



## Proposed Cleanup Plan for Hanford's 300 Area

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies— the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) – invite your input on the Proposed Plan for cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater along the Columbia River in the 300 Area of the Hanford Site, in southeastern Washington State. The Proposed Plan, prepared under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, describes the cleanup options and identifies the preferred cleanup alternative. The Plan is being issued for a 30-day public comment period from **July 15 through August 16, 2013**.

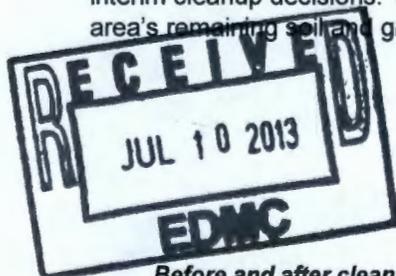
U.S. Department of Energy • Washington State Department of Ecology • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### Background

Hanford's 300 Area covers about 40 square miles along the Columbia River and is in the southeast corner of the Site, just north of Richland.

The 300 Area, which began operations in 1943, was where the fuel for Hanford's nine plutonium reactors was manufactured. It was also home to experimental and laboratory facilities, including six small-scale nuclear reactors. Past operations resulted in liquid waste containing nitrate, uranium, other metals, and organics being discharged to soils in some locations of this area.

The 300 Area includes two soil Operable Units (300-FF-1 and 300-FF-2) and one groundwater Operable Unit (300-FF-5). This Proposed Plan provides remedial alternatives for 130 waste sites (3 waste sites in 300-FF-1 and 127 waste sites in 300-FF-2) and groundwater contamination in 300-FF-5. Since the 1990s, 52 of these 130 sites have been remediated under interim cleanup decisions. The proposed plan addresses the area's remaining soil and groundwater contamination.



*Before and after cleanup photos (right), show the progress of ongoing cleanup in the 300 Area. This proposed plan addresses cleanup of remaining waste sites and the groundwater that lies beneath the area.*

### Public Comment Period: July 15 – August 16, 2013

#### Public Meetings:

**Tuesday, July 30, 2013**  
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Richland Public Library  
955 Northgate Drive  
Richland, WA

**Wednesday, July 31, 2013**  
6 – 9 p.m.  
University Heights Center  
5031 University Way NE  
Seattle, WA

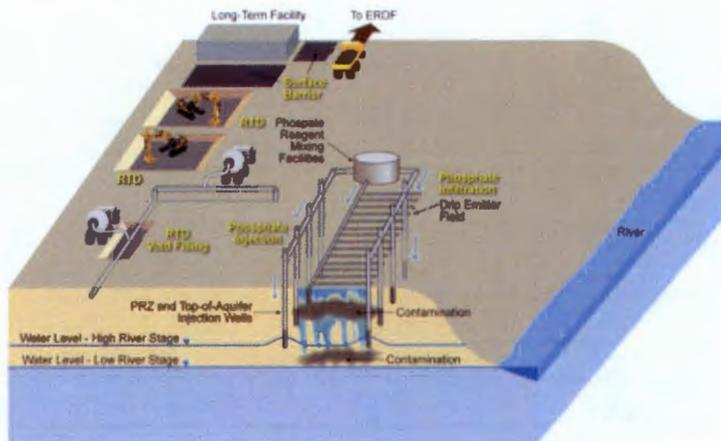
**Thursday, August 8, 2013**  
6 – 9 p.m.  
Best Western Hotel  
1108 E Marina Dr.  
Hood River, OR

**What is being proposed?**

The TPA agencies are proposing to use a combination of methods to address contamination in the 300 Area:

- Contaminated soil removal, referred to as removal, treatment, and disposal (RTD)
- Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) in groundwater contamination. MNA is the decrease of contamination through natural processes such as decay, oxidation, or biodegradation.
- Enhanced attenuation by applying a binding solution to reduce the movement of contamination to groundwater
- Groundwater monitoring
- Institutional Controls (ICs) to control access to residual contaminants in soil and groundwater as long as they exceed the cleanup levels established in the Record of Decision (ROD) associated with this Proposed Plan. ICs include such things as signage, deed and zone restrictions, and permits.

Conceptual Schematic



**What alternatives were evaluated?**

DOE developed remedial alternatives in the 300 Area Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report based on the results of detailed technology screening. The alternatives considered include a range of technology groupings that address soil and groundwater collectively.

| Alternatives Evaluated                 |  |
|--|--|
| Alternative 1                          | No Action  |
| Alternative 2                          | RTD at Waste Sites; MNA, Groundwater Monitoring; and Institutional Controls  |
| Alternative 3                          | RTD at Waste Sites; Phased Approach for Implementation of Uranium Sequestration (binding) in the Vadose Zone (the soil between the surface and groundwater), Periodic Rewetted Zone (PRZ) and Top of the Aquifer; MNA; Groundwater Monitoring; and ICs. PRZ refers to the area in the deep vadose zone where the groundwater fluctuates due to changes in the river. |
| Alternative 3a (preferred Alternative) | RTD at Waste Sites; Enhanced Attenuation for Uranium in the Vadose Zone and PRZ; MNA; Groundwater Monitoring; and ICs  |
| Alternative 4                          | RTD at Waste Sites; Focused Deep RTD in the Vadose Zone and PRZ; Uranium Sequestration in the Vadose Zone, PRZ, and Top of the Aquifer; MNA; Groundwater Monitoring; and ICs   |
| Alternative 5                          | RTD at Waste Sites; Extensive Deep RTD in the Vadose Zone and PRZ; MNA; Groundwater Monitoring; and ICs  |

The Preferred Alternative, (Alternative 3a) is anticipated to reduce potential risk from the 300 Area waste sites by removing contaminated soil and reducing the time to restore the uranium-contaminated groundwater to drinking water standards by addressing uranium located deep in the soil.

## How can the public participate in this cleanup decision?

You can participate in the decision-making process by reading (and commenting on) the Proposed Plan, which is available on the [Administrative Record](#) and on the [Hanford Events Calendar](#). These links also provide access to other supporting documents. Additionally, the Proposed Plan is available for review at the Public Information Repositories (PIRs) listed below and at [www2.hanford.gov/arpir/](http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/). Please send your comments by **August 16, 2013**, to:



Kim Ballinger  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, A7-75  
Richland, WA 99352  
Email: [300AreaPP@rl.gov](mailto:300AreaPP@rl.gov)  
Or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 800-321-2008

Public input is a key element in the decision-making process. Tribal Nations, Hanford stakeholders, and the public are encouraged to read and provide comments on any of the alternatives presented in this Proposed Plan, including the Preferred Alternative. After the comment period, the TPA agencies will consider the input received and any new information gathered during the comment period and then select an alternative for implementation. The Preferred Alternative could be modified or another alternative selected in response to public comment or new information. The agencies will then prepare a ROD. The ROD will identify the chosen alternative (i.e., remedy) and include a responsiveness summary containing agency responses to the comments received during the comment period.

### Join us for public meetings on this Proposed Plan!

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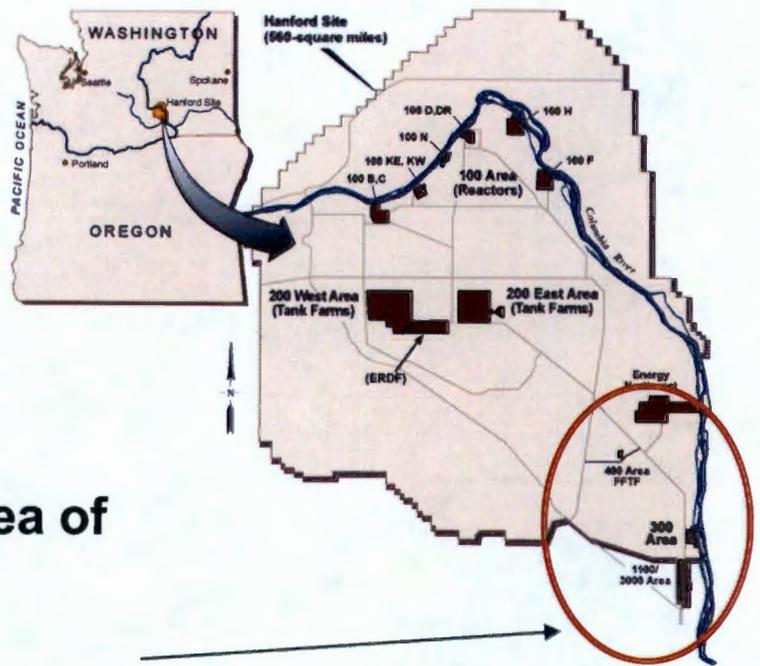
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### The documents are available for review at the Public Information Repositories listed below.

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|--|--|--|--|
| Portland State University<br>Government Information<br>Branford Price Millar Library<br>1875 SW Park Avenue<br>Portland, OR 97207-1151<br>Attn: Claudia Weston<br>(503) 725-4542   | University of Washington<br>Suzzallo Library<br>Government Publications Dept.<br>P.O. Box 352900<br>Seattle, WA 98195-2900<br>Attn: Hilary Reinert<br>(206) 543-5597 | U.S. Department of Energy<br>Public Reading Room<br>Washington State University, Tri Cities<br>Consolidated Information Ctr.,<br>Rm. 101-L<br>2770 Crimson Way<br>Richland, WA 99352<br>Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443 | Gonzaga University<br>Foley Center Library<br>East 502 Boone Avenue<br>Spokane, WA<br>Attn: John Spencer<br>(509) 313-6110 |
| <b>Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:</b><br><b>Address:</b> 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA.<br><b>Phone:</b> 509-376-2530 <b>Web site:</b> <a href="http://www5.hanford.gov/arpir/">www5.hanford.gov/arpir/</a> |  |  |  |

# Hanford Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from  
you on the proposed  
cleanup plan for an area of  
the Hanford Site!



300 Area Proposed Plan Fact Sheet  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, A7-75  
Richland, WA 99352