START

ERDF

The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility

Tri-Party Agreement **FACT SHEET**

On January 20, 1995 the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the Agencies) signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). The ROD describes the selected remedy, which is a centralized disposal facility to be used for past-practice remedial waste generated at the Hanford Site. This fact sheet provides information about the selected remedy.

SUMMARY OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

Based on the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980*, the substantive criteria of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, and comments from the public, the Agencies chose the ERDF as the selected remedy. This remedy includes a *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* (RCRA) compliant double-lined trench (also referred to as a landfill) with a modified protective cap located at a site on the Central Plateau. The ERDF will be used for disposal of radioactive waste, hazardous/dangerous waste, asbestos, and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste (or combinations thereof) resulting from cleanup of operable units in the 100, 200, and 300 Areas at the Hanford Site.

MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

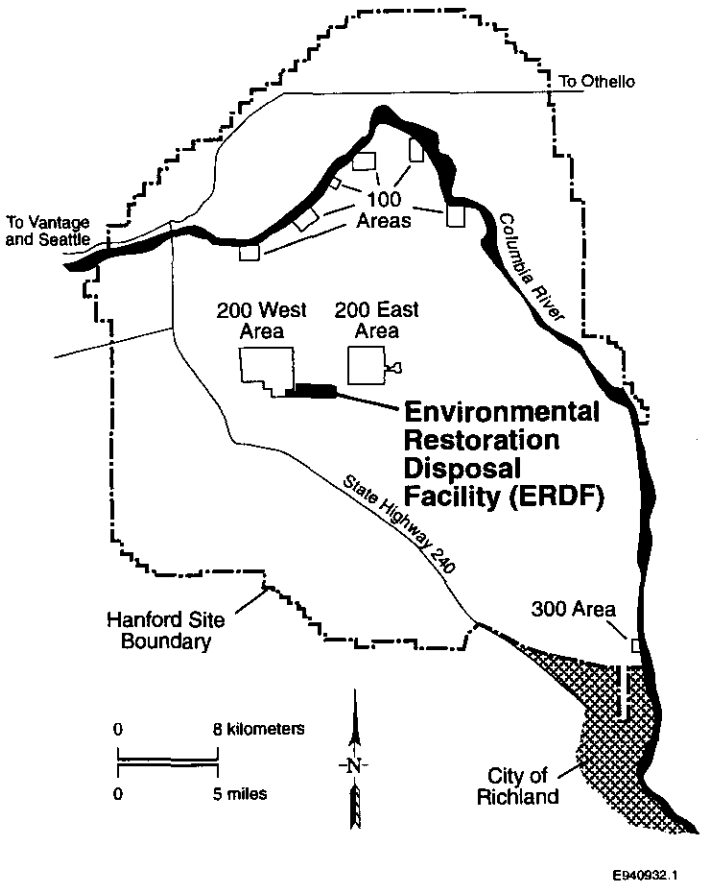
- Location on the Central Plateau
- Design and construction of a RCRA-compliant landfill, including a leachate collection, recovery, and storage system
- General operation
- General design and operation of supporting facilities, including decontamination facilities, and surface water run-on and run-off controls
- Environmental monitoring of the facility
- Closure of the facility using a modified RCRA-compliant protective cap
- Mitigation measures to reduce ecological impacts
- Preparation of a mitigation plan in coordination with the Natural Resource Trustees to evaluate potential options for additional mitigation measures

SITE BACKGROUND AND ERDF DESCRIPTION

In 1989, the Hanford Site was added to the National Priorities List as four sites: the 100, 200, 300, and 1100 Areas. Each area was divided into operable units (a grouping of individual waste units based primarily on geographic area and common waste sources). These operable units contain contamination in the form of radioactive waste, hazardous/dangerous waste, asbestos, and PCB waste (or combinations thereof).

The ERDF will serve as a disposal facility for wastes (primarily contaminated soil) excavated during cleanup of operable units on the Hanford Site. The scope of the ERDF ROD is focused on the location and configuration of the landfill, the liner, and the protective cap.

The ERDF site is located southeast of the 200 West Area on the Hanford Site Central Plateau (see map). The disposal trench and support facilities will use less than 4.1 square kilometers (1.6 square miles) of this site which



is located 73 meters (240 feet) above groundwater and approximately 11.4 kilometers (7.1 miles) from the Columbia River.

This site encompasses a portion of land formerly leased to Washington State and is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

The first two ERDF cells will measure 20 meters (70 feet) deep by 430 meters (1,420 feet) wide and 280 meters (920 feet) long at ground level. The cells include a RCRA double liner and modified RCRA-compliant protective cap. The double liner retains leachate, which is then removed by the leachate collection system for treatment. The protective cap will prevent direct exposure to the waste and include a vegetated surface layer to retain moisture, reduce infiltration, and protect groundwater.

CHANGES RESULTING FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Upon review of public comments, no significant changes were required to the selected remedy. The following major public concerns have been addressed.

- **Minimize the amount of land used for waste management activities.** The ERDF was downsized from 15.5 square kilometers (6 square miles) to 4.1 square kilometers (1.6 square miles) by implementing an engineering design for a deep area-fill trench. This will minimize impact on the shrub steppe habitat.

- **Incorporate the values expressed by the Hanford Future Site Users Working Group in siting the ERDF.** An additional siting study was conducted to consider a contaminated area for the ERDF. Due to safety, timing, and cost considerations, the site was not selected.

- **Accept only wastes generated from the Hanford Site.** The ROD limits ERDF use to wastes generated from Hanford Site cleanup.

REMAINING ISSUES/CONCERNS

The following issues and concerns remain:

- **Habitat Mitigation:** A plan will be prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy to evaluate mitigation options and requirements for the ERDF in coordination with the Hanford Natural Resource Trustees.

- **Public Involvement in Developing ERDF Waste Acceptance Criteria:** Several public interest groups requested a public opportunity to provide input into the waste acceptance criteria. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will provide interested parties a copy of the draft waste acceptance criteria when it becomes available for review.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Construction will commence at the site within 30 days after the ROD is signed to ensure that the ERDF is operational by 1996.

Remediation wastes will be generated over a relatively long time period.The ROD authorizes construction of only two cells; each cell will measure 150 meters by 150 meters (500 feet by 500 feet) at the base. If additional disposal capacity is required, expansion beyond two cells would be authorized under a subsequent ROD or by amending the ERDF ROD. Either process would include full public participation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Record of Decision and all documents in the regulatory package relating to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility are located at the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Public Information Repositories:

PORTLAND

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
SW Harrison and Park
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 725-3690
Attn: Michael Bowman or
Susan Thomas

RICHLAND

U.S. Department of Energy
Reading Room
Washington State University,
Tri-Cities
100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-8583
Attn: Terri Traub

SEATTLE

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
Seattle, WA 99195
(206) 543-4664
Attn: Eleanor Chase

SPOKANE

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 328-4220 ext. 3125
Attn: Joyce Cox

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FOR MORE INFORMATION *CONTINUED*

If you have questions or concerns related to these decisions or about the site, please contact:

Pam Innis
EPA Project Manager
(509) 376-4919

Or, call the toll free
Hanford Cleanup Line
1-800-321-2008

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