

A Citizen's Guide



Scoping the Tank Closure & Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is preparing a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate options for managing and disposing of waste, selecting supplemental treatments, closing tanks, and closing the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at Hanford. USDOE seeks comments on the scope for the new EIS.

Background

A January 9, 2006, legal settlement requires USDOE to prepare the *Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington*. USDOE intends for the EIS to provide a comprehensive and integrated look at near-term waste management and tank waste cleanup actions at Hanford.

What are the key points of the settlement?

- Expand the existing Tank Closure EIS, which was in development, and incorporate solid waste management decisions into the new EIS.
- Create a single integrated groundwater analysis that addresses cumulative impacts and waste types in the Hanford Solid Waste EIS.
- Use the Hanford Solid Waste EIS for limited decision making until the new EIS is complete.
- Continues Ecology's designation as a cooperating agency in preparing the new EIS.
- Prohibit importation of offsite waste except as permitted in existing stipulations.

What is scoping?

The purpose of scoping is to

- Identify concerns of the affected public
- Refine the issues and alternatives the EIS will examine in detail.
- Ensure that the draft EIS addresses the issues

Scoping addresses the range of cleanup actions, potential environmental impacts, and which alternatives are most likely to be rule out. Sometimes the scoping process identifies a proposal, which EIS preparers can address.

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For more information, please call the Tank Closure & Waste Mar

What are USDOE's and Ecology's roles in the new EIS?

For this EIS, USDOE is the Federal Lead Agency and Ecology is a Cooperating Agency. As the Lead Agency, the USDOE has the primary responsibility for preparing the EIS and the Record of Decision. The Lead Agency is responsible for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This entails conducting scoping, seeking technical expertise from other agencies, preparing or contracting preparation of the draft EIS, collecting comments, publishing the Final EIS and publishing the Record of Decision.

As a Cooperating Agency, Ecology participates closely with USDOE to provide advice and assistance, particularly in matters like requirements in the

State's Environmental Policy Act and regulatory impacts and requirements.

Ecology may offer advice and assistance in other parts of the process, as agreed to by the USDOE. The specific roles and responsibilities of each agency are spelled out in the Memorandum of Understanding between USDOE and Ecology, which is available at <http://tinyurl.com/dody4>.

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Double-shell tanks under construction in 1975

What does the new EIS cover?

The EIS will form the basis for making important decisions about Hanford's cleanup, including:

- the final condition of the 177 underground tanks that hold high-level nuclear waste
- the final treatment and disposal of those wastes
- the final decommissioning of the FFTF
- on-site disposal alternatives for Hanford's low-level waste (LLW) and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) and LLW and MLLW from other USDOE sites

The EIS will reanalyze groundwater impacts. It will include a cumulative analysis of sitewide environmental impacts. The new EIS will include a reanalysis of onsite disposal alternatives for low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste from Hanford and other USDOE sites. (Mixed waste contains both radioactive and dangerous waste components.)

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We want you to help us evaluate options for managing and disposing of waste, selecting supplemental treatments, closing tanks, and closing the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford.

Attend a Public Meeting

City	Date	Place
Seattle	Tuesday, March 21, 2006	Seattle Center Northwest Building, Lopez Room
Portland	Wednesday, March 22, 2006	Red Lion - Convention Center 1021 NE Grand Ave
Hood River	Thursday, March 23, 2006	Columbia Gorge Hotel 4000 Westcliff Ave.
Pasco	Tuesday, March 28, 2006	TRAC 6600 Burden Blvd.

Registration and information at 6 p.m., hearings begin at 7 p.m.

Public Involvement Process

Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
Develop preliminary alternatives: Identify a range of reasonable alternatives.	March - April 2006	Comment on the initial alternatives. Attend public meetings. Mail, email, phone, or give comments orally at the public meetings.
Prepare and publish draft Environmental Impact Statement: Prepare a draft describing alternatives and their impacts. Distribute draft for public comment.	Spring 2007	Comment on the alternatives and impacts in the draft EIS. Attend public meetings, mail, email, phone, or give comments orally at the meetings.
Revise and publish final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision: Analyze comments, revise draft, distribute final EIS and Record of Decision.	Fall 2008	The analyses in the EIS will be the basis for permitting decisions and cleanup actions mandated by the Tri-Party Agreement. The public can review and comment on these cleanup decisions.



If you need this publication in an alternate format, please contact the Nuclear Waste Program at 509-372-7950. For persons with a speech or hearing impairment call 711 for relay service or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

Comment Form

Tank Closure & Waste Management EIS

How can you comment on the scope for the EIS?

The public comment period began February 2 and ends on April 10, 2006. You can submit written comments, speak at a public meeting, or phone in your comments.

Send your written comments to:

Mary Beth Burandt, Document Manager
Office of River Protection
U.S. Department of Energy
PO Box 450, Mail Stop H6-60
Richland, WA 99352
TC&WMEIS@saic.com
Fax 509-376-3661, Phone 888-829-6347

If you have already commented on the Tank Closure, Hanford Solid Waste, or FFTF EIS processes, you do not need to resubmit those comments. Your comments will be considered in developing the new EIS.

USDOE will also hold formal scoping meetings so that federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the interested public, can comment on the proposed actions. The hearings will include time for informal questions and answers as well as formal public comment.

How can you learn enough about the EIS to comment on its scope?

You can read background information, the settlement agreement, the memorandum of understanding between the State and USDOE, the Notice of Intent, technical guidance and performance specification, and more at <http://tinyurl.com/dody4> or call USDOE at 1-888-829-6347. Handouts, displays, and question-and-answer sessions at the public hearings can help you form your comments.



You may also send us your comments on this form by folding it in the middle, taping it closed, and mailing it to the preprinted address on the front.

Place
Stamp
Here



Mary Beth Burandt
Document Manager
Office of River Protection
U.S. Department of Energy
PO Box 450, Mail Stop H6-60
Richland, WA 99352

Please fill out the information below to sign up for our lists, request documents, or to make corrections to your existing information. Mail this form to the address above.

Sign me up for: postal mail list e-mail list This is an address correction.

Please send me the following documents:

Draft TC & WM EIS Summary (100 pages)
 Final TC & WM EIS Summary (100 pages)

Draft TC & WM EIS (1500 pages)
 Final TC & WM EIS (1500 pages)

I would like my documents mailed to me: hard copy CD

Name: _____

Organization, if applicable: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please fold this form in half, tape it closed (no staples), and mail it to the preprinted address.

Thank you for your time and interest in Hanford issues.