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Draft Focus on 2006 Plan

U.S. Department of Energy, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION UPDATE

What is happening with the Environmental Management 2006 Plan?

The 90-day public comment period for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Environmental Management (EM) *Focus on 2006: Accelerating Cleanup Discussion Draft* ended in early September 1997. EM has recently issued guidance to DOE Operations and Field Offices for the development of the Draft 2006 Plan. This Draft 2006 Plan will be prepared and submitted to Congress in February 1998. As with the Discussion Draft, the Draft 2006 Plan will consist of both a National version and individual versions from each EM Site. Collectively, these Draft Plans will build upon the 2006 Plan Discussion Draft with supporting budgetary and programmatic data.

What is being done with the public comments on the EM 2006 Plan Discussion Draft?

All public comments are being considered in developing the Draft National and Site 2006 Plans. EM is compiling and categorizing, by subject, responses received from a broad range of officials and groups, including Tribal Nations, states, regulators, local government officials, and other interested organizations and citizens. Major issues of concern with the Discussion Draft included budget and cost estimates, key 2006 Plan assumptions, public participation, enhanced project performance, and assigning priorities to site activities. A Preliminary Comment Response Document, summarizing how these public responses will be addressed in the Draft National 2006 Plan, will be issued later this fall.

What does EM hope to accomplish with the issuance of the Draft 2006 Plan?

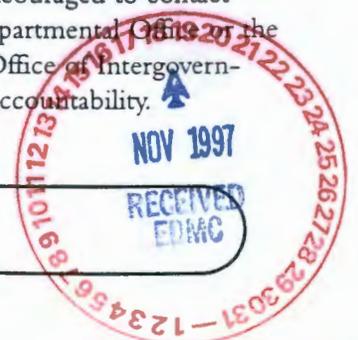
The goal of the Draft 2006 Plan is to lay out for further public consideration a clearly-defined, measurable plan for accelerating the cleanup of Environmental Management sites—and to accomplish this in a manner that is both technically sound and economically feasible. In support of this goal, EM is actively pursuing a range of business strategies which will help DOE achieve further reductions in life-cycle cleanup costs. While the Draft 2006 Plan is neither a decision-making nor a budget document, it will reflect the latest programmatic and funding decisions made through other means. These include Departmental budget and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions, e.g., the Records of Decision (RODs) for the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS).

What are the next steps in the development of the Draft 2006 Plan—and how can I be involved?

The Office of Environmental Management encourages members of the public to participate actively in the development of site Draft 2006 Plans. EM is committed to ensuring that the viewpoints of concerned groups and citizens are fully and accurately represented. In support of this, DOE Operations, Field and Area Offices will communicate opportunities for public involvement in the 2006 planning process. For additional information, the public is encouraged to contact either their local Departmental Office or the EM Headquarters' Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability.



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<http://www.em.doe.gov/stake>





An overview of the Draft 2006 Plan development process is as follows:

- Sites are now developing their updated Project Baseline Summaries (which define the cost, scope and schedule for a given Environmental Management project), along with the accompanying data summaries, waste disposition maps, and narratives. These will be revised as necessary based on discussions between Headquarters, Operations and Field Offices, and all interested or affected parties. Opportunities to make further changes in site submittals will continue until December 18, 1997, when the Office of Environmental Management will begin finalizing the Draft National and Site 2006 Plans.
- After December 18, emphasis for stakeholder and Tribal Nation involvement will be on the formulation of each site's FY 2000 Integrated Priority Listing (IPL)—i.e., a list, by priority, of all work activities at each site. IPLs are due to Headquarters in March 1998.
- EM will provide the Draft 2006 Plan (with public comments incorporated from the Discussion Draft) to Congress in February 1998, around the time that the President releases the FY 1999 Budget request to Congress.

In February 1998, the Draft 2006 Plan will also be made available to the public for a 45-day comment period. These draft plans will then be revised to reflect any additional comments received. The Initial 2006 Plan is presently scheduled to be released to Congress and the public in late June 1998.

Will there be other opportunities for public involvement?

In addition to the public involvement opportunities specifically identified in the process of developing the 2006 Plan, interested individuals and groups are encouraged to participate in the various NEPA activities, budget planning sessions, and advisory board meetings to be held at each site over the next several months. All of these offer opportunities for concerned citizens to exchange information and provide input into the various decisions that will help determine a site's cleanup priorities, funding requests, and project schedules.

Who may I contact if I have any questions or suggestions?

Please direct any questions or comments to Martha Crosland, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability, at 202/586-5944; to Fred Butterfield, at 202/586-8809; or to your local DOE Office.

