

August 2002



Proposed Schedule for the Shutdown of Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility

Fact Sheet

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

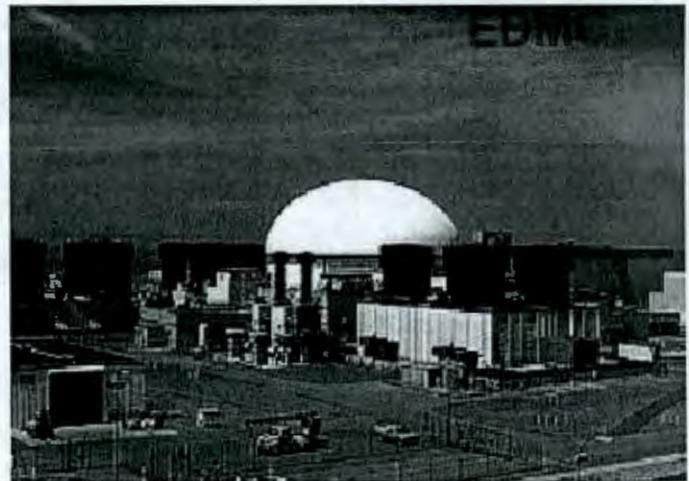
The Tri-Party Agreement Agencies (the U.S. Department of Energy [USDOE], the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology) are responsible for Hanford cleanup. We want your input on proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. The proposed changes outline the plan and schedules for the deactivation (shutdown) of the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) located on the Hanford Site in the 400 Area. The FFTF is a 400-megawatt thermal liquid metal (sodium) cooled nuclear test reactor surrounded by a number of support facilities.

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Background

The FFTF was built in the 1970s and operated from 1982 to 1992 in support of the USDOE Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Program. The FFTF was the foundation for a number of nuclear fuels, materials, and component tests to see how these would react under nuclear operating conditions. The FFTF also produced a wide variety of radioisotopes for medical and industrial applications. In 1992 USDOE placed it in standby status and in 1994 began shutdown of the facility. In 1995 shutdown milestones were added to the Tri-Party Agreement and shutdown of the FFTF continued until January 1997. At that time the Secretary of Energy made a decision to place the FFTF in standby to evaluate possible future missions. When the FFTF was placed in standby, the Tri-Party Agreement Agencies agreed to place unfinished activities associated with its deactivation in abeyance.

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) was initiated in August

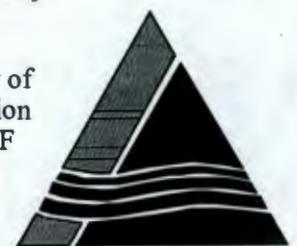


1999 that evaluated the potential impacts of restarting the FFTF as a nuclear science research and irradiation services user facility. In December 2000, the "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Accomplishing Expanded Civilian Nuclear Energy Research and Development and Isotope Production Missions in the United States, Including the Role of the Fast Flux Test Facility" was published (DOE/EIS-0310). The corresponding Record of Decision, issued January 26, 2001, included a decision that the FFTF would be permanently deactivated.

On April 25, 2001, the Secretary of Energy announced that the decision to permanently deactivate the FFTF had been suspended, pending a

Public Comment

The Tri-Party Agencies want your feedback on the proposed schedule changes for the shutdown of the FFTF. The public comment period for the draft change package will be from August 28 through October 14, 2002.



Tri-Party Agreement

thorough and comprehensive review. On December 19, 2001, the Secretary of Energy announced that restart of the FFTF was impracticable and that the Department would proceed with deactivation of the facility. This decision resulted in previous milestones being reinstated.

What are we proposing?

The Tri-Party Agreement Agencies completed negotiations on July 31, 2002 on the draft Tri-Party Agreement change package that establishes new milestones and target dates for shutdown of the FFTF. These proposed changes identify work activities and schedules to deactivate the FFTF and place it in a low cost surveillance and maintenance state over the next nine years. The major deactivation activities include:

- Begin to drain the sodium from the reactor heat transport system secondary loop by June 2003
- Complete reactor and heat transport system sodium drain by June 2005
- Complete fuel storage facility sodium drain by April 2007
- Complete fuel wash, offload and storage by March 2009
- Complete sodium drain by September 2009
- Complete shutdown by February 2011.

How you can become involved

We will hold a 45-day public comment period on the proposed changes from **August 28 through October 14, 2002**. We want your feedback on these proposed schedule changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. The agencies will consider all comments relevant to the change package before the proposed changes are made final. To request a copy of the proposed changes or submit comments, please contact:

O. A. (Al) Farabee
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P. O. Box 550 (N2-36)
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-8089
Oliver_A_Al_Farabee@rl.gov

Laura Cusack
Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 West 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-3038
lcus461@ecy.wa.gov



Public Meetings

Meetings are proposed for Richland and/or Yakima, Seattle, and Portland. Detailed information on these meetings will be mailed at a later date.

Further information on the FFTF can be found on the web at <http://www.fftf.org/>.

FFTF Fact Sheet

The proposed changes are also available for review at the Public Information Repositories listed below and on the web at www.hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm.

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Michael Bowman (503) 725-3690

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

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

Spokane
Gonzaga University Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Attn: Sarah Nelson (509) 323-6548

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Department of Energy
P.O. 550 MSIN A7-75
Richland WA, 99352