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November 29, 1999 FDH-9958055

Distribution

Please insert the attached replacement pages in your copy of HNF-SP-0903, Revision 6, *National Environmental Policy Act Source Guide for the Hanford Site*. The replacement pages reflect revised text pertaining to the current status of DOE/EIS-0222, *Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement.*

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Please call M. T. Jansky of my staff on (509) 376-3854 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this change.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Engelmann, Manager
Project Environmental Documentation

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On November 5, 1990, the U.S. Congress enacted Public Law 101-510, *Safety Measures for Waste Tanks at Hanford Nuclear Reservation*, of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 1991, which addresses safety issues concerning the handling of waste in Hanford Site tanks. In response to this legislation, DOE created the tank Watchlist that identified those tanks with potential safety concerns that warranted special attention. Safety issues have been prioritized by the DOE high-level Waste Tank Task Force.

The DOE and Ecology have determined that the accumulation of high concentrations of flammable gas, principally hydrogen, occurring in 101-SY tank constituted a safety problem of the highest priority. The mitigation of hydrogen production, pressure generation, and unacceptably high concentrations of flammable gas in this tank is a primary focus of the actions evaluated in this EIS. Additionally, the actions considered include alternative methods of waste transfer across the Hanford Site, either in support of mitigating the safety issues.

Alternatives: A separate EIS (DOE/EIS-0189) would be prepared that addresses the entirety of the TWRS Program that may include the treatment and ultimate disposal of the waste over a longer time frame.

The preferred alternative consisted of the following components:

- Construction and operation of the Replacement Cross-Site Transfer System (RCSTS) for cross-site transfer of SWLs, and 200 West Area Facility waste from 102-SY tank to DSTs in the 200 East Area
- Construction of a waste retrieval system in 102-SY tank to retrieve solids
- Continued operation of a mixer pump in 101-SY tank
- Transfer of liquid waste through the Existing Cross-Site Transfer System (ECSTS) until the proposed RCSTS becomes operational in 1998.

Current Status: The final EIS was issued in the *Federal Register* October 20, 1995 (60 FR 54221).

The ROD was issued by the DOE on November 21, 1995 (60 FR 61687).

Basis for the ROD Decision: Based on the consideration of environmental impacts, cost, engineering standards, criticality safety, and comments received on the Final SIS EIS will process with the preferred alternatives.

ROD Decision: The DOE will construct and operate the RCSTS on the proposed route identified in the Final SIS EIS, continue operating the mixer pump in 101-SY tank, and transfer waste from the interim stabilization program and other facility waste in the 200 West Area. During construction of the RCSTS, SWLs and 200 West Area facility waste will be transferred through the ECSTS to DST storage in the 200 East Area. These actions will provide safe, compliant, and reliable high-level waste transfer capabilities and will operate with waste at subcritical levels under the existing Hanford Tank Farm Interim Safety Basis, until final disposal decisions are made under the TWRS EIS.

DOE/EIS-0222 *Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement*

Background: This EIS would be used to develop a coordinated strategy for remediation of hazardous and radioactive waste sites on the Hanford Site. This strategy would integrate potential future Hanford Site land uses into remediation decisions. Adoption of this coordinated strategy would ensure that remediation goals for the Hanford Site are coordinated both with DOE's requirements for land and other resources needed for the remediation project and with the Hanford Site's other missions while protecting human health and the environment. Coordinating remediation goals for each geographic area of the Hanford Site into a coherent remediation strategy for the entire Hanford Site would minimize the likelihood of making inconsistent decisions at the operable unit level.

Alternatives: This EIS will analyze a No Action Alternative and a range of alternatives reflecting reasonable remediation strategies for the Hanford Site. The Hanford Site has been divided into four geographic areas for the purpose of analyzing impacts:

- Columbia River
- Reactors on the Columbia River
- Central Plateau
- All other areas.

The remediation strategies for these geographic areas are based on three broad categories of levels of access that would be consistent with the nature and extent of any residual contamination remaining following remediation - unrestricted, restricted, and exclusive. These use categories serve as remediation goals representing the aggregate condition of each geographic area. Although portions of the Hanford Site are uncontaminated, the future uses of each geographic area would be determined by the amount of remediation that can be achieved at the waste sites rather than by the condition of the uncontaminated areas.

The Hanford Site has two additional geographic areas - the Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and north of the River. The waste sites in the Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and north of the River already have been remediated and, therefore, are not addressed in the EIS.

The EIS will not select or recommend specific remediation technologies because decisions to deploy specific technologies would be made via the CERCLA/RCRA past-practice regulatory process.

Current Status: A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register in August 21, 1992 (57 FR 37959). RL forwarded the PDEIS to EM on 11/22/94. On 8/2/96 DOE-HQ approved release of the draft EIS for public comment. The draft EIS was distributed the week of 8/26/96. The DOE Notice of Availability was published in the 9/10/96 FR (61 FR 47739). The EPA Notice of Availability appeared in the 9/13/96 FR. The comment period was extended to December 10, 1996 by a notice in the 11/15/96 FR (61 FR 6950). A Public Information meeting was held on 10/1/96 in Richland, WA. Public Comment meetings were held in Richland on October 17, Portland on October 23, and Mattawa on November 12. Additional meetings were held on November 20 in Seattle, December 3 in Hood

River and December 4 in Portland. The comment period closed on 12/10/96 and comments received were considered. RL requested delegation of approval authority. EM-1 agreed and forwarded a recommendation of delegation of approval authority to EH-1 on November 1, 1996. EM-40 did not concur with the delegation recommendation and on January 10, 1997, the EM recommendation was withdrawn. Discussions between RL, tribes, and other agencies took place on whether there was interest in being cooperating agencies for the Final EIS. Invitation letters were sent to the agencies, tribes and letters of acceptance were received. A briefing for HQ staff on the proposed path forward was held 3/13/97. Meetings/discussions with cooperating and consulting agencies, stakeholders, and HQ continued. In response to public and agency comments and in consideration of the changes being made to the draft EIS to accommodate the comments, as well as input from the cooperating agencies, RL prepared a second public draft EIS with assistance from the cooperating agencies. RL updated consultations with USFWS and NMFS. The preliminary revised draft EIS was distributed to RL, HQ, and cooperating agencies for internal review. Comments have been considered and changes have been made in response to comments in preparation for approval of the formal second draft EIS for public comment. The EIS was transmitted to HQ on September 2, 1998. The draft EIS was approved by EM-1 on March 23, 1999. The Revised Draft HRA-EIS (with the title changed to *Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan* was made available for comment through June 7, 1999. Public meetings were held in Portland, Oregon on May 18, in Richland on May 20, in Mattawa on June 2 and Spokane on June 3. The Notice of Availability was published April 23, 1999 (64 FR 19983). On April 23, 1999 a letter was received from the Grant County Commissioners requesting the comment period be extended into the winter months. RL denied the request. The Yakama Indian Nation requested an extension of the comment period. RL declined this request. The FEIS was prepared and distributed September, 1999. The EPA's NOA for the FEIS, now *titled Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement, was published October 1, 1999 (64 FR 53379).*

DOE/EIS-0229 *Storage and Disposition of Weapons Usable Fissile Materials final.*

Background: This programmatic EIS, among other things, assesses the potential environmental impacts of alternatives and locations for storing weapons-usable fissile materials (plutonium and highly-enriched uranium.

- On January 14, 1997, DOE issued a ROD (62 FR 3014; January 21, 1997) selecting weapons-usable fissile materials storage and surplus plutonium disposition strategies. For plutonium storage, DOE decided to consolidate part of its weapons-usable plutonium storage by upgrading and expanding existing and planned facilities at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas and the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina. For plutonium currently stored at the Hanford Site (Hanford) near Richland, Washington, and other DOE sites, DOE decided that surplus weapons-usable plutonium would remain at these sites until disposition (or move to lag storage at a disposition facility). The plutonium destined for the SRS, i.e., non-pit, weapons-usable surplus plutonium, would be moved only if certain conditions were met. Those conditions were: (1) the plutonium had been stabilized under corrective actions in response to the Defense

Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 94-1 and packaged to meet the DOE storage Standard 3013-96, Criteria for Safe Storage of Plutonium Metals and Oxides, (2) the construction and expansion of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility (APSF) at the SRS had been completed, and (3) the SRS had been selected in the upcoming Record of Decision for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement as the immobilization disposition site for surplus weapons-usable plutonium.

- On August 6, 1998, DOE issued an amended ROD (63 FR 43386) to support, in part, early deactivation of plutonium storage facilities at the Hanford Site. Namely, DOE will take steps that allow the relocation of all Hanford surplus weapons-usable plutonium (about 4.6 metric tons) to the SRS, between about 2002 and 2005, pending disposition. However, consistent with the storage and Disposition PEIS ROD, DOE will only implement the movement of Hanford non-pit, surplus weapons-usable plutonium inventories to the SRS if the SRS is selected as the immobilization disposition site. All shipments of plutonium to SRS will be by Safe Secure Transport (SST) in accordance with applicable DOE, U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements and regulations.

DOE/EIS-0244 *Plutonium Finishing Plant, 200 West Area, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington, final.*

Background: The EIS evaluates the potential impacts associated with the stabilization of plutonium-bearing materials at the PFP. These materials have been grouped into four categories:

- Nitrate and chloride solutions (ion exchange, vertical calcination, and thermal stabilization)
- Oxides, fluorides, and process residues (thermal stabilization using a continuous furnace)
- Metals and alloys (repackaging)
- Polycubes and combustibles.

Alternatives: The preferred alternative involves removing and stabilizing plutonium-bearing material currently in hold-up at the PFP Facility. This is material that has accumulated or been retained in PFP Facility gloveboxes, hoods, process equipment, piping, exhaust and ventilation systems, and the PRF canyon as a result of 40 years of plutonium processing operations. The removal activities would be limited to materials that are readily retrievable. Because of the nature and location of the material in hold-up, various technologies would be employed to remove the material for subsequent stabilization.

Current Status: The Final EIS (FEIS) was approved by DOE-RL on May 10, 1996. The ROD was published in the *Federal Register* on July 10, 1996 (61 FR 36352).

Basis for the ROD Decision: Based on the consideration of environmental impacts, cost, engineering standards, criticality safety, and comments received on the Final PFP EIS, DOE will implement a select group of stabilization alternatives.