



Proposed Plan for an Amendment to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility Record of Decision

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 (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Tri-Parties, are seeking public comment on a *Proposed Plan for an Amendment to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility Record of Decision* (DOE/RL-97-60). The proposed plan is intended to support Hanford Site cleanup activities by authorizing the pre-planned expansion of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). The proposed Phase II construction will use the design of the two operating cells. Centralized treatment of certain remediation waste is also being considered.

Public comments will be accepted from August 4 to September 3, 1997. All public comments will be considered and responded to before final decisions are made. Because the proposed plan is consistent with the existing project schedule and expected funding, a public meeting has not been scheduled. Should substantial public interest indicate the need for a meeting, the Tri-Parties will respond accordingly. If you would like to review the proposed plan, please visit the public information repository nearest you.

To request a copy of the document, or to submit comments either written or electronically, please contact:

Pamela Innis
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Blvd., Suite 5
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-4919
E-Mail: pamela_s_innis@rl.gov

**Or Call Hanford Cleanup Toll-Free,
1-800-321-2008.**

BACKGROUND

The primary objective of the ERDF is to support the cleanup of the Hanford Site. On January 20, 1995, the Tri-Parties signed the ERDF Record of Decision to provide waste disposal capacity for cleanup of contaminated areas. Construction of the first two cells began in February, 1995, and the first waste was received on July 1, 1996. An Explanation of Significant Difference to the ERDF Record of Decision was issued on July 26, 1996, that allowed for the disposal of past-practice *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) waste and the conditional use of leachate for dust suppression and waste compaction.

The two operating cells have a total maximum waste capacity of approximately 1.2 million cubic yards. To facilitate Hanford's

ongoing cleanup activities, new capacity will be required. At the current rate of 130 containers of waste a day, the capacity of the first two cells will be reached in approximately two years. There will be a need for disposal of remediation waste as specified in the current records of decision until 2003.

The proposed plan identifies preferred actions intended to further the cleanup of the Hanford site. Timing for the expansion of the ERDF is based on a combination of factors:

- ▲ The volume of contaminated media authorized for disposal at the ERDF.
- ▲ The current and projected rate of waste received at the first two cells currently in operation.
- ▲ The schedule for amending the ERDF Record of Decision, performing detail design, and constructing the additional cells.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

It is proposed that two more cells be constructed and operated for disposal of authorized Hanford Site waste. Construction of the Phase II disposal cells is part of the original scope of the ERDF as described in the ERDF Proposed Plan and Record of Decision. The Phase II construction would be located entirely within the site selected in the ERDF Record of Decision (see map).

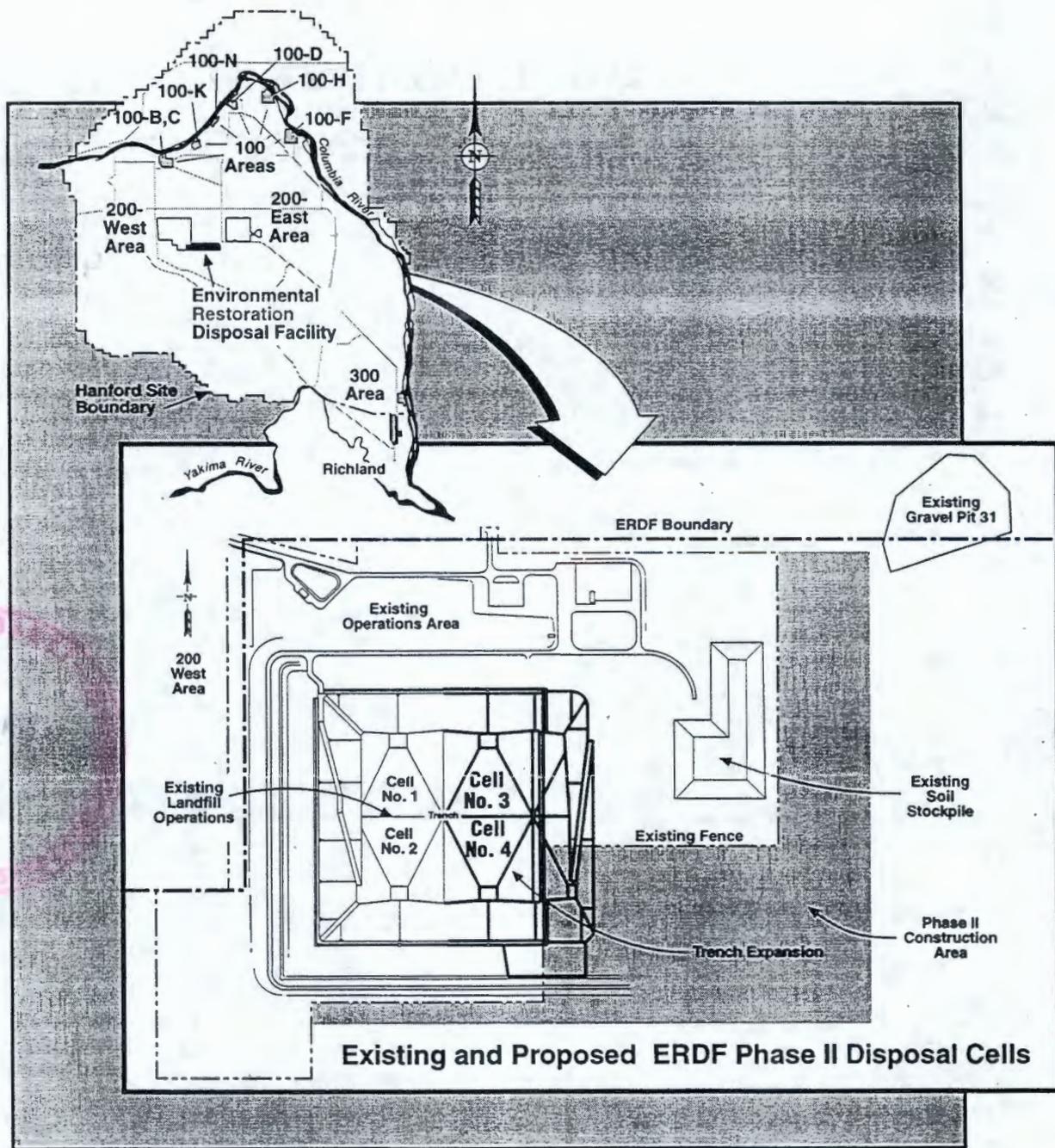
This plan also proposes to allow the option of remediation waste treatment to federal and state standards at the ERDF site, rather than the cleanup sites. The treatment that would be conducted at the ERDF is limited to stabilization and encapsulation for waste that is to be disposed in the ERDF. Conducting these treatment activities at the ERDF would increase treatment efficiency and reduce costs.

The ERDF is being designed and constructed in phases to minimize the impacts to the environment utilizing only an additional 70 acres. Impacts from the new construction will be minimized by locating the two additional cells entirely within the previously selected the ERDF site. To the extent possible, soil excavated during new cell construction will be used or stockpiled in previously disturbed areas for later use. DOE will review and revise the ERDF Mitigation Action Plan as appropriate, in coordination with the Natural Resource Trustees, to minimize impacts of the expansion.

The original ERDF cells are constructed according to the RCRA requirements using a double liner with a leachate collection and recovery system. Because the ERDF Phase II construction would use the same design, the previous evaluation conducted according to the CERCLA would remain applicable.

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