

For Your Information...

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Issues
Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)
For USDOE Hanford 300 Area, 300-FF-1 Operable Unit**

EPA has issued an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) that approves site-specific treatment variance for the 300 Area, 300-FF-1 Operable Unit (OU) located on the Hanford Site.

During cleanup of the 300-FF-1 OU, unexpected lead contamination was encountered in the soil at a waste site. The lead-contaminated soil also contains debris that is not contaminated with lead but may be radioactively contaminated. The lead contamination is in a form and quantity that has caused the soil to be classified as *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) hazardous waste that is also subject to land disposal restriction requirements. The 1996 record of decision (ROD) that governs cleanup of the 300-FF-1 OU selected a remedy consisting of excavation of contaminated soil and debris from the waste sites and subsequent disposal in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). The ROD also specified that any wastes not meeting the land disposal restriction criteria, as defined by RCRA, would require treatment or a treatment variance prior to land disposal at the ERDF.

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EPA, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Washington State Department of Ecology concur that an ESD is the appropriate method to document this change to the selected remedy in accordance with *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* (CERCLA). The change will reduce cleanup cost and complexity, while maintaining protection for human health and the environment.

Additional information supporting this explanation of significant difference may be reviewed at the following Information Repositories:

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Phone: (503) 725-3690

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library Government Publications
Attn: Eleanor Chase
Phone: (206) 543-1937

Richland
U.S. Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Washington State University
2770 University Drive
CIC Room 101L
Attn: Terri Traub
Phone: (509) 372-7443

Spokane
Gonzaga University Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Attn: Connie Scarpelli
Phone: (509) 323-3839

In addition, other detailed information concerning this proposal is also available at the Washington State University, Tri-Cities location. If you have any questions about the Explanation of Significant Difference, please contact:

Dave Einan
U.S. EPA Project Manager
712-Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352
(509) 376-3883
David.Einan@epa.gov

Bob McLeod
U.S. Department of Energy Project Manager
3350 George Washington Way
Richland, Washington 99352
(509) 372-0096
Robert_G_Bob_McLeod@rl.gov

People with impaired hearing or speech may contact EPA's telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (TDD) at (206) 553-1698. To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers listed above.

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