



Tri-Party Agreement

Focus Sheet

Environmental Restoration Program Implementation Plan for Hanford's 200 Areas Waste Sites

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

This focus sheet describes an implementation plan to assess and remediate Environmental Restoration Program soil waste sites (approximately 700 soil waste sites) located in the 200 Areas of the Hanford Site (*). These soil waste sites are potentially contaminated as a result of nuclear fuel processing and associated waste management operations, and may potentially present risk to human health and the environment. Implementation of the assessment includes two steps: 1) characterizing the nature and extent of the contamination, and 2) evaluating clean up alternatives. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the Tri-Parties) are seeking public comment on the draft *200 Area Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Implementation Plan—Environmental Restoration Program* (DOE-RL-98-28) called the "Implementation Plan."

(* While the Environmental Restoration 200 Areas Project is a core project in the groundwater/vadose zone integration effort, the Implementation Plan does not prescribe clean up for the waste storage tank farms in the 200 Area, tank leakage to vadose zone, other waste management programs, decontamination and decommissioning of facilities or buildings, and previously contaminated groundwater.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments on the Implementation Plan will be accepted from November 30, 1998 to January 14, 1999.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the Tri-Parties) are seeking public comment on the proposed Implementation Plan. Although there are no statutory or regulatory requirements for public review of the Implementation Plan, the Tri-Parties are seeking public input on the plan.

The 200 Areas Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Implementation Plan-Environmental Restoration Program document is also available at WWW.BHI-ERC.com/200Area/200Area.HTM, or may be reviewed at the public information repository located nearest you.

To request copies of the document, or to submit comments, either written or electronically, please contact:

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**Or call Hanford Cleanup Toll-free,
1-800-321-2008**

SITE BACKGROUND

The 200 Areas are located at the center of the Hanford Site (see map). Starting in 1943 and continuing for almost 50 years, facilities in the 200 Areas were used to separate uranium and plutonium out of irradiated nuclear fuel that was generated

during operation of the reactors. In the process, radioactive and chemical wastes were discharged to the soil or buried in the ground around the facilities causing the soil to become contaminated.

The Implementation Plan outlines the assessment and the clean up approach and provides background information for the Environmental Restoration Program waste sites (including associated structures and soils) that became contaminated during the fuel separation process. The Implementation Plan also serves as the basis for future group-specific work plans that will provide more detailed planning for individual waste site groups.

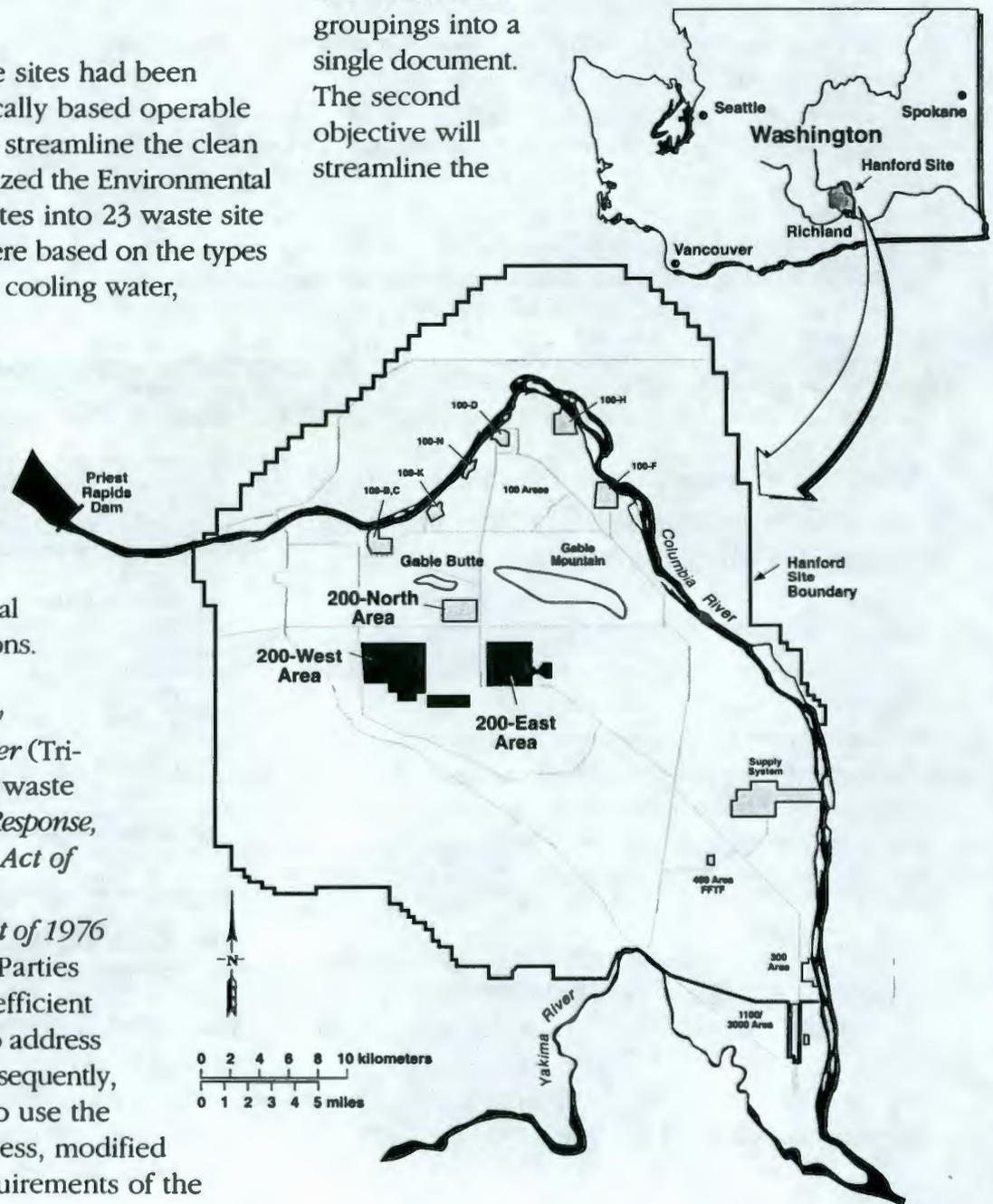
Approximately 700 soil waste sites had been organized into 32 geographically based operable units for characterization. To streamline the clean up effort, the Tri-Parties organized the Environmental Restoration Program waste sites into 23 waste site groupings. The groupings were based on the types of discharge (e.g. solid waste, cooling water, uranium-rich waste) and waste site types (e.g., pond, crib, burial ground). The Tri-Parties plan to use information collected from limited/select waste sites that are representative of the waste groups, as well as all Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Units, to make clean up decisions.

The *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (Tri-Party Agreement) designates waste sites as either *Comprehensive Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* (CERCLA) or *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976* (RCRA) waste sites. The Tri-Parties agree that it would be most efficient to follow an integrated path to address the regulatory authorities. Consequently, the Tri-Parties are planning to use the CERCLA documentation process, modified to incorporate additional requirements of the

RCRA process, to document the assessment and evaluation of clean up alternatives, and eventual clean up decisions.

OBJECTIVES OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The two primary objectives of the Implementation Plan are to 1) describe the overall regulatory and technical approach for the assessment phase of clean up, and 2) collect common or generic information applicable to all waste site groupings into a single document. The second objective will streamline the



assessment phase by avoiding the need to repeat the information in group-specific work plans. These objectives will be met by including the following information:

- ▲ A description of the CERCLA, RCRA, and Tri-Party Agreement programmatic and regulatory requirements and how the requirements will be integrated for the 200 Areas clean up effort.
- ▲ Summaries of the physical setting and operational history of the 200 Areas supported by detailed information that will not be repeated in group-specific work plans.
- ▲ A summary of the rationale for the grouping of waste sites that supports the analogous site approach.
- ▲ A list of the potential federal and state laws and regulations that may apply to the 200 Areas and establish the basis for determining the remedial actions that will be protective of human health and the environment.
- ▲ A general conceptual exposure model that supports the 200 Areas objectives to address the suspected contaminants and anticipated land uses.
- ▲ A discussion of the graded approach to risk assessment.
- ▲ Development of preliminary remedial action objectives and clean up goals that serve as the basis for group-specific clean up goals.
- ▲ A summary of the process that defines the quality of the characterization data required to support the project.
- ▲ A discussion of the project management approach that describes the interface with other programs and agencies, the integrated schedule, and public participation.

- ▲ Use of quality assurance, health and safety, data management, and waste management plans to guide the characterization and clean up work.
- ▲ Identification of preliminary clean up alternatives.

PATH FORWARD

After completing public review and resolving comments on the Implementation Plan, development will begin on Group-Specific Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plans for each waste site group. These group-specific work plans will define the characterization and evaluation work. The Implementation Plan provides much of the background information that is common to all waste site groups, and will be used as a reference for the individual group-specific work plans. The group-specific work plans will focus on specific information that is unique to the waste site group.

Supporting Documents

Other documents that support the draft 200 Areas Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Implementation Plan - Environmental Restoration Program:

- ▲ 200 Areas Soil Remediation Strategy-Environmental Restoration Program (DOE-RL-96-67) - describes how the waste site groupings will streamline the characterization process.
- ▲ Waste Site Grouping for 200 Areas Soil Investigations (DOE-RL-96-81) - establishes the various groups, assigns the environmental restoration soil waste sites to the 23 waste groups, and identifies representative waste sites.

Hanford Public Information Repository Locations:

PORTLAND

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
Tri-Party Information Repository
934 SW Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690
Attn: Michael Bowman

SEATTLE

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

RICHLAND

U.S. Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information
Center, Room 101L
2770 University Drive
(509) 372-7443
Attn: Terri Traub

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