



Invitation for Public Comment on the Scope of a Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Hanford Site Solid Waste Program is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives for the receipt, treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive and hazardous wastes at Hanford, as well as decontamination of equipment. Comments from the public are requested on the scope of the EIS, alternatives to be evaluated, issues to be considered, and impacts to be analyzed. The scoping comment period extends from October 27, 1997, through December 11, 1997.

DOE will examine methods for safe and efficient management of solid hazardous and radioactive wastes, originating from both onsite and offsite locations, in compliance with federal and state laws. The EIS will evaluate a range of implementation alternatives for the proposed action. An explanation of the alternatives is provided in the notice of intent published in the Federal Register on October 27, 1997 (62FR55615). Public reading rooms that will maintain copies of the NOI for review are listed at the end of this notice.

In general, the DOE will decide the location and types of treatment facilities, the methods and location for interim storage, and the methods and location for final disposition (where appropriate) of the following waste types:

- operational low-level radioactive waste
- mixed low-level radioactive and hazardous waste
- transuranic radioactive and mixed waste
- hazardous waste
- contaminated equipment that currently exists or will be generated at Hanford, or which may be received from offsite generators.

DOE encourages you to provide oral and/or written comments on the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS. The Department will hold scoping meetings to obtain public comments on the alternatives and issues to be addressed in the EIS. Dates, times, and locations for these meetings are as follows:

November 12, 1997, public hearings, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Federal Building Auditorium, 825 Jadwin, Richland, WA 99352.

November 13, 1997, public hearing, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Vert Memorial Building, 500 S.W. Dorion, Pendleton, OR 97801.

To reserve a time to speak, please leave a message on the EIS reservation and comment line at (509) 373-7840 or write to:

Allison Wright
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Requests to make formal comments at the public meetings may be scheduled until 3:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting. Those not pre-registered also may register at the meetings and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis as time permits. Speakers are encouraged to provide written transcripts of their oral comments for the record.

Oral comments made at the meetings and written comments addressed to Allison Wright at the above address (postmarked no later than December 11, 1997) will be considered in the preparation of the EIS. Comments received after the end of the scoping period will be considered to the extent practicable.

Copies of the Notice of Intent to publish the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS and supporting documentation will be available for review during normal business hours at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
Freedom of Information Reading Room 1E-90
1000 Independence Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 586-6020

DOE Public Reading Room
Consolidated Information Center
Washington State University Tri-Cities
100 Sprout Road
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 372-7443

Branford Price Millar Library
Government Documents Section
Portland State University
Corner of Park Ave. and S.W. Harrison
Portland, OR 97201-1151
(503) 725-4617

Richland Public Library
955 Northgate Dr.
Richland, WA 99352-3539
(509) 943-7457

Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-9158

Foley Center Library
Gonzaga University
East 502 Boone
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 328-4220, ext. 3132

Additional information on DOE and Hanford Site National Environmental Policy Act activities and documents (including the Solid Waste EIS) also may be obtained via the World Wide Web at the following locations:

DOE NEPA Information - <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/>

Hanford Information - <http://www.hanford.gov/hanford.html>

Hanford Environmental Assessments - <http://www.hanford.gov/hanford.html#ea>

Hanford Environmental Impact Statements - <http://www.hanford.gov/hanford.html#eis>

We appreciate your continued interest in DOE programs and would welcome your participation in the scoping meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Wright at the above number.