



# Focus

0051822

## Proposed Modifications to the Hanford Facility-Wide RCRA Permit

### Background

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a Dangerous Waste RCRA Permit (permit) for the Hanford Facility in August 1994. The permit was granted under provisions of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations. The permit outlines standard and general facility conditions, as well as unit-specific conditions for the operation, closure, and post-closure of individual mixed- or dangerous-waste treatment, storage, and/or disposal (TSD) units at Hanford.

The permit is modified annually to incorporate newly permitted units, reflect Class 1/2/3 modifications, and include minor changes in grammar, consistency, and presentation. The Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations, WAC 173-303-830, describe the types of permit changes that may be made to permits issued by Ecology.

Approximately 50 TSD units at Hanford are operating under RCRA interim status. Two of the units described in this focus sheet will be incorporated into the permit, transferring them from interim status to final status. After incorporating individual units into the permit, general conditions apply. In addition, individual units will be subject to conditions based on their status as operating, undergoing closure, or in post-closure.

Conditions of the Hanford Facility RCRA Permit are presented in six parts:

- ✓ Standard Conditions (Part I)
- ✓ General Facility Conditions (Part II)
- ✓ Unit-Specific Conditions for Final Status Operations (Part III)
- ✓ Corrective Actions for Past Practices (Part IV)
- ✓ Unit-Specific Conditions for Units Undergoing Closure (Part V)
- ✓ Unit-Specific Conditions for Units in Post-Closure (Part VI)



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## **Proposed Modifications to the Hanford Facility RCRA Permit**

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Proposed modifications to the permit for 1999 include:

### ***Permitting two operating units (Part III):***

- ✓ **The Waste Receiving and Processing (WRAP) Facility**  
The WRAP facility, located in the 200 West Area, is being permitted to receive previously packaged dangerous and mixed (radioactive and dangerous) waste containers. WRAP receives, confirms, treats, certifies/repackages, and/or stores dangerous, mixed, and radioactive wastes. Waste is received from both onsite and offsite waste generators. Containers from WRAP will be sent to other permitted facilities for further treatment and/or disposal of the waste.
- ✓ **Central Waste Complex (CWC)**  
The CWC, located in the 200 West Area, is being permitted for storage and treatment of dangerous- and mixed-waste containers. Treatment includes solidifying free liquids, neutralizing corrosive materials, and stabilizing solid wastes. CWC consists of several waste-storage buildings, flammable and alkali metal-waste storage modules, a waste storage pad, and a waste receiving and staging area. Waste is received from both onsite and offsite waste generators. Containers from CWC will be sent to other permitted facilities for further treatment and/or disposal of the waste.

**NOTE:** The WRAP Facility and CWC were included as units in the proposed modifications to the permit for 1998. Ecology received 169 comments during the public involvement process on the WRAP Facility and CWC. As a result of the overwhelming public response to this issue, Ecology decided to withdraw conditions for these units during the 1998 permit-modification cycle and to further review the comments received. The proposed conditions to the 1999 permit for WRAP and CWC reflect Ecology's review of the comments received.

### ***Modifying one existing operating unit (Part III):***

- ✓ **The 616 Non-Radioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility (616 NRDWSF),** located in the 200 West Area, is an inactive unit previously permitted for storing dangerous waste shipped to offsite commercial treatment or disposal facilities. Conditions are being proposed for closing the unit in fiscal year 2000.

### ***Approving two units for closure (Part V):***

- ✓ **The 300-Area Waste Acid Treatment System (300 WATS)** is a tank system that was used to treat and store non-recoverable uranium-bearing waste acid from reactor-fuel fabrication operations. The structures above ground have been cleaned and closed. The soil beneath the 300 WATS is to be cleaned in conjunction with the 300-FF-2 remedial action being conducted under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Responses Compensations and Liability Act

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(CERCLA) and overseen by EPA. The 300 WATS is being added to the permit as a "modified closure," which reflects the need for further action before RCRA closure can be completed.

- ✓ The 2401-W Waste storage building is a pre-engineered steel structure, previously used for dangerous, mixed, radioactive, and/or toxic waste, as defined in the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). This building is located in the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site and currently is considered part of the Central Waste Complex (CWC). When this permit modification is completed, 2401-W will no longer be part of the CWC.

***Transferring Corrective Action Conditions from the Federal to the State Portion of the Permit (Part IV)***

- ✓ Within the next month Ecology plans to propose to modify the Permit to transfer conditions for corrective action from the Federally-issued portion of the Permit to the State-issued portion of the Permit. This proposed modification will have a separate public comment period and be the subject of separate FOCUS and Fact Sheets. Comments on this issue will be taken in conjunction with the public hearing on November 9, 1999.

**How can you get involved?**

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A 60-day public-comment period for the 1999 proposed modifications begins on October 4, 1999, and ends on December 6, 1999. A public hearing will held on November 9, 1999, at 7 p.m. at Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Office, 1315 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kennewick, Washington. All comments received during the public-comment period will be considered and responded to before final decisions are made on the proposed conditions.

Copies of the Dangerous Waste RCRA Permit for the Hanford Facility and the proposed 1999 modifications are available for review at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below. For additional information, call Hanford Cleanup toll-free at 800-321-2008.

**HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

**Portland**

Portland State University  
Branford Price Millar Library  
934 SW Harrison and Park  
Portland, Or 97207  
(503) 725-3690  
Attn: Michael Bowman/Jocelyn Kramer  
E-mail: [bowman@lib.pdx.edu](mailto:bowman@lib.pdx.edu)

**Richland**

Public Reading Room  
2770 University Drive  
Consolidated Information Center, Rm 101L  
Richland, WA 99352  
(509) 372-7443  
Attn: Terri Traub  
E-mail: [reading\\_room@pnl.gov](mailto:reading_room@pnl.gov)

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**Spokane**  
Gonzaga University  
Foley Center  
East 502 Boone  
Spokane, WA 99258  
(509) 323-3839  
Attn: Connie Scarppelli  
E-mail: [carter@its.gonzaga.edu](mailto:carter@its.gonzaga.edu)

**Seattle**  
University of Washington Suzallo Library  
Government Publication Division  
Seattle, WA 98195  
(206) 543-4664  
Attn: Eleanor Chase  
E-mail: [echase@u.washington.edu](mailto:echase@u.washington.edu)  
Public Service: (206) 543-1937

**WORLD WIDE WEB**

This document is also available on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.hanford.gov/boards/nrtc/index.html>

If you have special accommodation needs, please contact Lori Guertin,  
Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program, at (509) 736-3007 (voice) or  
(360) 407-6006 (TDD).

