



Tri-Party Agreement

## Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan for the 200-CW-1 Operable Unit and 216-B-3 RCRA TSD Unit Sampling Plan

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

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) as the lead regulatory agency, and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (the Tri-Parties) have developed a work plan, (*200-CW-1 Operable Unit Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan and 216-B-3 RCRA TSD Unit Sampling Plan*) (DOE/RL-99-07) to assess 28 waste sites located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington. The waste sites, which are mostly ponds and ditches, received cooling water used during the plutonium/uranium extraction processes that were conducted at Hanford beginning in the 1940s. To support cleanup, the Tri-Parties will need additional data about the contamination that is present at the waste sites.

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This work plan describes how the associated representative waste sites and *Resource and Recovery Act* (RCRA) treatment, disposal and/or storage (TSD) units will be characterized to determine the nature and extent of contamination in the soils and presents details of how an assessment of the waste sites will be conducted. The 200 Area is the last National Priorities List (NPL) site at Hanford requiring a major characterization effort. The work plan represents the Tri-Parties commitment to continuing progress on cleanup at Hanford by phasing in the assessment work for the remaining 200 Area soil waste sites, yet maintaining full attention to completing the 100 and 300 Areas cleanup effort.

### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**Public comments will be accepted from July 8 through August 6, 1999 on the 200-CW-1 Operable Unit RI/FS Work Plan and 216-B-3 RCRA TSD Unit Sampling Plan.**

The Tri-Parties concur that public opinion is especially important since this is the first work plan prepared under the 200 Area Implementation Plan published in 1998. The implementation plan described the approach to be taken for all remaining 200 Area (non-tank farm) soil operable units.

### BACKGROUND

Starting in 1943 and continuing for almost 50 years, facilities in the 200 Areas were used to separate uranium and plutonium out of irradiated nuclear fuel that was generated during operation of the reactors. Cooling water from the B Plant and Plutonium/Uranium Extraction (PUREX) chemical separation facilities was disposed into ditches and

To request copies of the document, or to submit comments, either written or electronically, please contact:

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**Or call Hanford Cleanup Toll-free:  
1-800-321-2008**

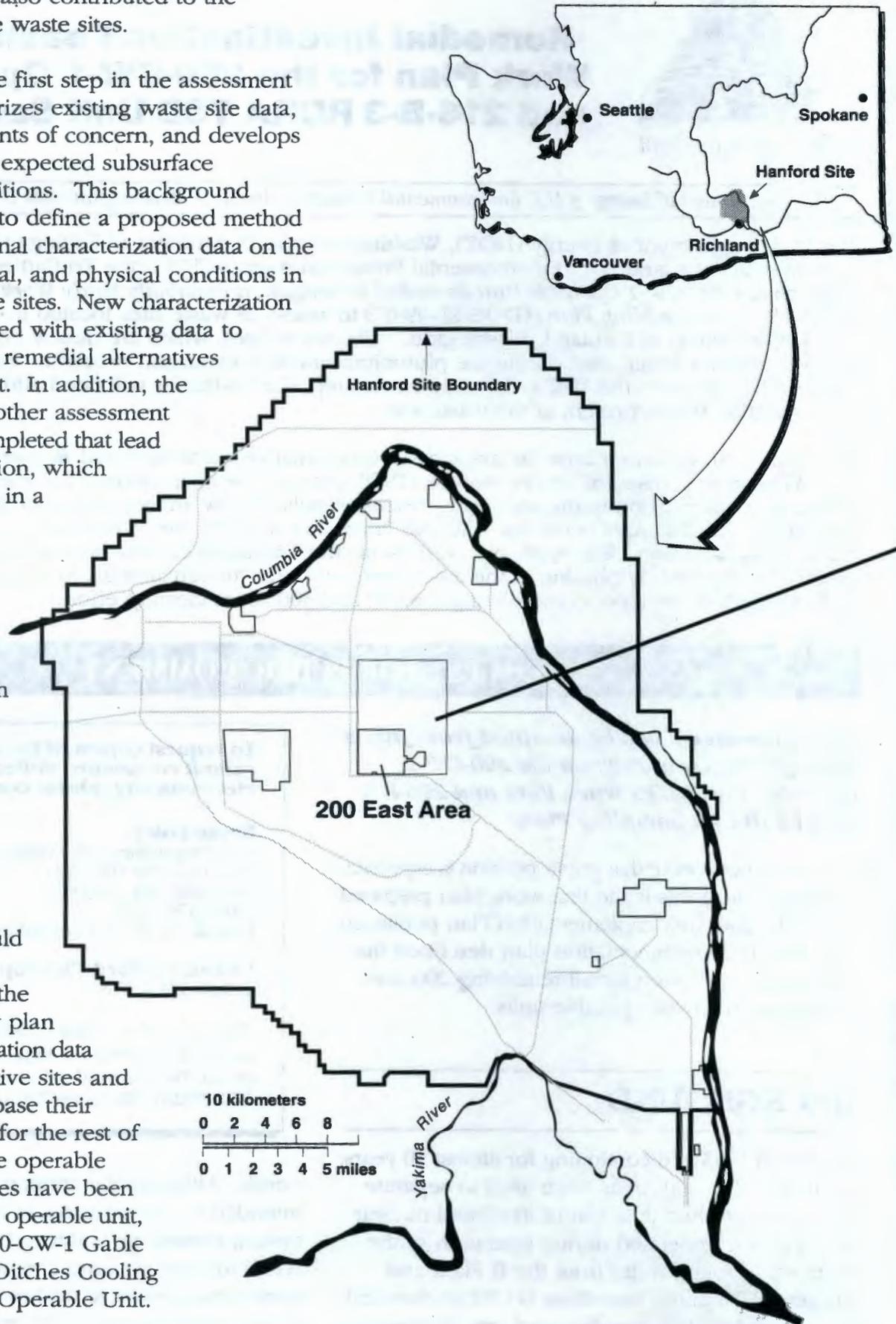
The work plan is also available for review at the DOE Information Repositories listed below or can be accessed on the Internet at [WWW.BHI-ERC.com/200Area/200Area.HTM](http://WWW.BHI-ERC.com/200Area/200Area.HTM)

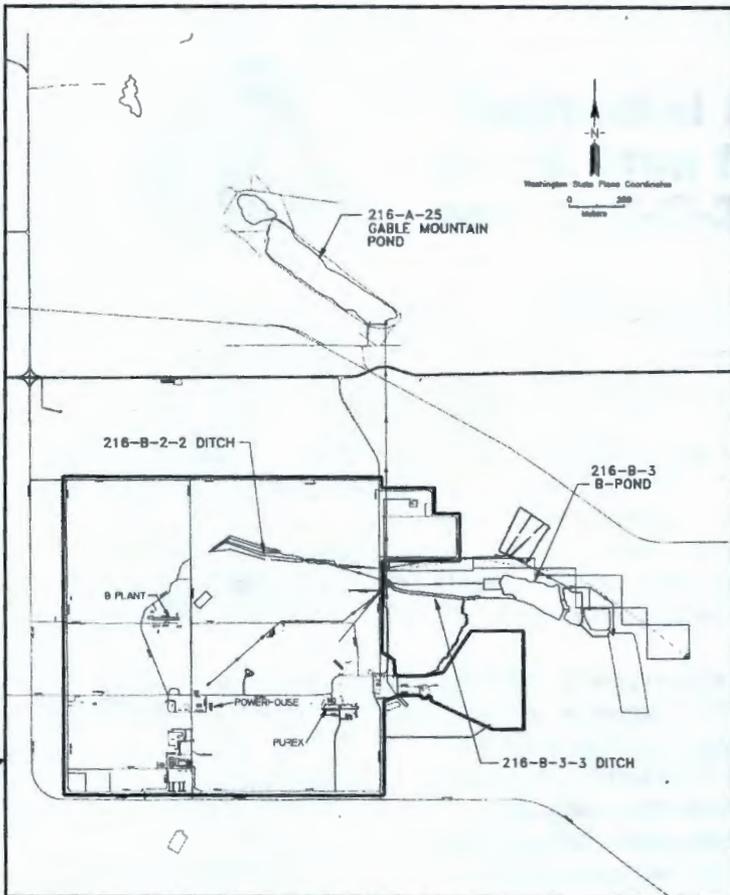
ponds. Although the cooling water system was not intended to contact process waste, leaks in the system caused the water to become contaminated with radionuclides and chemicals. Disposal of this contaminated water to ditches and ponds has resulted in soil, and in some cases, groundwater

contamination. Several unplanned releases of radioactive material also contributed to the contamination at the waste sites.

The work plan is the first step in the assessment process and summarizes existing waste site data, identifies contaminants of concern, and develops physical models for expected subsurface contamination conditions. This background information is used to define a proposed method for collecting additional characterization data on the chemical, radiological, and physical conditions in soil at selected waste sites. New characterization data will be combined with existing data to support selection of remedial alternatives for the operable unit. In addition, the work plan outlines other assessment tasks that will be completed that lead up to remedy selection, which will be documented in a Record of Decision.

The 200-CW-1 Work Plan is an example of how the general assessment approach in the 200 Area Implementation Plan is implemented at the operable unit level. The Tri-Parties plan to use existing data to identify sites that could be representative of other waste sites in the operable unit. They plan to use the characterization data from the representative sites and RCRA TSD units to base their cleanup evaluations for the rest of the waste sites in the operable unit. These waste sites have been grouped into a single operable unit, referred to as the 200-CW-1 Gable Pond/B-Ponds and Ditches Cooling Water Waste Group Operable Unit.





The 200-CW-1 Operable Unit contains past practice sites that are regulated under the (RCRA). It also contains one treatment, storage, and disposal unit that will require closure under RCRA. Representative sites were selected based on typical and worst case conditions for the RCRA past practice sites.

## PATH FORWARD

After completing the public review and incorporating public comments, the work plan will be finalized. Field characterization will be conducted beginning in August 1999 and continue through December 1999. Additional opportunities for public input will occur after the characterization data have been evaluated and a preferred remedy or closure strategy is proposed (through a proposed plan and a proposed RCRA permit modification). Data collected will be used to evaluate cleanup at representative and remaining waste sites, as well as supporting remedial design and closure strategies.

## Hanford Public Information Repository Locations:

### PORTLAND

Portland State University  
Branford Price Millar Library  
934 SW Harrison and Park  
(503) 725-3690

### SEATTLE

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### RICHLAND

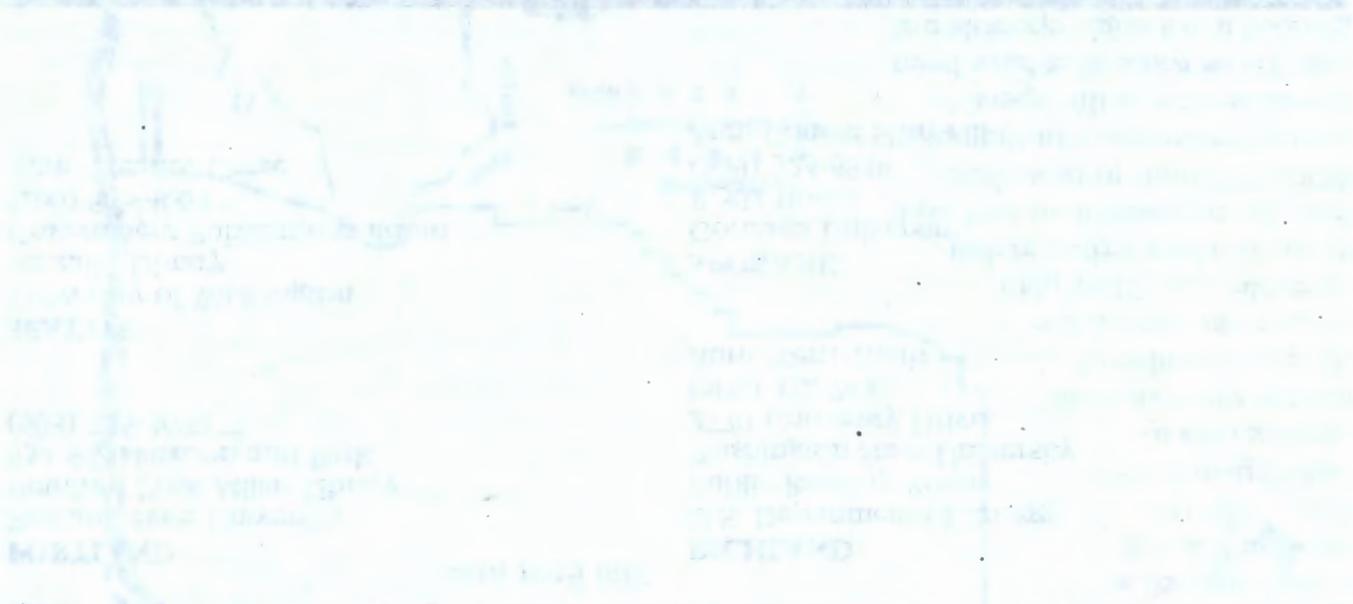
U.S. Department of Energy  
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### Map of the Pacific Northwest Region



The Pacific Northwest region is a diverse and dynamic area, characterized by its unique geography, climate, and cultural heritage. This region is home to a wide variety of natural resources, including forests, fisheries, and wildlife. The Pacific Northwest is also a major center for industry and commerce, with a strong emphasis on technology, manufacturing, and services. The region's population is growing rapidly, and it is becoming an increasingly important part of the United States economy. The Pacific Northwest is a region of great promise and potential, and it is well-positioned to continue to thrive in the years ahead.

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