

MAR 05 1995



Your comments are needed at a
**Hanford Facility Transition
Public Meeting**

Thursday • March 9 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Columbia Basin College • Hawk Union Building, West Dining Room
2600 N. 20th • Pasco, WA

Public comment period: February 13 to March 30, 1995

The Tri-Party Agencies* have negotiated a tentative agreement of four major nuclear facilities: Plutonium Uranium Extraction plant. Uranium Trioxide plant. Fast Flux Test Facility and Plutonium Finishing Plant. Upon completion of the cleanup schedules, the Hanford annual costs for these facilities will be reduced approximately \$150 million.

The tentative agreement sets schedules for three facilities (Plutonium Uranium Extraction plant, Uranium Trioxide plant, and Fast Flux Test Facility) to shift from an operational standby condition to a surveillance and maintenance condition over the next six years. This will reduce the hazards to employees, the public and the environment.

The tentative agreement also schedules interim clean out activities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant. However, major cost savings and associated schedules will not be realized until after completion of the clean out based on the Environmental Impact Statement.

Send written comments to:

Annette Carlson

PO Box 1970 - B3-35, Richland, WA 99352 • (509) 376-6032 or FAX (509) 376-4928

Call toll-free:

Hanford Cleanup Line
1-800-321-2008

For special accommodation needs, call Michelle Davis at (206) 407-7126 or (206) 407-7155 (TDD)



For more information:

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

Oncologist optimistic about isotope

By The Associated Press

Dr. Huibert Vriesendorp is leery of talking about cures for cancer.

But the radiation oncologist at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston is optimistic a radioactive isotope called yttrium-90 will one day be used to kill cancer cells immediately after a patient is diagnosed.

"I would not be surprised to find out yttrium is going to be useful in many kinds of common cancers," Vriesendorp said. "But we have to do the studies cautiously and carefully."

Vriesendorp is testing the isotope, extracted from nuclear waste stored at the Hanford nuclear reservation near here, on cancer patients.

"It's nice because (patients) do appear to respond. Three out of four get shrinkage of their tumor," Vriesendorp said.

The isotope is not a cure — tumors recur within a year in most patients. But researchers are working to address that.

Sixty patients with Hodgkin's Disease, a cancer of the lymph system, have participated in Vriesendorp's

study at the Houston center so far. At least six other human clinical trials of yttrium-90 are under way around the country, the National Cancer Institute said.

The Houston cancer clinic has applied for a \$5 million NCI grant over five years to expand its study of yttrium-90 as a weapon against brain, ovarian and breast cancer, Vriesendorp said.

But he worries federal budget problems will mean the cancer institute, the U.S. Department of Social and Health Services and other agencies will cut back support of studies like his. He believes researchers could be on the verge of a breakthrough involving development of a new protein carrier to deliver yttrium-90 to the tumor.

"We don't have enough people to do the tests, we don't have enough funds to buy the animals and do the analysis," Vriesendorp said.

"But if this new protein works for Hodgkin's Disease, I think we'll be close for something that will be useful at the time of diagnosis. I'd love to call it a cure, but I'm not comfortable using that word."

The yttrium-90 studies involve patients who have failed to respond to more traditional cancer treatments: radiation and chemotherapy and bone-marrow transplants.

"When they come to us, they really don't have any other treatments available to them," Vriesendorp said.

In the outpatient treatment, patients receive two injections, the

first with a diagnostic isotope that determines whether the protein carrier will deliver the yttrium-90 directly to the cancer.