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From: Williams, Tanya [tawi461@ECY.WA.GOV]
 Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 7:32 AM
 To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
 Subject: Advance Notice: Air Operating Permit Public Comment Period and Hearing

This message is from the Washington State Department of Ecology

**Advance Notice
 Public Comment Period and Hearing**

Hanford Site Air Operating Permit Renewal

July 10 through August 11, 2006

**Hearing
 July 26, 2006
 7 p.m.
 Nuclear Waste Program
 3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
 Richland, WA 99354**

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The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the Hanford Site draft Title V Air Operating Permit (AOP). The AOP regulates air emissions on the Hanford Site. The current permit will expire this year and is up for renewal. The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) submitted an application for permit renewal, and Ecology has prepared a draft permit.

The public comment period will run from July 10 through August 11, 2006. The permit holder is the U.S. Department of Energy – Richland Operations Office, PO Box 550, Richland, WA 99352.

About the Permit

Congress amended the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) in 1990 by creating AOPs for industrial sources of air pollution (codified in Title V of the CAA). Before then, emissions regulations were scattered throughout the CAA. An AOP brought all applicable requirements into one document.

In 1991, the Washington State Legislature updated the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94) to make it consistent with these changes. In 1993, Ecology developed Washington's AOP regulation (WAC 173-401) to comply with federal regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted the state the authority to implement the AOP regulations in November 1994. The Hanford Title V AOP was first issued in June 2001, for a 5-year period from July 2, 2001 to July 1, 2006.

Three regulatory agencies administer the Hanford AOP. Ecology regulates the nonradioactive criterion and toxic air emissions. The Washington State Department of Health (Health) regulates all radioactive air emissions. The Benton Clean Air Authority (BCAA) administers outdoor burning and asbestos handling.

Renewal Process

WAC 173-401 requires all AOPs be renewed every five years. In 2005, USDOE submitted the renewal application and supporting materials for agency review. The current permit remains in effect during permit renewal.

The regulating agencies reviewed the renewal application, and Ecology prepared a draft permit. The public may review and comment on the draft permit during a 30-day public comment period from July 10 through August 11, 2006.

After the public comment period, Ecology will consider comments and issue a responsiveness summary. The responsiveness summary will detail how comments affect the preparation of the proposed AOP. Then, Ecology will submit the proposed AOP to EPA for a 45-day review. Following this review, Ecology will issue the final permit. At that time, the public has 60 days to contest the permit.

During the comment period, review the draft permit and related materials online at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm or at one of the information repositories.

For more information, please contact Tanya Williams, tawi461@ecy.wa.gov, 509-372-7883.