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DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF EIS

Description of current proposal The proposed construction of new double shell tanks to store radioactive and hazardous waste. The tanks are proposed to resolve safety issues with other "watchlist" tanks and to store waste generated by cleanup activities. Ecology will co-preparing the EIS with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Proponent U.S. Department of Energy

Location of proposal The Hanford Site, northwest of Richland, Washington

Lead agency Department of Ecology, Nuclear & Mixed Waste Management Program

EIS Required. The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. An environmental checklist or other materials indicating likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at our offices.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS: The following elements of the environment may be impacted by this proposal: earth, water, plants and animals, and environmental health.

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving comment is:

Comments can be submitted in writing until March 15, 1994 to Geoff Tallent, Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600. Comments may also be given at ten public meetings (see attached focus sheet for times and locations).

Responsible official Dru Butler, Manager

Position/title Nuclear & Mixed Waste Management Program Phone (206) 407-7100

Address P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Date 1/28/94 Signature Dru Butler 1551



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HANFORD TANKS -- YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Decisions on how to safely manage, treat, store and dispose of Hanford's wastes will soon be made.

We need your involvement.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HANFORD'S WASTE TANK OPERATIONS:

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) are beginning a process to define the best strategy for safely handling and disposing of Hanford's highly radioactive tank waste in the future, and need your input.

USDOE and Ecology are planning to prepare two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) related to Hanford's high-level tank waste program. The first EIS is proposed as an interim action to construct and operate six new underground waste storage tanks. The second EIS covers the broad spectrum of tank facility operations, and will define how future tank waste activities are conducted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED:

USDOE AND Ecology will host public meetings to begin defining the scope of both the overall TWRS EIS and the new tanks interim EIS. Meetings are planned for Richland, Seattle, and Spokane, Washington, and for Hood River and Portland, Oregon. Meeting times are from 1 pm to 4:30 pm, and from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the following locations:

Feb. 14	Richland, WA	Hanford House--Red Lion, 802 George Washington Way
Feb. 16	Hood River, OR	The Hood River Inn/Best Western, 1108 E. Marina Way
Feb. 17	Portland, OR	BPA Auditorium, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Feb. 22	Seattle, WA	The Mountaineer's, 300 Third Avenue West
Feb. 24	Spokane, WA	Spokane Convention Ctr., 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

SIGN UP TO SPEAK:

These scoping meetings will help set the framework to develop the tank Environmental Impact Statements. Public comment -- both oral and written -- will be accepted until March 15, 1994. You may sign up to speak at the meetings by calling 1-800-500-1660, or send your written comments to:

Don Alexander
USDOE
P.O. Box 550, MS R3-73
Richland, WA 99352

Geoff Tallent
Washington Dept. of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Lacey, WA 98504-7600

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