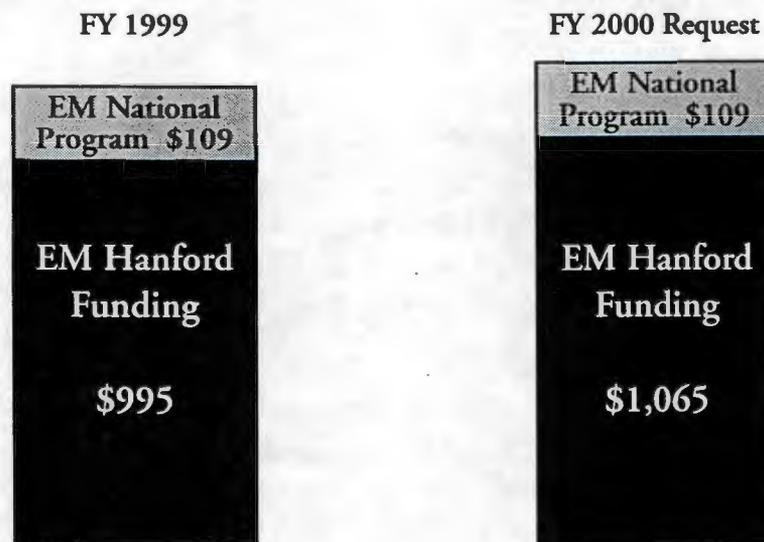


Sample issues where you can provide input are decisions on:

- ▲ Meeting safety needs to protect workers, the public, and the environment and meeting commitments to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) which provides oversight of safety issues at DOE nuclear facilities;
- ▲ Meeting compliance required by the Tri-Party Agreement between DOE, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) which establishes milestone dates for cleanup;
- ▲ Funding for pumping and long term disposal of tank waste;
- ▲ Funding for moving degraded nuclear spent fuel rods out of basins located along the river; and
- ▲ Performing characterization of contaminants in the ground beneath the tanks and in the groundwater.

The Department of Energy budget request for FY 2000 includes \$1.065 million for Hanford Site clean-up programs. It is assumed that the FY 2001 Hanford Site budget will remain at about the same level as FY 2000. At that level, the assumed FY 2001 Environmental Management Hanford Site budget would fall short of requirements to maintain essential safety activities, urgent risks, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Hanford's Environmental Management Budget



(Dollars in Million)

The key programs funded by the Hanford clean up budget are:

- ▲ Tank Waste Remediation System, Office of River Protection, is comprised of tank waste characterization; safety issues resolution; tanks farms operations; tank waste retrieval; process waste support; and waste storage.
- ▲ Waste Management addresses the urgent need to move Spent Nuclear Fuel from the present degraded wet storage conditions in the 100 Area Basins along the Columbia River to safe interim dry storage in the 200 Area on the Central Plateau.
- ▲ Environmental Restoration Project is comprised of soil and groundwater cleanup; decontamination and decommissioning of old buildings; surveillance and maintenance of deactivated facilities; groundwater/vadose zone.
- ▲ Facility Stabilization Project transitions facilities from costly maintenance conditions to a surveillance and maintenance state that is safe and cost effective pending final disposition.

Regulatory Perspective

"We have concerns that the total site needs for FY 2001 are more than \$1.5 billion, with funding assumptions that are less than \$1.1 billion. With such a large gap, we are concerned about TPA and other compliance activities that will not be funded, especially activities related to achieving tank waste treatment. We expect the Department of Energy to request sufficient funding from OMB to cover all compliance activities," said Mike Wilson Program Manager, Nuclear Waste Program, Washington State Department of Ecology.

"The Department of Energy is proposing to delay initiation of several Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Projects scheduled for FY 2000 and FY 2001," said Doug Sherwood, EPA Hanford Project Manager. "These delays are unacceptable. The Environmental Restoration Program which is responsible for the Superfund Cleanup at Hanford is not a priority for DOE, although this program has done more than other Hanford programs to protect the Columbia River. The budget proposed by DOE will reduce the amount of contaminated soil removed from along the river and slow progress on the interim safe storage of reactors," Sherwood concluded.

DOE Richland, EPA and Ecology want to discuss Hanford's budget plans and the issues surrounding these plans with you prior to sending the budget proposal to DOE Headquarters. We seek your input on the direction of the cleanup work.

Historical Note

The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office owns the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. Hanford was established during World War II as part of the top secret Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Weapons material production was halted in the late 1980s. The Hanford Site is now engaged in the world's largest cleanup effort to deal with the legacy of radioactive and hazardous wastes that resulted from the plutonium production era. Hanford's cleanup program is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology under a long term compliance contract called the Tri-Party Agreement. This agreement sets the framework and timelines on the cleanup work so that Hanford meets current environmental standards.

Copies of the Hanford's Strategic Plan are available by calling Jim Kautzky at (509) 376-7093 or on the Internet at address james_d_kautzky@rl.gov. Come to the meeting nearest you. Comments may be submitted either electronically to James_m_jim_peterson@rl.gov or mailed to:

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(509) 376-8583 ATTN: Terri Traub

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PORTLAND

Portland State University, Branford Price Millar Library
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(503) 725-3690 ATTN: Michael Bowman

or call the Hanford Cleanup Toll-free Line: 1-800-321-2008

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