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# Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

October, 1995

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS) for public comment, commencing September 22, and extending for 90 days, until December 21, 1995. The WM PEIS provides a Department-wide evaluation of management alternatives for treating, storing and disposing of radioactive and hazardous wastes in DOE's existing and projected inventory.

## Background

On October 22, 1990, DOE began work on what is now the Draft WM PEIS. This draft proposes actions to formulate and implement an integrated Waste Management (WM) program across all DOE sites in a safe and environmentally sound manner and in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and standards.

## Alternatives Considered

The draft WM PEIS evaluates treatment, storage and/or disposal alternatives for five types of radioactive and/or hazardous waste in DOE's existing inventory and waste to be generated from DOE's operations over the next twenty years. Due to the complexity and unique management requirements of each of the waste types, the draft WM PEIS contains separate analyses of each waste type as follows: high-level waste; transuranic waste; low-level waste; low-level mixed waste (containing radioactive and hazardous components); and hazardous waste.

Four categories of management alternatives are considered. The No Action (status quo) alternative would provide a baseline for comparing other alternatives. The Decentralized alternative would maintain WM activities essentially at the sites of generation. The Regionalized alternative would transport waste to designated regional sites. In general, those sites that presently have the greatest amount of a particular waste type are being considered as candidate regional sites for treatment, storage and disposal of that waste. The Centralized alternative would consolidate waste management activities at one or two sites for treatment, storage, or disposal.

## Public Involvement

Public comments will be important in preparing the final WM PEIS. Example topics on which DOE invites public input include: technical adequacy of the document; preferences for alternatives evaluated for any or all waste types; and criteria DOE should consider in selecting alternatives.

A public hearing has been scheduled in five locations for Thursday November 9 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. A workshop will be held one-hour prior to the public hearing from 6-7pm in all locations. The format will feature video conferencing to permit senior officials from DOE-HQ to participate.

The video conference centers are located at:

### Tri-Cities

Washington Interactive Television  
124 South 4th Street  
Pasco, WA

### Pendleton

Blue Mountain Community College  
2411 N.W. Carden  
Emigrant Hall, Room 104  
Pendleton, OR

### Seattle

Washington Interactive Television  
1500 Harvard-Seigal Center  
WTT Conference Room, First Floor  
Seattle, WA

### Portland

Portland Community College  
1200 S.W. 49th Avenue  
Sylvania Campus, Bldg. CT, Room 236  
Portland, OR

### Lacey

Washington Interactive Television  
710 Sleater-Kinney Road S.E., Suite Q  
Lacey, WA



Hanford public reading rooms have copies of the WM PEIS available for review. Their locations are:

**Tri-Cities**

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room  
100 Sprout Road, Room 130W  
Richland, WA (509) 376-8583  
M-F 10am-5pm

**Portland**

Portland State University  
Branford Price Millar Library, SW Harrison and Park  
Portland, OR (503) 725-3690  
M-F 8am-10pm; Sat 10am-10pm; Sun 11am-10pm

**Seattle**

University of Washington  
Government Publications, Suzzallo Library  
Seattle, WA (206) 685-9855  
M-Th 9am-8pm; F-Sat 9am-5pm

**Spokane**

Gonzaga University, Foley Center  
East 502 Boone  
Spokane, WA (509) 328-4220 ext. 3829  
M-Th 8am-12am; F 8am-9pm;  
Sat 9am-9pm; Sun 11am-12am

**Lacey**

Department of Ecology  
Washington State Nuclear and Mixed Waste Library  
300 Desmond Drive, S.E.  
Lacey, WA (360) 407-7097  
M-F 8am-5pm

Written comments may be mailed to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
WM PEIS Comments  
P.O. Box 3790  
Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3790

For more information or to pre-register to speak at the hearing please call 1-800-736-3282.

