



Tri-Party Agreement

PUBLIC NOTICE-----REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

This focus sheet is directed to anyone who may be interested in reviewing the cleanup options being proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) on the Riverland Rail Wash Expedited Response Action. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) have regulatory oversight for this project. EPA is the lead regulatory agency on the Riverland Expedited Response Action.

The public comment period will begin May 3 and end June 1.

All three agencies will consider all comments before making a final decision on this Expedited Response Action. It should be noted, the public comment period is being performed at the same time EPA and Ecology will review the document. This concurrent review is being initiated in an effort to inform and involve the public earlier in the decision-making process.

The Riverland Expedited Response Action began to determine contamination levels and cleanup options for the 100-IU-1 operable unit. The Riverland site is a 13 square mile area west of Highway 240 and north of Highway 24 in the northwest corner of the Hanford Site. It operated from 1943 to 1957 and contained a large rail yard where rail cars were maintained, cleaned, and decontaminated. The rail car maintenance shop included maintenance pits where the rail cars were radiologically decontaminated. The operable unit also includes two anti-aircraft gun emplacements, a commercial fish farm, military exercise positions, and several homesteads.

In 1963, the rail yard and anti-aircraft facilities were demolished, cleaned up, and the sites decommissioned. However, the extent of cleanup was not known. Field activities conducted in October 1992 identified diesel fuel and pesticide contamination which will require cleanup. In addition, The USDOE will clean up any hazards associated with the 100-IU-1 operable unit.

Four alternatives were developed that met the intent of the Expedited Response Action guidance. This includes consideration of a no-action alternative in addition to other Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis proposed alternatives. The alternatives are detailed below:

1. No Action Alternative

The no action alternative will leave the operable unit as it is. This alternative is not acceptable, as sampling data indicate cleanup actions must be taken to remove diesel fuel and pesticide contamination.

2. Operable Unit Cleanup Action Laser Alternative

Cleanup activities will include: cleanup of the pesticide contaminated area, cleanup of diesel contamination at the rail car maintenance shop using laser technology to remove diesel contamination from concrete and landfarming

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for organic compounds, a munitions survey for any remaining ammunition left over from cold war defense activities, and a general cleanup to remove physical hazards.

3. Hazardous Waste Removal and Off Site Disposal Alternative

This alternative calls for removal of all of the hazardous waste located in the operable unit and shipping the hazardous waste to an offsite disposal facility. A munitions survey and landlord cleanup will also occur under this alternative.

4. Operable Unit Cleanup Action Sand Blasting Alternative

Cleanup activities included under this alternative involves the same actions to be taken as alternative 2 with the exception of the laser technology for cleaning diesel from the contaminated concrete. In place of the laser, conventional sandblasting would be used.

Recommended Alternative

USDOE recommends alternative 4 as the preferred cleanup. Completion of this alternative may allow the issuance of a no action record of decision, potentially allowing release of 13 square miles for other uses.

Agency Contacts

To review the Riverland Expedited Response Action Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, please visit the public information repository nearest to your location.

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For more information or to submit written comments contact Dennis Faulk, USEPA, 712 Swift Suite 5, Richland, Washington 99352. (509) 376-8631. USDOE and Ecology contacts for the Riverland Expedited Response Action are Paul Pak, USDOE (509) 376-4798; Jack Donnelly, Ecology (509)736-3013; or call the Hanford Cleanup toll-free number at 1-800-321-2008.

