

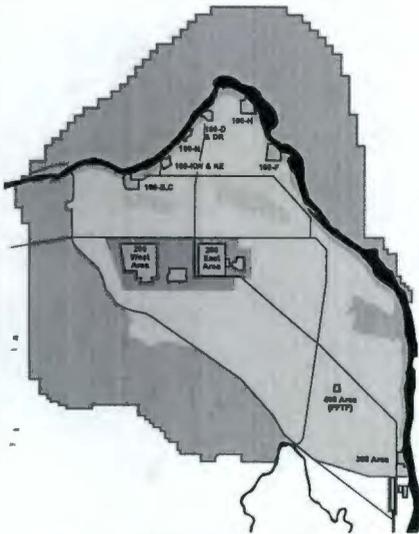
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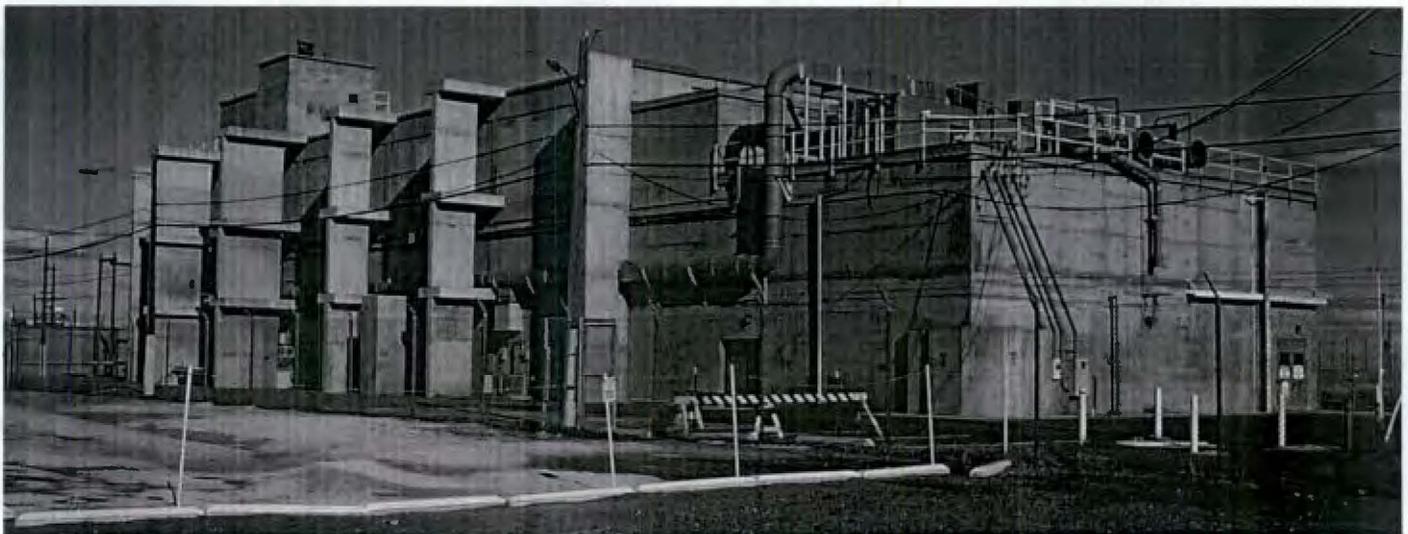
Fact Sheet

EDMC
Next Steps for the
224-T Plutonium
Concentration Facility

U.S. Department of Energy - Washington State Department of Ecology - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) – the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – would like your feedback on a draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the 224-T facility. The draft EE/CA evaluates alternatives on what to do with the 224-T Plutonium Concentration Facility located in the 200 West Area on the Hanford Site.



The 224-T Plutonium Concentration Facility

Background

The 224-T Plutonium Concentration Facility (224-T facility) was built in 1944 and originally called the 224T Bulk Reduction Building. It operated as a chemical processing facility from 1945 until 1956.

After standing idle for several years, the facility was modified in 1975 to meet the requirements for storing plutonium-bearing wastes. In 1985 a section of the building was operated as a permitted Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) treatment, storage and/or disposal (TSD) facility until the late 1990s.

The 224-T facility is currently an inactive facility and is administered under a surveillance and maintenance program while awaiting final disposition. The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) has identified no other use for the facility making it a candidate for decontamination and demolition.

The facility contains both radiological and chemical contaminants. Because part of the building operated as a RCRA TSD container storage unit, the facility is subject to the TSD closure standards of RCRA.

Public Comment

The Tri-Party agencies want your feedback on the draft 224-T EE/CA. The public comment period will be from January 12 through February 26, 2004.



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What is an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis?

An EE/CA evaluates feasible and cost-effective alternatives for a proposed removal action, and recommends a preferred removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

A removal action is an action taken over the short term to address a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance. The 224-T Plutonium Concentration facility is being decommissioned under a non-time critical removal action. This draft EE/CA identifies the goals of the non-time critical removal action, identifies and evaluates the various removal alternatives and recommends a preferred alternative for dealing with the facility.

What Cleanup Actions Were Evaluated?

The removal action alternative for the 224-T facility must be protective of human health and the environment, and meet the removal action objectives.

Based on these criteria, four removal action alternatives were evaluated:

1. No action
2. Continue surveillance and maintenance
3. Decontaminate and demolish to grade, excluding building foundation and underlying soils/structures
4. Decontaminate and demolish including building foundation and underlying soils/structures to approximately 39 inches below the foundation

The recommended alternative is to decontaminate and demolish to grade, excluding building foundation and underlying soils/structures (Alternative 3). Environmental sampling will be conducted in conjunction with, or following, decontamination and demolition activities in order to assess whether cleanup and stabilization objectives were achieved. Following analysis of sampling results, USDOE and Ecology will jointly determine whether additional cleanup activities at the site should be deferred to a subsequent CERCLA remedial action, or taken under this removal action.



A 45-day public comment period on the draft 224-T EE/CA will be from January 12 through February 26, 2004. The TPA agencies would like your feedback on this draft document and will consider all comments before finalizing it. Please submit comments to:

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To request a copy of the draft document, contact the Hanford Cleanup Line (800-321-2008).

*The Draft EE/CA can be viewed online at <http://www.hanford.gov/calendar>
under the Public Comment Period section*

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The draft document is also available for review at the
Public Information Repositories listed below.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Judy Andrews (503) 725-4126

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443

Seattle

University of Washington
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