

START

USDOE PLANNING PROCESS



Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

Hanford Strategic Plan

Mission Direction Document

Hanford Ten Year Plan

In addition to the Tri-Party Agreement, the Hanford Strategic Plan, the Hanford Mission Direction Document, and the Ten-Year Plan will impact the land use documents.

The **Hanford Tri-Party Agreement** is between the Department of Energy, the Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The agreement describes a schedule and a plan by which DOE is to bring the Hanford Site into compliance with state and federal environmental protection laws.

The **Hanford Strategic Plan** sets forth the Department of Energy's vision of and commitment to the overall strategic direction of the Hanford Site. The Strategic Plan defines the cleanup and the science and technology missions for the Site. It is the top level planning document for the site. The **Mission Direction Document** provides detail for implementing the Hanford Strategic Plan.

The **Hanford Ten Year Plan** establishes the Site cleanup baseline (what will be done, how long it will take, how much it will cost) over the next decade.

Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

In 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) signed an agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The legally-enforceable pact, the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order," is also called the Tri-Party Agreement -- "the TPA." It is both a blueprint for cleanup and a schedule by which DOE will bring the Hanford Site into compliance with state and federal environmental laws. Ecology and EPA enforce those laws.

The TPA measures compliance achievements by "milestones." Today, TPA milestones stretch far into the future -- 30 years or more.

The TPA was never intended to be cast in stone. That's because a host of changeable forces -- economic, technical, and political -- all influence DOE's cleanup strategies and Ecology's and EPA's regulatory roles. To maintain flexibility to deal with those realities, the three parties can, by mutual consent, change TPA milestones. For example, in 1995 the three parties negotiated a higher priority for cleanup that protects the Columbia River. Another recent negotiation set new cleanup milestones for Hanford's waste facilities and materials not previously covered by the TPA.

From the beginning, DOE's time frame for Hanford cleanup has been and remains 30 years. Good progress has been made in limiting discharges of liquid waste to the ground and setting up programs to deal with tons of damaged spent fuel, for examples. But in a few cases, there is no known cleanup treatment for some contamination on the Site. Whether debaters argue that cleanup will take 30, 40, or 50 years, all agree that full compliance is a long time off, and will cost billions of dollars. Today DOE's national yearly cleanup costs are about \$5 billion, with Hanford getting the lion's share. Congress may become increasingly reluctant to support that level of funding when, in effect, there is no end in sight. DOE believes it must commit to completing cleanup by a date certain (as the Tri-Party Agreement requires) to assure Congress of a foreseeable closure.

DOE's new Ten Year Plan carries a commitment to complete cleanup at most sites by 2006. Hanford is DOE's largest and most contaminated weapons site. The plan does not envision complete cleanup at Hanford by 2006. However, the Ten Year Plan directs DOE-Richland to compact as much high priority cleanup as possible into the next decade.

Using that guidance, DOE-Richland is evaluating a new vision of Hanford cleanup status in 2006. Elements of the new vision that impact the Tri-Party Agreement are not yet clearly understood. DOE-Richland believes there may be positive impacts on the agreement. For example, many milestones can be completed earlier than targets in the agreement.

On the other hand, milestones for low-priority actions, or where cleanup technology does not exist now, will likely be renegotiated and pushed farther into the future. These and other features of the Ten Year Plan likely will require major changes of current Tri Party Agreement milestones. Under the agreement, any one of the three parties can ask for a change. To proceed, the other two parties must agree and a public comment period must be held.

Hanford Strategic Plan and Mission Direction Document

The U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Strategic Plan and Mission Direction Document provide clear direction for deployment of science and technology and effective cleanup at the Hanford Site.

DOE-RL's Hanford Strategic Plan is the top-level planning document for the Site. As such, the Plan:

- Defines the Site Vision and Values
- Defines the Site Missions which set the direction for cleanup and for science and technology
- Defines Site goals and strategies to achieve them
- Describes mission success indicators

The Mission Direction Document is a companion document to the Hanford Strategic Plan. It provides the detail necessary for implementing the Strategic Plan. The Mission Direction Document defines the "what" and the "when" required to finish cleanup and to develop and deploy science and technology. The Mission Direction Document will describe performance measures for mission accomplishment.

DOE-RL published the current Hanford Strategic Plan in 1994. Cleanup progress -- and new strategic thinking -- have occurred since 1994.

DOE Richland seeks public views on cleanup and deployment of science and technology. Public perspectives will help set strategic direction for the Site.

DOE-RL intends to update the Hanford Strategic Plan at least every three years. DOE-RL drafted changes to the 1994 plan with help from Hanford regulators (the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and from the Hanford Advisory Board. The 1996 update will be available to the public on October 15, 1996.

DOE Richland gave the Mission Direction Document to the Hanford Advisory Board, Tribes, and Tri-Party Agreement regulators in June 1996 for review and comment. DOE-RL will address those comments in the 1996 Mission Direction Document. It will be available to the public on October 15, 1996.

The Mission Direction Document will be updated each year. The FY 1997 updating process will occur between October 1996 and February 1997. DOE-RL will again involve stakeholders, Tribes, regulators and other interested parties in developing the revised document.

For more information about the Hanford Strategic Plan or the Mission Direction Document, including how to receive a copy of either one, write to Ms. Margo Voogd, U.S. Department of Energy, Planning and Integration Division, A5-58, Room 597, 825 Jadwin Blvd., Richland, Washington 99352.

Hanford Ten Year Plan

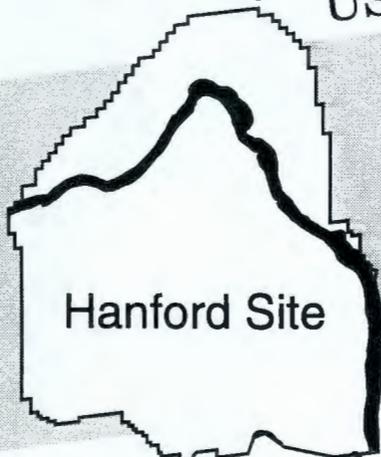
In July 1996, The U.S. Department of Energy's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Alvin Alm, directed each former DOE weapons site to expedite as much radioactive and chemical waste cleanup as possible into the next ten years.

Together, those site plans will comprise DOE's overall Environmental Management Ten Year Plan. The Plan will be the baseline for scope, cost and schedule.

Recent sessions of Congress challenged federal agencies to develop and adopt new, money-saving efficiencies. To address that challenge, Assistant Secretary Alm oversaw creation of a "vision" of the completeness of DOE's cleanup program ten years from now.

USDOE PLANNING PROCESS

Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Hanford Strategic Plan Mission Direction Document Hanford Ten Year Plan (Continued)



Hanford Site

The vision sees cleanup complete at most DOE sites. At a few sites, including Hanford, treatment of radioactive and chemical contamination will continue beyond 2006.

Alm's team then wrote guiding principles by which each site would develop site-specific Ten Year Plans. The guiding principles are:

- Manage and eliminate the most serious risks
- Reduce sites' mortgage and support costs to free up resources for more cleanup
- Protect worker health and safety
- Limit new wastes
- Create a collaborative relationship between DOE, its regulators, and stakeholders.
- Focus technology development on cost and risk reduction
- Integrate waste treatment and disposal across sites

The draft Hanford Ten Year Plan describes an aggressive campaign to cleanup the site over the next decade. "Complete cleanup" means that risks on land available for alternate uses are sufficiently low to protect people and the environment. For facilities, "complete cleanup" means: only surveillance and maintenance are required, or where remediation, such as ground water pump and treat operations, is in place and operating, or where the U.S. Government will retain waste storage responsibility.

The draft Hanford Ten Year Plan assumes the site's cleanup budget will be about \$1.565 billion per year for the next ten years. It pushes cleanup pace to new levels to achieve significant cleanup by 2006. For example, the Hanford Ten Year Plan vision sees:

- All nuclear materials and spent fuel are moved away from the Columbia River and populated areas to safe, stable interim storage.

- Revival of areas closest to the City of Richland are well underway. Former Hanford facilities are available for new uses and economic development.
- All former production facilities are deactivated except T Plant (T Plant may have a role in the future treatment of transuranic Wastes.) Wastes from deactivated facilities, including plutonium, are stabilized. Operating costs are much lower. Savings are invested in cleanup.
- All operations safety issues are resolved. This includes all "Watch List" radioactive waste storage tanks.
- All single-shell tanks are stabilized to reduce environmental risks. All tank farms are in a controlled, clean, and stable condition. Risks to workers are significantly lower.
- Contaminated ground water plumes are intercepted or contained. Surveillance and monitoring continues with restrictions on ground water use.
- All waste treatment, storage and disposal are contained in Hanford's 200 East and 200 West Areas -- the Central Plateau.
- All areas around Hanford's former production reactors are clean. All waste sites are cleaned up and closed. Surface access in these areas is unrestricted. Access to ground water, however, may be restricted.

The EM vision is documented in the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), Hanford Strategic Plan, and Mission Direction Document. The TPA and strategic direction will be implemented through the HRA-EIS/CLUP and the NEPA Decision Process. The Hanford Ten-Year Plan represents the baseline that incorporates the decisions and against which work will be performed and measured.