

START



Tri-Party Agreement

PUBLIC NOTICE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION DISPOSAL FACILITY Public Scoping Period begins January 10 through February 8, 1994



890-560416

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Tri-Party Agreement Agencies, are asking for public input on a proposed facility to receive cleanup wastes from the Hanford Site. The proposed Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility will provide centralized capacity for burial of hazardous/dangerous, low-level radioactive, and mixed (hazardous and radioactive) cleanup wastes. The facility is proposed as part of the recent changes to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (commonly known as the Tri-Party Agreement).

proposed facility. The Regulatory Package will consist of a CERCLA Proposed Plan, a RCRA Corrective Action Management Unit permit application, technical appendices, and documentation of where the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) values have been satisfied. Ecology has made a determination of significance under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for the facility. Ecology will use the Regulatory Package to meet the requirements of a state Environmental Impact Statement. The Tri-Party Agreement agencies are asking for public input on the scope of environmental impacts and alternatives to be evaluated in the Regulatory Package.

NEED FOR FACILITY

Seventy-eight operable units containing more than 1,100 waste sites at Hanford are being evaluated for cleanup. An operable unit is a group of cleanup areas classified by proximity and waste similarity. Decisions on how each operable unit will be cleaned up have not been made, however, preliminary analysis indicates there is no effective technology for destroying the waste. Disposal at a landfill outside of Hanford is undesirable because it is expensive, large quantities of waste must be transported on public highways, and adequate landfill space outside of Hanford is limited. Current on-site waste management capabilities are also limited and would not accommodate the projected volumes of cleanup waste.

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies hope to use the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility as an example of how to combine applicable state and federal regulatory procedures and provide significant early public involvement. This regulatory streamlining will help focus public attention on the entire Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility proposal and allow agencies to use their resources and time efficiently.

THE PROPOSED FACILITY

Past waste management practices created environmental conditions which require cleanup under Federal and Washington State laws. The Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group in The Future for Hanford: Uses and Cleanup (the "Future Site Uses Report"), December 1992, recommended that waste management activities be centralized on the Central Plateau of the Hanford Site. The report emphasized wise land use to minimize the amount of land devoted to and disturbed by waste management activities.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The proposed facility would be authorized under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Corrective Action Management Unit provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). A Regulatory Package will be prepared by USDOE to document and authorize the

The proposed Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility will be located between and to the south of the 200 West and 200 East Areas of the Hanford Facility, on the Central (200 Area) Plateau, Benton County, Washington. This is the preferred site based

on an evaluation of potential sites on the Central Plateau meeting the facility land area requirements against Washington State and USDOE siting criteria, including protection of human health and the environment, geologic and hydrologic suitability, protection of archeological and historical sites, and construction and operational considerations. The proposed location minimizes potential risk associated with siting the facility near environmentally or culturally sensitive areas.

The facility's proposed features include one or more waste trenches, rail and tractor/trailer container handling capability, railroads, an inventory control system, a decontamination building, and operation offices. In the Regulatory Package, design alternatives, including an unlined trench, single lined trench, double lined trench with leachate collection system, soil cover, and RCRA-compliant cover will be evaluated in an Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study format against the CERCLA remedial action criteria. The alternatives will also be analyzed to determine whether they fulfill the Corrective Action Management Unit criteria under RCRA. A no-action alternative will qualitatively assess the environmental impacts of not providing centralized on-site remediation waste disposal capacity. This will form a baseline to evaluate the comparative effects of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility alternatives. The analysis of alternatives will also be used to satisfy the requirements of a SEPA Environmental Impact Statement.

Initial facility construction will accommodate wastes from cleanup sites which are presently under investigation. The facility will be expanded incrementally to meet future cleanup needs as they are identified. This approach allows the facility to be tailored to the requirements of site cleanup, thereby minimizing the environmental impact. By the end of Hanford Site cleanup, the total capacity is not expected to exceed 30 million cubic yards of waste. The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility and its support facilities could occupy, at its maximum size, as much as 6.12 square miles. However, waste minimization and design options currently being investigated may significantly reduce the total volume of cleanup waste to be generated, and therefore, limit the size of the facility. A determination of eventual total capacity needs will be made through the remedy selection process at the individual operable units.

SCHEDULE FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY

Timing for construction and operation of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility is critical. The proposed cleanup plans for several waste sites are due beginning in October 1994. A delay in the start of the facility's construction could cause delays in several cleanups throughout the Hanford Site. The tentative Agreement on the Tri-Party Agreement requires the facility to be operational in September 1996. To meet this schedule, facility construction must begin by October 1994.

The USDOE intends to prepare the Regulatory Package and ask for public comment by June 1994. Issues and alternatives identified through comments on the Regulatory Package will be considered during preparation of the CERCLA Record of Decision, Corrective Action Management Unit permit, and SEPA Final Environmental Impact Statement. The EPA expects to issue the Record of Decision in September 1994.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies are committed to providing opportunities for involvement by individuals and organizations in this and other planning activities. To ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposal are addressed, the Tri-Party Agreement agencies invite public input from all interested parties on the scope of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility Regulatory Package. The public scoping period for the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility starts January 10, 1994, and ends February 8, 1994.

The following public scoping meetings are planned:

RICHLAND
 January 25
 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 Shilo Inn
 50 Comstock St.
 International I Room

SEATTLE
 February 1
 7 to 9 p.m.
 Seattle Center, Center
 House Conf. Ctr., Rm. G

1300-000-000

Written comments on the scope of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility Proposal, and requests for information should be directed to:

Bryan L. Foley
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A5-19
Richland, Washington, 99352
(509) 376-7087

Pam Innis
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Avenue, Suite 5
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-4919

Norm Hepner, Ecology
7601 West Clearwater, Suite 102
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-3048

Information can also be requested by calling the Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008. If you have special accommodation needs, contact Michelle Davis, Ecology, at (206) 407-7126 or TDD (206) 407-7155.

This focus sheet and Washington State Notice of Intent are available for review at these Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Public Information Repositories and Administrative Records:

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES:

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 328-4220 ext. 3125
Attn: Lewis Miller

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
Seattle, WA 99195
(206) 543-4664
Attn: Eleanor Chace

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
SW Harrison and Park
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 724-4729
Attn: Michael Rowman

U.S. Dept. of Energy Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
100 Sprout Road, Room 130
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-8583
Attn: Terri Traub

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS:

Wash. State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Mixed Waste Library
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503
(206) 407-7097
ATTN: Marilyn Smith

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Avenue, HW-070
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1388
ATTN: Karen Prater

Westinghouse Hanford Company
Environmental Data Management Center
2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-2530
ATTN: Lee Michael

9413095.0626