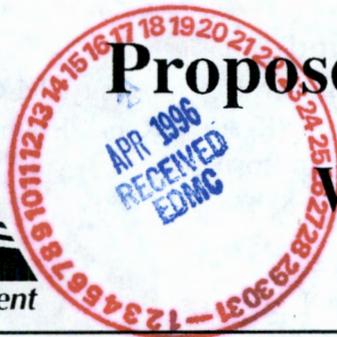




Tri-Party Agreement



Proposed TPA Milestone Changes

Waste Receiving and Processing Facility—Module II

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

April 1996

This information sheet describes proposed changes revising Tri-Party Agreement milestones to allow alternate treatment and direct disposal options for low-level mixed wastes.

Background

The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, or Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), signed in 1989 by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) contains a schedule of activities designed to bring the Hanford Site into regulatory compliance while safeguarding residual contamination.

A TPA milestone change is proposed to revise the strategy for Major Milestone M-19-00: "Complete WRAP Module II (WRAP II) Construction and Initiate Operations," due September 1999. The major difference in the proposed change is that work can be accomplished without the construction of a new facility at Hanford. The revision is expected to reduce costs of the original project.

The revised strategy would employ several cost-effective alternatives to accomplish the WRAP II mission for treating low-level mixed waste which can be safely handled by protected workers. Such material typically consists of low-(radio)activity wastes which may be combined with other hazardous wastes in contaminated soils, ion exchange resins, sludges, and debris transported in small containers and drums.

The strategy requires that waste be treated and/or disposed of at a rate that meets or exceeds treatment volumes that were planned for the original WRAP II facility. The treatment processes used in this new strategy are the same as those identified in the original milestone.

The proposed change request includes interim milestones and target dates for the treatment and disposal of low-level mixed waste. The current milestone, M-19-00, would be replaced with M-19-01. The same date, September 1999, is required for initiating treatment or direct disposal of the waste. The change requires treating and/or disposing of at least 1,644 cubic meters (2,140 cubic yards) of such waste by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2002.

The proposed strategy uses a combination of several different approaches:

1. A contract(s) with a commercial firm(s) would provide stabilization of low-level mixed waste on a fixed-unit price basis. This contract(s) would provide required treatment for the waste streams originally designated for WRAP II. The contract(s) would be maintained (extended or re-competed) until regulatory requirements are met. The stabilization contract would require that treatment begin during September 1999, and continue for a base period of five years with five optional one-year extensions.
2. On-site treatment could occur in a permitted treatment/storage/disposal facility on the Hanford Site using such technologies as macro-encapsulation and small scale deactivation-stabilization.
3. Additional treatment for three waste streams may not be required prior to direct disposal. Sampling

and analysis must demonstrate that these streams surpass treatment standards for land disposal at the Radioactive Mixed Waste Landfill; if any of these waste streams are found unsuitable for direct disposal, USDOE will default to the commercial contract for treatment.

4. Additional contracts may be obtained for treatment services for small quantities of waste not within the scope of the WRAP II project, or for high mercury waste which is not included in the stabilization contract.

The proposed milestone changes use the original WRAP II treatment plan for the type and volume of waste to be treated and/or disposed of. The proposed milestones are based upon annual rates of 246 cubic meters (322 cubic yards) in FY 2000, 575 cubic meters (752 cubic yards) in FY 2001, and 822 cubic meters (1,075 cubic yards) for FY 2002 and beyond until compliance is reached with the RCRA storage time limitation for land disposal restricted waste. This new strategy will be consistent with the site treatment planning approach prescribed by the Federal Facilities Compliance Act and with off-site generator Site Treatment Plans approved prior to October 6, 1995.

Public Involvement

We welcome your comments on the proposed milestone changes during a 45-day comment period beginning April 22, 1996 and ending June 6, 1996. No public meetings are planned.

All documents relating to the TPA are available for review and/or copying at the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Public Information Repositories:

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science & Engineering Floor
SW Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
(206) 543-4664

Richland

Washington State University, Tri-Cities
U.S. Public Reading Room, Room 130 West
100 Sprout Road
(509) 376-8583

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
East 502 Boone
(509) 328-4220 ext. 3844

The proposed Tri-Party Agreement change package, M-19-95-01, is available on the Internet under Calendar/Public Involvement Opportunities at:

WWW.HANFORD.GOV

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Hanford Cleanup toll-free phone number:

1-800-321-2008

If you would like to request a public meeting, provide comments on the proposed milestone changes or would like further information contact:

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Kennewick, WA 99336
509-736-3038**

The Tri-Party agencies will consider and respond to all comments following the public comment period. The responses will be made available to the public before the proposed M-19 milestone changes are approved.

If you have special accommodation needs or would like this material in an alternative format

(large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer disk) please contact:

**Michelle Davis
(360) 407-7126 (Voice) or
(360) 407-6206 (TDD telecommunications device for the deaf)**