



WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
E C O L O G Y

# Focus

## HANFORD'S HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT MODIFICATION



### Background

A Hazardous Waste Permit was issued in August 1994 for the Hanford Nuclear Facility by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The permit was granted under provisions of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations. The permit outlined general conditions for the operation and closure of dangerous and hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal units on the Hanford Site.

Approximately 60 treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) units at Hanford operate under an interim permit basis. As these units are incorporated into the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit, the general conditions will apply to them. The addition of these units into the permit will transition them from interim status to final status. Individual unit closures will proceed under specific requirements in unit closure plans and the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit. The initial facility permit included five TSD units as individual chapters to the facility permit.

### The Modification Process

As stated in the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations, "When a permit is modified, only the conditions subject to the modification are reopened." This modification will create five new Chapters (4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) in Part V of the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit. The modification will introduce the new conditions which pertain to the units to be closed in the relevant chapters. The inclusion of Part V Chapters 4 through 8 is the result of additional information not previously available on September 29, 1994. This modification has been initiated by Ecology in accordance with the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations. The U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office, Westinghouse Hanford Company, Pacific Northwest Laboratories, and Bechtel Hanford Incorporated were notified by Ecology that the five additional closure plans were determined to be complete and satisfactory.

### Why a Statement of Basis?

The Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations require Ecology to prepare a Statement of Basis when a Fact Sheet is not prepared for the proposed permit modification(s). Since an extensive Fact Sheet was prepared for the issuance of the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit in September of 1994, and because the proposed modifications will not affect any of the conditions of the permit as issued, a Statement of Basis was prepared and presented in lieu of a Fact Sheet for this modification. This document satisfies the purposes of both the Focus Sheet and Statement of Basis.

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## 1995 Modifications to the Hanford Facility Wide Permit

The 1995 proposed modifications to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit include five units that will be clean closed:

**Chapter 4: The Simulated High Level Waste Slurry Unit.** Located in the Hanford 3000 Area in Richland, this unit is a small open area of 9622 square yards. The site was used to store approximately 200, 55-gallon drums of simulated high-level waste slurry. The slurry consisted of mixed waste, containing dangerous and hazardous constituents with naturally occurring radioactivity. After treatment in a demonstration project, the treated slurry was removed and managed as a nonradioactive and non-dangerous waste at an appropriate solid waste landfill.

**Chapter 5: 218-E-8 Borrow Pit Demolition Site.** This unit is located in the 200 East Area of Hanford about 25 miles northwest of Richland. The site is approximately 20 feet by 20 feet square. The unit was used as a site to detonate discarded explosive chemical waste generated at Hanford. There was only one known demolition event which took place in November 1984.

**Chapter 6: 200 West Area Ash Pit Demolition Site.** This unit is located in the 200 West Area of Hanford about 30 miles northwest of Richland. The site is approximately 20 feet by 20 feet square. The unit was used as a site to detonate discarded explosive chemical waste generated at Hanford. There were only two known demolition activities that took place at this site, in November 1984 and June 1986.

**Chapter 7: 2101 M Pond.** This unit is a U-shaped pond in the 200 East Area about 25 miles northwest of Richland. The pond is about 250 feet long and 110 feet wide. It received approximately 18,700 gallons a day of nonregulated and cooling wastes from the 2101 M Laboratory. The pond, which discharged wastewater to the soil, has not received dangerous wastes since July 1985.

**Chapter 8: 216-B-3 Expansion Ponds.** These are a series of earthen, unlined interconnected ponds in the 200 East Area about 25 miles northwest of Richland. The ponds receive effluent from 200 East operating units and were placed in service between 1983 and 1985. Presently, the 216-B-3C pond receives cooling water, steam condensate and sanitary water from the 200 East Area Bypass pipe, which is to be regulated under a State of Washington wastewater discharge permit. The 216-B-3A and 3B ponds do not currently receive any effluent. Before 1987, the liquid effluent discharges had the potential to contain radioactive and dangerous waste.

### How can you get involved?

A 45-day public comment period will start January 17, 1995, and conclude March 2, 1995. Copies of the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit Site-Wide Permit and the proposed 1995 modifications are available for review at these Hanford Public Information Repositories:

University of Washington Buzzallo Library Government Publications Room Seattle, WA 98195 (206) 543-4664 (206) 543-4664 (during hours) ATTN: Eleanor Gilchrist	Portland State University Branford Price Millard Hall Science and Business Building 507 NE Oregon Street Portland, OR 97232 (503) 248-3100 ATTN: Michael Boyer
Gonzaga University Book Center 1500 Boone Spokane, WA 99258 (509) 328-2220 EXT. 3125 ATTN: Thomas Carter	U.S. Environmental Agency Washington State Environmental Services Unit 1100 Franklin Blvd. Richland, WA 99352 (509) 928-3100 ATTN: Bill Traub

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All information in the repositories, plus the administrative record, including all data submitted by the applicants, may be reviewed by appointment at the following administrative record locations:

<b>SEATTLE</b> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Hazardous Waste Division 1200 Sixth Avenue Diane Richardson (206) 553-1253 (360) 553-1253 starting Jan. 15, 1994 Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<b>LACEY</b> Washington State Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program 300 Desmond Drive Marilyn Smith (206) 407-7097 (360) 407-7097 starting Jan. 15, 1995 Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.
<b>RICHLAND</b> Westinghouse Hanford Company 2440 Stevens Center Place, Suite 1101 Debbi Isom (509) 376-2530 Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon, 1-3:30 p.m. (no appointment necessary)	

A public hearing on the five unit closures will be conducted on February 1, 1995, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Department of Ecology, 1315 West 4th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period to the Department of Ecology. All who comment will receive responses explaining how and why those comments were, or were not, used. Please mail comments to:

**Moses Jaraysi**  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Nuclear Waste Program  
1315 W. 4th Avenue  
Kennewick, WA 99336-6018

All public comments will be considered in making the final decision on this permit modification. The response to comments is to be printed and mailed by April 2, 1995, and the new, modified Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit will be finalized by April 15, 1995.

The permit modifications will take effect May 15, 1995.

***For further information, contact Moses Jaraysi, Department of Ecology, (509) 736-3016 or Hanford Cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.***

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