



# Cleanup Along the River... What Does that Mean?

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

**Hanford Site cleanup at the 100 Area is the topic of a workshop to be held at Cavanaugh's in Kennewick on February 10, 1999, starting at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the major environmental laws that set the framework for cleanup and to explore in detail the actual exposure scenario used to develop the cleanup standards for Hanford's 100 Area.**

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology [Ecology]) recently completed public comment on a cleanup plan (*Proposed Plan for Interim Remedial Actions at the 100 Area Remaining Sites, DOE/RL-97-83*) for several hundred soil waste sites in the 100 Area of the Hanford Site. The public supported the cleanup approach; however, several citizens advised the agencies to explain what cleanup of the 100 Area really means. 49914

## SITE BACKGROUND

The 100 Area of the Hanford Site is located along the banks of the Columbia River and includes nine inactive nuclear reactors used for plutonium production between 1943 and 1987. During the production era, large amounts of contaminated cooling water were discharged into the soil column. The soil column was used to filter the cooling water before the water reached the Columbia River. The results of these past disposal practices have left several hundred contaminated waste sites in the 100 Area. In addition, many other sites in the 100 Area contain failed contaminated equipment from reactor operations, which also require cleanup to protect human health and the environment.

One of the key issues regarding site cleanup is the intended future use of the 100 Area sites following cleanup. To help the agencies with this key issue, a group of citizens was convened in 1992 to help develop potential future uses of the Hanford Site, including the 100 Area. The recommendation for the 100 Area was that cleanup should be conducted as to not preclude any potential future use. In 1995, a Superfund Record of Decision (ROD) was issued which established the cleanup framework for the 100 Area. The ROD specified cleanup levels that would need to be achieved so as not to preclude any future use.

The ROD specified that soil from waste sites would be removed and disposed of at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility located on the Hanford Site central plateau. A rural/residential (family farm) exposure scenario was specified in the ROD to develop cleanup levels. Several large 100 Area waste sites were cleaned up to meet this exposure scenario. In addition, the 100 Area Remaining Sites Cleanup Plan proposed using the same cleanup levels and exposure scenario as the first ROD.

**We encourage you to attend the informational workshop on:**

**Hanford's 100 Area Cleanup  
February 10, 1999  
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Cavanaugh's (Ballroom 1)  
1101 North Columbia Center Blvd.  
Kennewick, WA 99336**

*For more information, please contact  
Dennis Faulk, EPA, at 509-376-8631,  
or call the Hanford Clean Up Toll-free Line at  
1-800-321-2008.*

## WORKSHOP TOPICS

Because several of the waste sites have already been cleaned up as required by the ROD, the agencies and several members of the public thought it would be beneficial to discuss how the cleanup is being conducted and what has been discovered while cleaning the sites.

The major focus of the workshop will be on how the cleanup standards were set using the EPA guidance of 15 millirem above background and the use of the State of Washington cleanup law the Model Toxics Control Act. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) will soon set a State-wide standard for radioactive cleanup. The DOH will discuss the proposed standard and how it relates

to the 15 millirem standard that the Tri-Parties are currently using. Ecology will discuss the Model Toxics Control Act requirements and how they are being implemented in the 100 Area cleanup.

The Tri-Party agencies will be available to discuss what the rural/residential exposure scenario means, and will discuss those items in the scenario that are particularly sensitive and tend to drive the amount of cleanup required. In addition, the Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe have been invited to share their perspective on the cleanup.

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