt Lake City, Utah. Agenda includes a site visit to Envirocare.	Joe Stohr (360) 407-7107
September 28-29	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. Yakima. Time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730
October 5-6	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Spokane.; Cavanaugh's. (1101 N. Columbia Ctr. Blvd.) Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
November 2	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Richland; O'Callahan's (Shilo). Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
November 29- December 1	Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee meeting. Department of Health, ATSDR, public meeting. The agenda includes an afternoon session on the 29th with the Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Dose Reconstruction Project. Time, location, and agenda to be determined.	Jim Carpenter (404) 639-0730
December 5	Inter-Tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Richland; Tower Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
December 6-7	Technical Steering Panel of the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project Final meeting. Richland; Tower Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
December 7-8	Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Portland, OR; Red Lion-Columbia River. Agenda to be determined. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <i>Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.</i>	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663

COMMENT PERIODS

April 6- July 5	Proposed Site Treatment Plans for Mixed Waste generated by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and 12 other USDOE sites proposing to send mixed waste to Hanford.	Jeff Breckel (360) 407-7148
June 8- July 19	Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit Modifications. Ecology will seek public comment on modifications which would add three sites, or units, to the permit. The sites are: 105-DR Large Sodium Fire Facility; 304 Concretion Facility; and the Hanford Patrol Academy Demolition Sites. A public hearing will be held June 21, 1995, in Kennewick. Response to comments will be mailed by August 15, 1995 and if no major changes are required, the new modified permit will be issued August 15, 1995.	Moses Jaraysi (509) 736-3016
May	Preliminary Notice of Waste Discharge Permit Application. Ecology will seek public comment on issues to be considered in development of draft permits for W-252 Streams, 200 East Area Chemical Drain Field, 400 Area Septic System, and 183-N Backwash Discharge Pond, 100-N Sewage Lagoon. Comments will be used to prepare draft permits for public review in the fall of 1995.	Greta Davis (509) 736-3025
October/ November <i>Tentative</i>	400 Area. Ecology will seek public comment and conduct a public hearing on the draft waste discharge permit for the 400 Area.	Greta Davis (509) 736-3025

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 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
Laurie Davies at (360) 407-7113

The 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 alternative format,

please contact Michelle Davis at (360) 407-7126 (Voice) or (360) 407-6206 (TDD).

100 BC-1 SAFER Demonstration Project

Three waste sites are being proposed for cleanup this summer under the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER). SAFER is a USDOE headquarters initiative that focuses on building consensus on the objectives of a project prior to implementation. The waste sites are part of the 100-BC-1 operable unit, a reactor site near the Columbia River.

An Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis proposal, currently available for public comment, details project objectives, various cleanup alternatives, and information on the waste sites proposed for cleanup. Public comment will be accepted through June 15.

The major objective of this project is to develop information that can be applied to cleanups throughout the 100 areas.

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

State water discharge permit issued for W-049

Ecology has approved a permit for the 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility (Project W-049H). Signed April 18, the permit is the first issued by the state to control a major liquid waste discharge at Hanford. The facility is permitted to receive approximately 340 million gallons a year from seven facilities in the 200 Area. Cleanup work at the generating facilities will ensure that the wastewater meets limits required by the permit before the effluent is discharged to the soil.

For more information contact Melodie Selby, Ecology, (509) 736-3021.

Ecology proceeds on waste discharge applications

Ecology has started initial work on draft waste discharge permits for five USDOE Hanford wastewater sites. They are the 200 East Area Project W-252 Streams, 200 East Area Chemical Drain Field, 400 Area Septic System, 183-N Backwash Discharge Pond, and the 100-N Sewage Lagoon.

For more information contact Greta Davis, Ecology, (509) 736-3025.

Public hearing on C-018 draft waste discharge permit

Ecology began a 32-day public comment period May 1 on the draft waste discharge permit for the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (Project C-018). A public hearing is set for 7 to 9 p.m. on May 30 at Ecology's Kennewick office, 1315 W. 4th. Copies of the draft permit can be obtained by calling the Hanford Cleanup line at 1-800-321-2008. Written comments should be sent by June 1 to Dom Reale, Washington Department of Ecology, Southwest Regional Office, P.O. Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775.

For more information contact Melodie Selby, Ecology, (509) 736-3021.

HRA-EIS Correction

In our last issue (March/April), we stated that the Implementation Plan for the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement had been released. In fact, the Implementation Plan has not been released, but is currently at USDOE-HQ awaiting signature approval. We apologize for any confusion this error may have caused.

For more information contact Thomas Ferns, USDOE, (509) 372-0649.

Advisory Board study recommends against tanks

A recently released technical review commissioned by the Hanford Advisory Board stood by USDOE's recommendation not to spend nearly half a billion dollars to build large double-shelled waste tanks in the 200 Areas. The review team, led by Dr. Glenn Paulson, recommended several lower cost alternatives focused on making use of existing tanks, including: cleaning out tank 102-SY — a double-shell tank in the 200 West Area — to increase liquid waste storage capacity; putting construction of a new Cross Site Transfer System — a pipeline between the 200 West and 200 East areas — on a fast track; and building smaller transfer tanks to support the cross-site system.

The team also advised USDOE to develop contingency plans in case the current cross-site pipeline is inoperable, to prepare more thorough risk analyses of each element of the tank waste system, and to have USDOE senior management carefully monitor new waste volume projections.

For a copy of the Technical Team Review of Proposed New Double Shell Tanks at Hanford, contact Celaine Hadley, Westinghouse Hanford Company (509) 376-5856.

Environmental monitoring and compliance report available

"In Summary Environmental Report 1993" highlights the activities and results of environmental monitoring and compliance on and around the Hanford Site in 1993. The information in this booklet is a condensed version of a more detailed report titled, "Hanford Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 1993."

For a free copy of the report contact Mindy Strong, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, (509) 375-2599.



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