

# START

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State Environmental Policy Act  
Determination of Nonsignificance and Environmental Checklist  
305-B Dangerous Waste Storage Unit

The Department of Ecology, Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program has made this Determination of Nonsignificance under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). A SEPA determination is used by the lead regulatory agency to decide whether a proposed action will have significant or nonsignificant adverse environmental impacts.

In accordance with SEPA, Ecology is accepting comments on this determination until October 23, 1992. Please address any comments to:

Geoff Tallent  
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal Granting of a final (Part B) hazardous waste facility permit to the existing 305-B dangerous waste storage unit located at the Hanford Site, Washington.

Proponent U.S. Department of Energy and Westinghouse Hanford Company.

Location of proposal, including street address if any The Northwest portion of the Hanford Site 300 Area approximately one mile north of Richland, WA (46°22'18" latitude and 119°16'42" longitude).

Lead agency Department of Ecology, Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- There is no comment period for this DNS.
- This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by 10/23/92.

Responsible official Roger Stanley

Position/title Program Manager, Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management

Address Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Date September 28, 1992 Signature Roger Stanley

The following information is incorporated by reference into this DNS under WAC 197-11-635 and, upon request, is available for review during the comment period at the address above:

Document: RCRA Part B permit application for the 305-B Storage Unit

Relevant Content: The permit application, which is referenced throughout the checklist, gives detailed descriptions of the site, the project, and mitigation of hazards.

Document: \_\_\_\_\_

Relevant Content: \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)  
CHECKLIST  
FOR THE  
305-B STORAGE UNIT  
PART B DANGEROUS WASTE PERMIT APPLICATION

REVISION 1

APRIL 1992

WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORMS  
(WAC 197-11-960)

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**A. BACKGROUND**

**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Grant of a final (Part B) hazardous waste facility permit to the 305-B dangerous waste storage unit located at the Hanford Site, Washington.

**2. Name of applicants:**

U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Field Office (DOE-RL), owner and operator; and Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL), co-operator.

**3. Address and phone number of applicants and contact persons:**

Owner/Operator: U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Field Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352

Contact: R.D. Izatt, Program Manager  
Office of Environmental Assurance, Permits, and Policy  
(509) 376-5441

Co-Operator: Pacific Northwest Laboratory  
P.O. Box 999  
Richland, WA 99352

Contact: T.D. Chikalla, Director  
Facilities and Operations  
(509) 376-2239

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

April 3, 1992

**5. Agency requesting the checklist:**

State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Mail Stop PV-11  
Olympia, WA 98504-8711

**6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

The proposed project involves granting of a permit to an existing hazardous waste management facility under a consent order between DOE-RL and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The permit is scheduled to be issued in November 1992, with time allotted for Ecology and public comment.

**7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

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The only activity related to this proposal is that activity relative to the continued operation of the facility, in compliance with interim status up to the date of granting of a Part B permit. No addition or expansion is contemplated at this time; if such addition or expansion becomes necessary, a new or revised checklist will be prepared if necessary.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

A notice of hazardous waste activity (Part A) was submitted for this unit on May 19, 1988. A compliance notebook describing the programs at the unit to assure compliance with interim status requirements (40 CFR Part 265) is currently in effect. A Part B permit application describing unit operations and evaluating environmental considerations at the site as required by WAC 173-303-806 has been submitted to Ecology and comments are being resolved.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting property covered by your proposal?

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Ecology is the lead agency for granting of the Part B permit being applied for in this process. Application for the permit is required under the consent order between DOE-RL, Ecology, and U.S. EPA. Until the permit is granted, the unit will continue to operate under interim status.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

The project involves grant of final permit status (Part B) and continued use of a dangerous waste storage facility located within the 305-B building, located in the 300 Area of the Hanford Site. The 305-B unit is a one-story frame and masonry building with basement constructed in the early 1950s, with an attached two-story-high metal and concrete building constructed in January 1978, referred to in this document as the "high bay." The Hanford Site comprises approximately 560 square miles.

The facility has been specially modified to provide safe storage of many types of dangerous wastes. It has been used for dangerous waste storage since March 1989 under a grant of interim status from Ecology. Wastes from PNL-operated research facilities are brought to the facility for consolidation either through lab packing, bulking, or simple accumulation of "truckload quantities" in preparation for offsite recycling, treatment or disposal. No treatment or disposal of waste is performed at the facility.

In addition, PNL laboratory chemicals which are no longer needed or wanted by the original purchaser are shipped to 305-B. The facility then attempts to find alternative users within PNL for these materials via the PNL Waste Minimization Program. This avoids the necessity and expense of offsite recycling, treatment or disposal.

Grant of a Part B permit and continued operation of this facility will continue the beneficial activities of the project, including:

- \* Encouragement of waste reduction, reuse and recycling;
- \* Promotion of safer handling of dangerous wastes through use of specially trained personnel;
- \* Reduce risk of environmental release of dangerous waste constituents through use of specialized facilities and equipment;
- \* Provide significant cost savings to the Federal Government through preparation of proper, timely and economical shipments to licensed offsite recycling, treatment or disposal facilities.

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12. Give the location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The facility is located in Building 305-B, in the northwest section of the 300 Area of the Hanford Site. Building geographic coordinates are 46°22'18" latitude and 119°16'42" longitude. Detailed maps are provided in the Part B permit application for the facility provided to Ecology.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

- a. **General description of the site: flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.**

The 300 Area is generally flat, as is the immediate 305-B area.

- b. **What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

The steepest slope on the site is approximately less than one percent.

- c. **What general types of soils are found on the site? (for example, clay, sandy gravel, peat, muck?) If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

The soil around the site consists of sand and sandy gravel. Much of the surrounding area has been paved with asphalt or concrete. No farming is permitted on the Hanford Site.

- d. **Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

No unstable soils conditions are known to exist.

- e. **Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate the source of the fill.**

No filling or grading is proposed in connection with this project.

- f. **Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use?**

The project will not result in clearing or construction of the area. Use of the existing facility is not expected to contribute to erosion.

- g. **Approximately what percentage of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

The project does not propose to cover any new areas with impervious surfaces. As currently built and operating, the 305-B unit covers about 85% of the adjacent area with either asphalt, concrete, or buildings.

- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if there are any?**

No earth impacts are anticipated in connection with this project.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities, if known.

No construction activities are proposed as part of this project.

When operational, the unit receives vehicle traffic at the rate of 1-5 vehicles per day. Vehicles may be autos, pickups or heavy duty vehicles up to and including semitrucks with trailers. Vehicles received are operated by unit staff, by generators of waste, or by licensed dangerous waste transporters transporting combined shipments to offsite dangerous waste management facilities.

In addition, the unit uses a local exhaust system for "bulking," i.e. pouring the liquid contents of small containers (five gallons or less) into larger ones (usually 30- or 55-gallon drums). This is done in the flammable liquid bulking module (module) mentioned in the Part B permit application. Local exhaust is provided in the module to prevent accumulation of flammable vapors during bulking activities and to prevent overexposure to workers in the module. During the bulking of volatile organics inside the module, vapors originating from bulking activities are routed outdoors through the module exhaust system. Vapor emissions from the module generally do not exceed two hours per week and are greatly diluted due to the 3300 CFM air movement of the exhaust fan. Vapors may consist of any volatile organic chemical, but are generally F003-F005 listed solvent wastes.

Another, smaller ventilation system is used in the storage areas themselves for occasional bulking of solids or nonflammable liquids not requiring use of the module. Again, vapors are greatly diluted due to the high capacity of this system (1550 CFM) and are exhausted outdoors.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any?

None proposed in connection with this project.

3. Water

a. Surface

- 1) Is there any surface water body in or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes. The Columbia River flows past the east boundary of the 300 Area. The 305-B unit is located approximately 2,600 feet (one-half mile) from the river, which is a "shoreline of state-wide significance" per the Shoreline Management Act, but is not located within the wetland area, i.e. within 200 ft of the high-water mark.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet of) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill.

None

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No; see Section 2.3.2 of Part B permit application for floodplain determination details.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

**b. Ground**

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

- 2) Describe waste materials that will be discharged into the ground from septic waste tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals ...; agricultural; etc.) Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No water or wastes will be discharged to the ground. The unit is served by the 300 Area Sanitary Sewer for sanitary sewage. No water is discharged to the process sewer and all such drains have been blocked. The unit is equipped with secondary containment systems to prevent the release of stored materials to soil or groundwater.

**c. Water Run-Off (including storm water)**

- 1) Describe the source of run-off (including storm water) and methods of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other wastes? If so, describe.

This project will not increase or decrease the amount of stormwater or other runoff from the 305-B unit or the 300 Area in general. Runoff from the 300 Area generally is absorbed or evaporates from paved areas. During heavy rains some surface runoff may reach the Columbia River. The 305-B unit has control mechanisms (dikes, berms, etc.) to prevent contact of outdoor runoff water with wastes stored inside.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No; the unit uses engineered structures to prevent entry of wastes stored within into internal or external drainage systems or soil.

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and run-off water impacts, if any:**

None beyond those already taken in the construction and operation of the unit.

4. Plants

- a. Check the types of vegetation found onsite. (List: Deciduous tree, evergreen tree, shrubs, grass, pasture, crop or grain, wet soil plants, water plants, other types of vegetation)

No vegetation exists in the immediate area of the 305-B unit.

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None

5. Animals

- a. Identify any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other

Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other

Birds commonly seen in the 300 Area include sparrows and other small birds as well as seagulls, crows, and pigeons. Mammals are generally limited to rabbits and squirrels. Fish are found in the Columbia River 1/2 mile east of the 305-B unit.

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known on the 300 Area.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes. The 300 Area lies within a migration route for some birds. The region bounding the Columbia River (1/2 mile east of the 305-B unit) is used as a resting place for Pacific Flyway waterfowl and shore birds during the autumn migration.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None

**6. Energy and Natural Resources**

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Electricity: Heating, cooling, lighting, and ventilation of inhabited spaces. Fans are used for artificial ventilation of work areas (see 2a of this checklist). Crane for moving drums of RMW between floors. Recharge of battery powered forklift.

Oil: Fuel and lubricants for vehicles operated by unit staff. Lubricants for equipment such as forklifts, drum dollies, and storage cabinet doors.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None (not applicable to existing and unmodified unit)

**7. Environmental Health**

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

This proposal is to grant fully permitted status to an existing unit. Operation under Part B permit standards as shown in the application document is expected to reduce the risk of environmental health hazards as described above.

Any operation dealing with the handling and storage of dangerous waste materials entails some risk. In order to reduce the risk to acceptable levels, the 305-B unit uses detailed operating procedures, engineered structures, personnel protective equipment, training, and contingency plans. These are detailed in the Part B permit application.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Hanford Patrol (police), Hanford Fire Department, medical personnel (through Hanford Environmental Health Foundation) and ambulance service (through Hanford Fire Department) are available at all times to assist in any emergency situation at the unit. A spill response team is also available on site. Mutual aid agreements and Memoranda of Understanding are in place between DOE-RL and many community agencies to provide backup services. Notification of all of these services is available through the PNL Single Point Contact at 375-2400 at any time.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The risk reduction measures utilized at the unit are detailed in the Part B permit application.

b. Noise

1) What type of noise exists in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, etc.)?

No ambient 300 Area noise affects the operation of the 305-B unit.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, etc.)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

The only noises created by the unit are the operation of vehicles delivering and picking up waste materials, operating the roll-up doors to receive these vehicles, and operation of the building HVAC and area ventilation systems. Vehicle traffic is generally less than five per day. Operation of the area ventilation systems is also sporadic depending on level of unit activity, averaging two hours per week. Normal operating hours are generally 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The only noise outside those hours would come from the HVAC system operation.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The 305-B unit is currently used to store dangerous wastes under a grant of interim status from U.S. EPA and Ecology. The 300 Area in general is used for numerous activities of DOE-RL and its contractors, Westinghouse Hanford Company and PNL. PNL activities at the 300 Area are research oriented.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No portion of the Hanford Site has been used for production of food crops since the U.S. Government acquired it in 1943.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The 305-B unit building is described fully in the Part B permit application submitted to Ecology. It is a concrete and steel building dating from the early 1950s and expanded and modified in 1981. Numerous other buildings surround it, of varying construction and vintages.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished under this project.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The 300 Area is not part of any local governmental jurisdiction and is not zoned.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The 300 Area is not part of any local governmental jurisdiction and is not shown on current comprehensive plans.

g. If applicable, what is the current master shoreline program designation of the site?

Not applicable

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No part of the 300 Area has been classified as "environmentally sensitive."

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No one resides at the unit. Eight full-time workers are employed at the unit. This would not change under the proposal.

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j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The project has been reviewed and approved by DOE-RL, owner and operator of the unit and the site. The project is fully compatible with other 300 Area operations, which have been active on since 1943.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing.

None

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structures are proposed to be constructed or undergo exterior modification as a result of this project.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

None in the 300 Area; fishing and boating are found on the Columbia River, 1/2 mile to the east of the 305-B unit.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any?

None

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None

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- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The 300 Area, in general, is accessed from Stevens Drive or George Washington Way, which are maintained by the Federal Government but are publicly accessible. Access to the 300 Area is controlled and all streets within the area are DOE owned and operated. Site layout and access routes are shown on the maps included in the Part B permit application.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No; the site is not publicly accessible. Nearest transit stop is located at Stevens Drive and Saint Street, which is approximately five miles south of the Cypress Street gate to the 300 Area.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

None

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Approximately five vehicle trips per day occur at the unit by vehicles using the unit for delivery or pickup of dangerous wastes. Peak volumes, if any, would be variable depending on waste generation and other factors external to the unit (such as transporter or disposal site availability).

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

None

16. Utilities

- a. List utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, and sanitary sewer are all available at the 305-B unit.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

**SIGNATURES**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of our knowledge. We understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.



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R. D. Izatt, Program Manager  
Office of Environmental Assurance,  
Permits and Policy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Field Office  
Owner/Operator

4/3/92

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Date



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T. D. Chikalla, Director  
Facilities and Operations  
Pacific Northwest Laboratory  
Co-operator

3-19-92

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Date

