

Miscellaneous Streams Notice of Permit Application

Background

In more than 50 years of Hanford operations, wastewater discharges to the soil have exceeded 440 billion gallons. Soil disposal locations consist of 139 surface sites such as ponds, ditches, and trenches and 637 subsurface sites such as cribs, reverse wells, and french drains. An estimated 85 square mile area beneath Hanford now contains groundwater contamination which exceed various national drinking water standards.

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) in 1987 presented to Congress a plan to eliminate or address Hanford's contaminated groundwater. The program was incorporated into the 1989 Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement, or TPA) as a series of specified milestones (major Milestone 17) to manage wastewater discharges. USDOE also agreed to obtain State Waste Discharge Permits under a 1991 consent order.

Hanford's wastewater cleanup plan in the TPA called for high priority (Phase I) wastewater streams to be treated or stopped by June 1995. The next priority of wastewater streams (Phase II) must have approved treatment by October 1997. The cleanup of a third group of lower volume, relatively clean miscellaneous wastewater streams will be individually addressed in waste discharge permits to be issued by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

State Waste Discharge Permit Applications

The USDOE has applied for State Waste Discharge Permits to authorize the discharge of wastewater to the soil at five Hanford sites. USDOE seeks the permits under provisions of Revised Code of Washington 90.48.160 and Washington Administrative Code 173-216.

Ecology proposes to proceed with permit development and to issue the permits. Five draft permits, which are scheduled to be ready for public comment and review in the fall of 1995, will outline requirements for the wastewater discharges. Part of Ecology's initial permit work is to learn what issues the public wants to consider in the draft permits. You are encouraged to submit comments regarding the permit applications.

Waste discharge permit applications have been received for the following individual Hanford sites:

200 East Area W-252 Streams

The Project W-252 Streams consist of six Phase II streams that are discharged from the Hanford Site's 200 East Area to the 3C Expansion Lobe of the 216-B-3 Pond System, which is an earthen, unlined pond in the 200 East Area about 25 miles northwest of Richland. The six streams included in the project are the 242-A Evaporator Cooling Water, the 284-E Powerplant Wastewater, the 244-AR Vault Cooling Water, the 242-A Evaporator Steam Condensate, the B Plant Cooling Water, and the 241-A Tank Farms Cooling Water. The effluent is generated primarily from cooling water and from other uses of water that do not involve direct contact with chemical or radiological processes.

200 East Area Chemical Drain Field

Located in the southwest quarter of the 200 East Area, the facility receives discharges of miscellaneous streams from the 272-E and the 2703-E buildings. The 272-E building, which houses a pipe and rotating equipment fabrication shop, discharges wastewater from the testing of pipes and pump assemblies. Wastewater discharges from the 2703-E Building, which also is known as the Chemical Engineering Laboratory, include floor wash, rinse water from cleaning containers and laboratory ware, condenser cooling water, steam condensate, ventilation system wet scrubber, and laboratory waste solutions that do not involve direct contact with chemical or radiological processes.

400 Area Septic System

The current system disposes of approximately 23,000 gallons per day of domestic sewage from 22 buildings in Hanford's 400 Area, which is about 10 miles north of Richland. The septic system includes a pipeline collection system, a 50,000 gallon septic tank and an unlined disposal pond. The unlined disposal pond will be replaced with an evaporative, lined lagoon system. A permit will be issued for the lined lagoon. Industrial wastewater from the 400 Area is not mixed with the domestic wastewater.

183-N Backwash Discharge Pond

The pond is located about 2,000 feet southeast of the N Reactor in Hanford's 100-N Area, which lies about 30 miles northwest of Richland. The unlined discharge pond primarily receives wastewater from Columbia River water which has been treated for use as potable or drinking water, cooling water which does not contact chemical or radiological processes, and stormwater.

100-N Sewage Lagoon

The sewage lagoon system is located about 4,000 feet south-southeast of N Reactor in Hanford's 100-N Area, which lies about 30 miles northwest of Richland. The lagoons currently receive about 3,400 gallons per day of domestic sewage piped from 35 buildings in the 100-N Area and up to 15,000 gallons per day of sewage that is trucked in from septic tanks in other Hanford areas. The lagoon system consists of two lined treatment lagoons, 0.24 and 1.18 acres in size, and a half-acre unlined infiltration lagoon.

How You Can Get Involved

Ecology is accepting public comments now on the issues to be considered in the draft waste discharge permits for these facilities. You can also request to be added to a list to receive subsequent mailings regarding these permits. Comments received during the development period will be addressed in a fact sheet. The draft permit and fact sheet are scheduled to be finished in the fall of 1995. Public hearings and a formal public comment period will be held after completion of the draft permit and fact sheet.

Where Can You Get More Information?

For more information, or to submit comments, contact:

Greta Davis
Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 W. 4th Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336-6018
(509) 736-3025, or Hanford Cleanup Toll-free, 1-800-321-2008.

Copies of the permit application and supporting documents also are available for review and copying at these Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Public Information Repositories:

Spokane
Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E.502 Boone
(509) 328-4220 Ext. 3125

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
(206) 543-4664

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
SW Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690

Richland
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Public Reading Room, Room 130 West
100 Sprout Road
(509) 376-8583



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