Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order

2012

Hanford Public Involvement Plan

Tri-Party Agreement

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

Hanford (MSP ver 1.0)

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PREFACE

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) – work together to make decisions about cleanup at the Hanford Site. DOE is the federal agency responsible for cleaning up the site. EPA and Ecology provide regulatory oversight for Hanford Site cleanup. The public also plays a vital role in Hanford cleanup decision making. The TPA agencies understand that for decisions to have overall acceptance from stakeholders, other organizations and the public, it is important they be provided the opportunity to voice their values and concerns early in the process.

The purpose of the Hanford Public Involvement Plan is to serve as the overall guidance document for public participation and outreach activities at the Hanford Site. This document is organized into the following sections.

Introduction: Addresses basic questions about Hanford and the TPA agencies.

Section 1: Discusses the importance of public involvement and sets goals for public involvement at Hanford. This section also addresses public notices, public comment periods, public meetings and hearings. The section ends with discussion of the public involvement evaluation process, Hanford Speakers Bureau, and Hanford Site Tours.

Section 2: Describes Hanford decision-making processes. These processes include making changes to the TPA and cleanup decisions made under federal and state regulations.

Section 3: Identifies information resources such as mailing lists, email, public involvement calendars, and websites.

Section 4: Identifies other groups involved in Hanford cleanup issues and decisions.

Section 5: Provides information on the history of Hanford and describes current cleanup activities.

Public involvement has influenced and continues to influence Hanford cleanup decisions. For example, the focus on cleanup along the Columbia River and groundwater remediation are a direct result of the public voicing their values and concerns.

The TPA agencies thank those individuals and organizations that dedicate time and effort to being involved in Hanford cleanup decisions.

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INTRODUCTION

What is Hanford?

Hanford is a 586-square-mile site in southeastern Washington created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The government eventually built nine nuclear reactors along the banks of the Columbia River as the defense mission continued throughout the Cold War years.

The weapons material production mission ended in the late 1980s, and Hanford's mission shifted from nuclear material production to environmental cleanup. More than 40 years of plutonium production led to hundreds of square miles of contaminated soil and groundwater, and millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste stored in underground tanks.

Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at the Hanford Site. Completing Hanford's cleanup will take many more decades and will require the sustained investment of significant resources. It will also require a continued open and informed dialogue among decision-makers, Hanford stakeholders, and the public. Figure 1 is a map of the site.

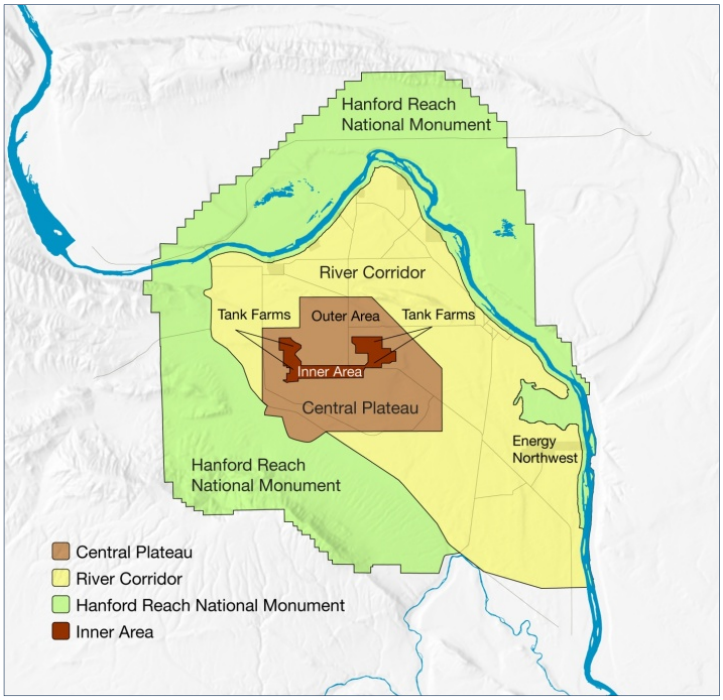


Figure 1. Hanford Site (586 Square-miles)

Who's Who at Hanford?

The DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) and the Office of River Protection (ORP) manage and operate the Hanford Site. RL is responsible for cleanup of the areas along the Columbia River and in the central part of the site, as well as managing the site's infrastructure and security. ORP manages Hanford's tank waste retrieval, treatment, and disposal project, DOE's largest, most complex environmental cleanup project. ORP's mission is to safely retrieve and treat tank waste, and close the tank farms to protect the Columbia River.

Ecology and the EPA regulate DOE's activities at the Hanford Site. The regulatory agencies divide responsibility for oversight of different aspects of Hanford Site cleanup.

Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program is responsible for oversight of tank waste treatment and storage, waste management activities, and implementation of the state's cleanup regulations. EPA has lead oversight for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) cleanup activities. Ecology also provides oversight of selected CERCLA cleanup activities.

At the Hanford Site, DOE, Ecology, and EPA are collectively known as the TPA agencies.

What is the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA)?

The TPA agencies signed the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, also known as the TPA, in 1989. This agreement provides the legal framework for Hanford cleanup and schedules for bringing Hanford into compliance with hazardous waste environmental laws.

The TPA is a legally binding agreement made up of an action plan that includes milestones, or deadlines, for specific compliance and cleanup actions to be completed. Additionally, each major milestone series includes interim milestones guiding cleanup activities through the course of the project.

More specifically, the TPA does the following:

- Establishes and prioritizes regulatory cleanup commitments.
- Establishes enforceable milestones for completing work.
- Provides a basis for budget requests and requirements for seeking necessary funding.

The TPA consists of two main documents.

- The Legal Agreement describes the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the TPA agencies in the cleanup, compliance, and permitting processes. It also sets up dispute resolution processes and describes how the TPA is enforced.
- The Action Plan describes the cleanup and permitting efforts and roles of regulatory agencies. It includes milestones (schedules) for completing work. The milestones also known as the work schedules are in Appendix D of the TPA.

The TPA also provides a general description of public involvement activities, and references a community relations plan, which is this document, that must be developed under CERCLA and describes how the public will be informed and involved through the cleanup process.

The TPA is a living document. As Hanford cleanup continues and better information becomes available, the TPA agencies revise cleanup schedules. The original TPA had 161 enforceable milestones and target dates. Today it has more than 1,500 milestones and target dates.

Any of the TPA agencies can request changes to the TPA. The TPA provides a process for approving proposed changes and for resolving disputes. In addition, a public participation process must be followed prior to significant changes being made.

SECTION 1. THE HANFORD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

What is the Hanford Public Involvement Plan?

This Plan, the Hanford Public Involvement Plan, (formerly known as the Community Relations Plan) describes public participation processes at Hanford. It identifies ways the public can participate in Hanford cleanup decision-making processes. It also fulfills applicable state and federal laws (National Contingency Plan, 300.430(c)) for development of a community relations plan.

In many cases, Hanford public involvement goes beyond what is required by law, because the TPA agencies encourage, and support public participation and believe it is essential to cleanup success. Public involvement and information activities are conducted collaboratively and independently by the TPA agencies.

While the Hanford Public Involvement Plan serves as the overall guidance document for public participation and outreach activities at the Hanford Site, it is important to note that no two public participation processes are the same. The types of public involvement activities will vary based on governing regulations and the scale of anticipated impacts and sensitivities.

This is the fifth revision of this document. The typical process for updating the Hanford Public Involvement Plan follows these steps.

First, the TPA agencies identify a need to update or revise the document.

Second, the TPA agencies work collaboratively to revise the document. If significant changes are proposed, the Hanford Public Involvement Plan will go out for public comment. During this time, the agencies may hold public meetings if there is a high level of public interest.

After the public comment period closes, the TPA agencies consider all comments received before finalizing the Hanford Public Involvement Plan.

Importance of Public Involvement

Hanford cleanup is one of the nation's largest and most complex environmental challenges. The TPA agencies recognize that people nationwide are concerned and affected by the Hanford Site. Public input on cleanup activities plays a vital role in decision-making processes.

Below are some of the key reasons why public involvement is important:

- It allows the agencies to consider public values and concerns before making a decision.
- If the public is not informed or involved early in the process, they may have reason to doubt, criticize, or challenge cleanup decisions.
- A well-informed public can help maintain support for Hanford cleanup.

Goals of Public Involvement

Successful public involvement occurs when the community has early and meaningful involvement in significant cleanup decisions. This allows the public an opportunity to influence decision-making to help ensure that decisions are responsive to public values and concerns. Goals of public involvement are to:

- Engage the public by providing timely, accurate, understandable and accessible information.
- Ensure open and transparent decision-making.
- Consider public values in the decision-making process.
- Educate young people for informed engagement and participation.

Public Notification Process

Public comment periods, meetings, hearings, and workshops are shown in the TPA Public Involvement Calendar, available online at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm. People on the Hanford Site postal and email lists receive notices on significant public meetings, workshops, and public comment opportunities. Information on the Hanford mailing lists is provided on page 14 of this Plan.

In addition, other methods of announcing public participation opportunities may include:

- Social media sites
- Advertisements in regional and local newspapers
- Public service announcements on radio and television
- News releases, and
- Notices in the Federal Register

The TPA agencies work to notify stakeholders at least 30 to 45 days before the start of a public comment period or before a public meeting.

Public Notice

The TPA agencies work to design public notices that attract a wide range of participants and encourage them to become involved in a public comment period, attend a public meeting, or participate in a public process.

Notices will generally include:

- Clear descriptions of proposals
- Ways the public can get more information and become involved
- The time frame for a public comment period, and
- Meeting dates, times and locations (when applicable)

In the event that a cleanup plan uses a site specific risk assessment that would restrict future site land use, the public notice will identify key potential restrictions and other applicable requirements.

When possible, the TPA agencies will consider input on the design and content of notices from interested stakeholders in the area where a meeting or comment period will be held.

Different public participation activities may have different notification requirements as more than one set of regulations may apply to the proposed action or decision. In these instances, the TPA agencies will coordinate all requirements to be as comprehensive as possible.

When possible, the TPA agencies will consider combining public notices and opportunities for public comment on Hanford activities.

Public Comment Periods

Public comment periods will be determined in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. The requirement for and the length of public comment periods vary based on the regulations for the action. Typically, public comment periods are 30 or 45 days long. When requested, the TPA agencies will consider extending a public comment period.

Copies of documents available for public comment are sent to the TPA Administrative Record (AR) for that particular action and to Public Information Repositories (PIRs). The public can also access these documents and other supporting information electronically from the TPA AR at http://www5.hanford.gov/arpir/. Email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 to request copies of documents for public comment. Some copying fees may apply.

After a public comment period closes, the TPA agencies consider all comments received before finalizing the document or decision. The TPA agencies try to publish a Comment and Response document within 90 days after the public comment period closes. If delays occur due to a large volume and/or the complexity of comments received, the public may be notified of the delay by mail or email.

The public will be notified through the Hanford email list once the document or decision is finalized. Final documents, milestone changes or decisions, and Comment and Response documents are available through the TPA AR.

Public Meetings

In an effort to provide broad and timely perspectives to the public on Hanford cleanup priorities and budget decisions, the TPA agencies regularly conduct public information meetings. To improve effectiveness and efficiency of these meetings, the TPA agencies use different outreach techniques to involve the public and try to provide information 30 to 45 days prior to a public meeting.

The TPA agencies assess public interest and areas of public concern regarding specific actions based on consultations with Tribal Nations, and discussions with State of Oregon representatives, the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), stakeholders, and interested members of the public. Based upon those interactions and regulatory requirements, the TPA agencies determine the need for a public meeting or other outreach forum.

The TPA agencies often provide opportunities for alternative viewpoints or local perspectives at TPA public involvement meetings. When appropriate, an open house is conducted before scheduled public involvement activities to encourage dialogue among TPA agency representatives, stakeholders, and the public.

If the TPA agencies determine public interest on an issue is minimal based on feedback and/or the number of requests received, they may conduct informational exchanges with interested stakeholders instead of holding formal public meetings if doing so is allowed by law.

The definitions of meeting and hearing vary slightly among the agencies involved in Hanford cleanup, but often are used interchangeably. In general, DOE and EPA use "meeting" where Ecology uses "hearing" to mean the same thing. The purpose of both is to obtain public testimony or comment on an upcoming decision.

Regardless of the term used, the TPA agencies work to ensure that public notices are clear on the purpose of public involvement activities. This applies whether it is a hearing or meeting on an upcoming decision where comments will be officially recorded, or something less formal like an open house, an informational workshop or a general information meeting not related to a specific decision.

Additional information on how to request a public meeting or hearing can be found in Appendix A.

Annual Hanford Budget Meeting

The process for requesting funding for Hanford cleanup involves action from the President and Congress. The local DOE offices (RL and ORP) create separate budget requests and submit them to DOE Headquarters. These requests are combined with those of other DOE offices and sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Early each February, the President presents a Federal Budget Proposal to Congress. Included in the President's budget is his recommendation to Congress for funding of federal agencies, including DOE and EPA. The House of Representatives and the Senate annually pass appropriations' bills funding the executive agencies and other branches of government for a given fiscal year. If appropriations bills are not passed by both houses of Congress and then signed by the President before a new fiscal year begins, continuing resolutions are passed and signed. Continuing resolutions allow the continuation of funding for government agencies for a specific period at the same level of funding or reduced levels of funding to ensure government programs continue until a budget is passed.

At least one public meeting is held in the spring to involve the public and stakeholders in RL and ORP budget formulations. This is a DOE commitment reflected in the TPA. Other meetings may be conducted at public meeting facilities (when available) in key cities in Washington and Oregon. An optional meeting in the fall may be conducted to further discuss and evaluate budget issues.

At these meetings, the TPA agencies discuss the impact of budget decisions and take public comment and questions on cleanup priorities, as well as outline any changes to Hanford cleanup objectives and decisions. One of the meetings may be conducted at the discretion of the TPA agencies in conjunction with a HAB meeting.

Tri-Party Agreement Quarterly Public Involvement Planning Meetings

The TPA Public Involvement staffs conduct a quarterly meeting to discuss current and future public involvement activities. These meetings are

open to the public. An email announcement is sent through the Hanford email list that identifies the meeting location and the call-in number.

Topics at these meetings may include:

- Current and upcoming public involvement activities
- Level and type of public involvement needed for activities
- Public outreach activities
- Feedback from previous public involvement activities and
- Review of the TPA Public Involvement Calendar, which is available at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm

Public Involvement Evaluation Process

Creating opportunities for the public to provide meaningful and useful input to Hanford Site decisions is ongoing. The TPA agencies work with the State of Oregon, HAB, stakeholders, and the interested public to improve the process of evaluating public involvement activities and events.

The TPA agencies strive to accomplish the following:

- Consider input on the design of public involvement activities.
- Publish effective advertisements and advance meeting notices that are easily understood.
- Develop creative and innovative ways to communicate meeting information.
- Ensure meeting locations are convenient, easily accessible and cost effective.
- Provide speakers who can communicate clearly and concisely and are sensitive to different views and opinions.
- Provide decision-makers who listen to comments and consider input to decisions.
- Provide timely feedback after meetings.

The evaluation process consists of two parts.

Part 1: Surveys are provided at TPA public meetings, workshops, and other events to gather timely feedback on the effectiveness of specific events and activities. The evaluations allow participants to rate the overall effectiveness of the event.

In addition, an annual survey is conducted to collect public feedback on the overall effectiveness of public involvement at Hanford.

Part 2: EPA and Ecology produce an annual summary of public involvement activities based on event surveys conducted throughout the year and the annual survey. The summary is made available early each calendar year.

The annual summary includes:

- A list and purpose of activities conducted during the evaluation period.
- Results of public involvement surveys conducted throughout the year.
- Any changes in public involvement activities implemented as a result of the surveys.

The Annual Report is available on Ecology's website www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp

Other Public Outreach Activities

The TPA agencies conduct other forms of public outreach in Washington and Oregon. Informal public outreach activities include focus groups, workshops, classroom visits, open houses, community events, and meetings with professional organizations, local governments and civic organizations.

Public outreach activities promote public awareness, education, and involvement on Hanford Site cleanup and compliance decisions.

Walla Walla Rotary Club thanks the DOE for speaking to their organization

Hanford Speakers Bureau Programs

DOE's Hanford Speakers Bureau program offers organizations and schools an opportunity to learn about Hanford's history, cleanup progress and challenges. Individuals from DOE, EPA, Ecology and/or the contractors are available to speak to an organization. To learn more about DOE's Hanford Speakers Bureau, call 509-376-6968, email HSB@rl.gov or visit www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSpeakersBureau

To request a speaker from Ecology or EPA, email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

Hanford Site Public Tours

DOE operates a popular public tours program on the Hanford Site. Tours provide an overview, beginning with the plutonium-production era and continuing through today's cleanup efforts.

The tours are free and available to members of the public who are at least 18 years old and a citizen of the U.S. All tour seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis through online registration. Tours are typically scheduled between April and September. Information is available at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSiteTours

Hanford B Reactor Tour

The B Reactor is a National Historic Landmark giving visitors the chance to walk through the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor. This is approximately a four-hour tour, with two hours allocated to the B Reactor itself. Participants must be at least 12 years old. Visitors between the ages of 12 and 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hanford's B Reactor

Public Participation Grants

EPA Technical Assistance Grants

CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund, is the federal government's program to clean up releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. Hanford currently has three Superfund sites. The EPA's Technical Assistance Grant program can provide funds to citizen groups affected by Superfund sites. These funds can be used by citizen groups to hire technical advisors to help them interpret and understand the complex technical materials produced as part of the Superfund process.

Grants can be up to $50,000 for the life of the project and require a local share contribution of 20 percent of the total program cost. The local share can be cash or in the form of in-kind services. Because Hanford now has three National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund sites, three Technical Assistant Grants are available. EPA has a Citizen's Guidance Manual and videos that explain the program and show how a grant can help the community participate in the Superfund process. For more information, please contact:

TAG Coordinator
U.S EPA Region 10
1200 6th Ave. Suite 900, ECO-081
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-1207

Washington State Public Participation Grants

Washington State Public Participation Grants are available across the state, including Hanford, for people who may be adversely affected by actual or potential hazardous substance releases. These grants are available to not-for-profit organizations to involve and educate Washington citizens about state environmental issues. For more information, please contact:

Public Participation Grants Officer
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
360-407-6061

For more information on Hanford Site Tours:

www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSiteTour

SECTION 2. HANFORD DECISION MAKING PROCESS

This section addresses decisions made within the scope of the TPA, Washington's Hazardous Waste Management Act (HWMA) and CERCLA, as applicable.

HWMA and its implementing regulations govern the management (treatment, storage, and disposal) of dangerous wastes to minimize threat to human health and the environment. These regulations provide "cradle-to-grave" (from waste generation to final disposal) controls by imposing management requirements on generators and transporters of dangerous wastes, and upon owners and operators of treatment, storage and disposal facilities that generate and manage dangerous wastes. The regulations also include requirements for corrective action for releases of dangerous waste and dangerous waste constituents.

CERCLA was designed to respond to situations involving the release or potential release of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. As such, it complements the HWMA, which regulates dangerous waste handling and disposal. CERCLA covers hazardous substances, including the radioactive constituents of the site cleanup program.

Changes to the Tri-Party Agreement

Decisions made through the TPA cover a wide range of issues. New information and advancing cleanup technologies require the need for periodic changes to the TPA.

The TPA agencies use a change request process diagramed in Figure 2 on page 11, which allows changes to the TPA cleanup and milestones by agreement or through the dispute resolution process. All milestone changes are documented in the TPA work schedule.

Any of the TPA agencies can initiate a proposed change, although as the one responsible for cleanup, DOE initiates most changes. Proposed wording or milestone changes can be modest or significant, but all must be for good cause.

The TPA agencies evaluate the significance of the proposed changes twice during the change request process. Each time, if they conclude the change is significant, they initiate public involvement. The first opportunity for public involvement is informal and allows stakeholders/interested public to clarify issues and offer suggestions (e.g., alternatives) to the agencies. The second opportunity focuses on the proposed TPA changes.

The TPA agencies may schedule public meetings to discuss the proposed change. The TPA agencies apply the following criteria to determine significance:

- The draft change could have substantial adverse impact on the environment.
- The draft change involves a major milestone.
- The draft change could have a significant impact on maintaining and fulfilling important Hanford Site cleanup and compliance objectives and TPA milestones.
- The draft change could have an impact on interested parties, including Tribal Nations, labor unions, the local community, or Hanford public interest groups.
- The draft change is subject to a law or regulation that stipulates public involvement.

A significant TPA change requires a 45-day public comment period. Before approving the change, the TPA agencies summarize, consider and respond to all public comments.

The TPA work schedule includes the major and interim milestones and associated target dates that support the accomplishment of milestones

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and HWMA – Related Decisions

RCRA was enacted by Congress in 1976 and is located at Title 42, United States Code starting at Sections 6901. It requires "cradle-to-grave" management of hazardous wastes by all generators, transporters, and owners/operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities that handle hazardous waste. A major goal of RCRA is to reduce the generation of hazardous waste.

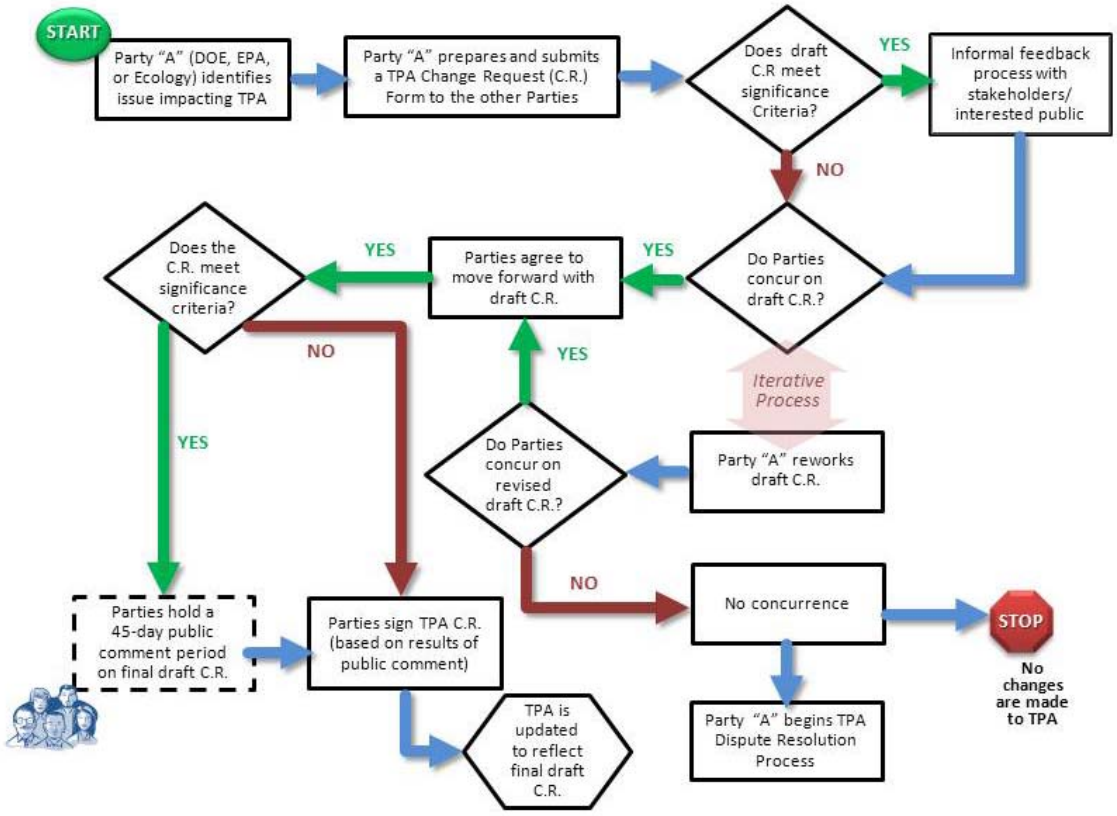


Figure 2. TPA Change Request Process

EPA has authorized Ecology's dangerous waste program to operate in lieu of the federal RCRA program for all elements of the federal program for which states are required to seek and obtain final authorization.

Washington State regulations for dangerous waste management are similar to RCRA regulations, but are more stringent in some cases.

Ecology has issued a dangerous waste permit for the Hanford Site. The "site-wide" permit contains general requirements applicable to the facility as a whole, as well as particular conditions authorizing the treatment, storage, and/or disposal of dangerous and mixed waste at individual Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) Units within Hanford.

The decision outline for this process is shown in Figure 3 on page 12. Draft permits require a minimum 45-day public comment period. Ecology considers all public comments before issuing the final permit.

A Response to Comments summary shows the public's comments, Ecology's responses, and changes to the permit as a result of public comment.

Washington's Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC 173-303-840(4)-(5)) state that a public hearing will be held when there is a significant degree of public interest in a permit and the director receives a request for a hearing. Requests must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing.

An individual may send a written request for a public hearing to the Director of the Department of Ecology at 3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA 99354 or to Hanford@ecy.wa.gov. Ecology's site-wide permit is modified frequently. The level of public involvement varies depending on the significance of the modification. For information about the different types of permit modifications and related opportunities for public involvement, see WAC 173-303-830 and WAC 173-303-840.

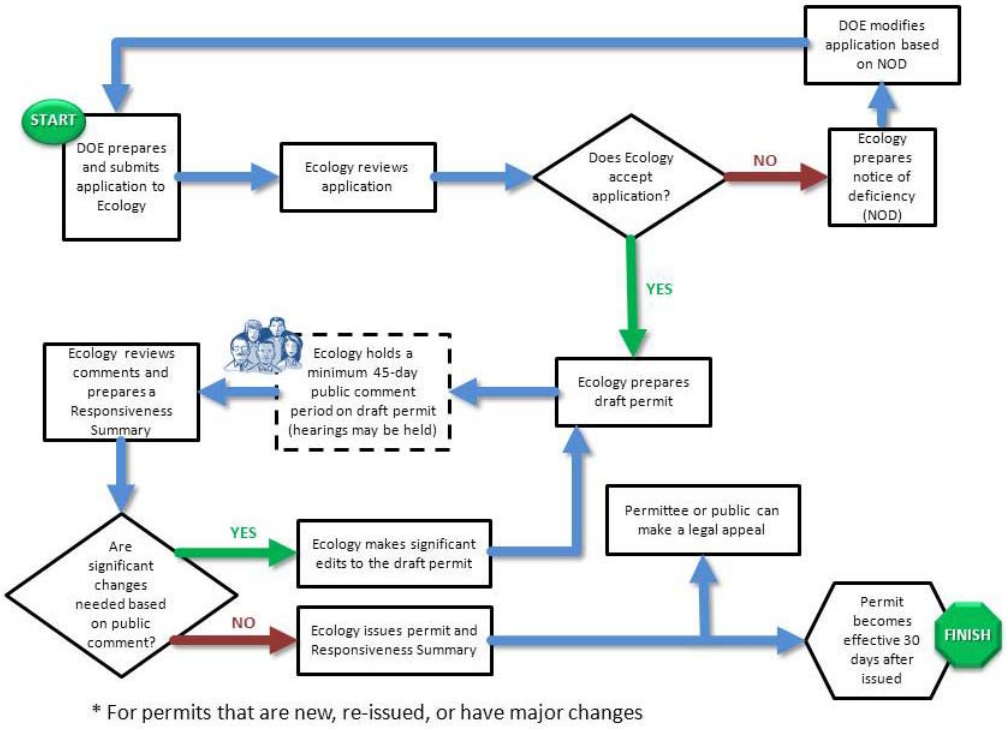


*Figure 3. Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit Issuance Process**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 Decisions

CERCLA is located at Title 42, United States Code, Sections 9601 to 9675. Under CERCLA, a plan is developed for remedial action of one or more operable units on which the public has an opportunity to comment. A preferred alternative for remediation is selected after a study of the characteristics of that site and evaluation of remedial alternatives. EPA or Ecology is assigned to be the lead regulatory agency for CERCLA cleanup sites at Hanford. However, final remedial action decisions, known as Records of Decision (RODs), must be approved by EPA. The decision process is defined under CERCLA and outlined in Figure 4 on page 13. Under CERCLA, the proposed cleanup plan must undergo a 30-day public comment period before a decision is made. A public meeting may be requested on the plan during the comment period at Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or by calling the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

Expedited Response Actions

In cases where it is necessary or appropriate to address a hazardous release or a potential release on an expedited schedule, the TPA agencies may use an Expedited Response Action process, also known as removal actions, to reach a quicker decision. At Hanford, Expedited Response Actions are sometimes used where timely action has resulted in overall cost effectiveness for cleanup. The decision process for an Expedited Response Action under CERCLA is shown in Figure 5 on page 13. In the event of a time-critical Expedited Response Action, no public comment period is provided before an action is taken.

There are two reasons for this:

1. Concerns about risks to human health and the environment require an expedited action; and
2. Time-critical Expedited Response Actions are only stop-gap measures taken to protect human health and the environment, and provide time to make a longer-term decision in which the public will be consulted.

For a non-time critical Expedited Response Action, a public comment period is held on an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis document that describes the cleanup actions being considered.

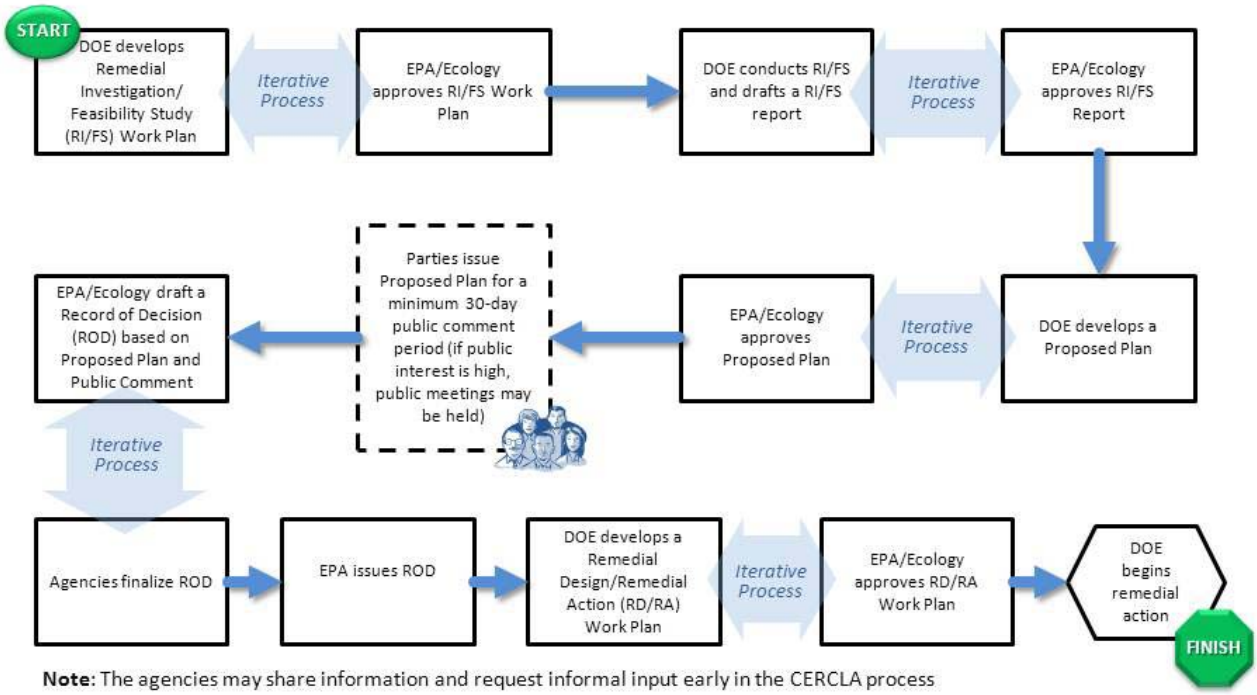


Figure 4. Tri-Party Agreement CERCLA Remedial Action Process

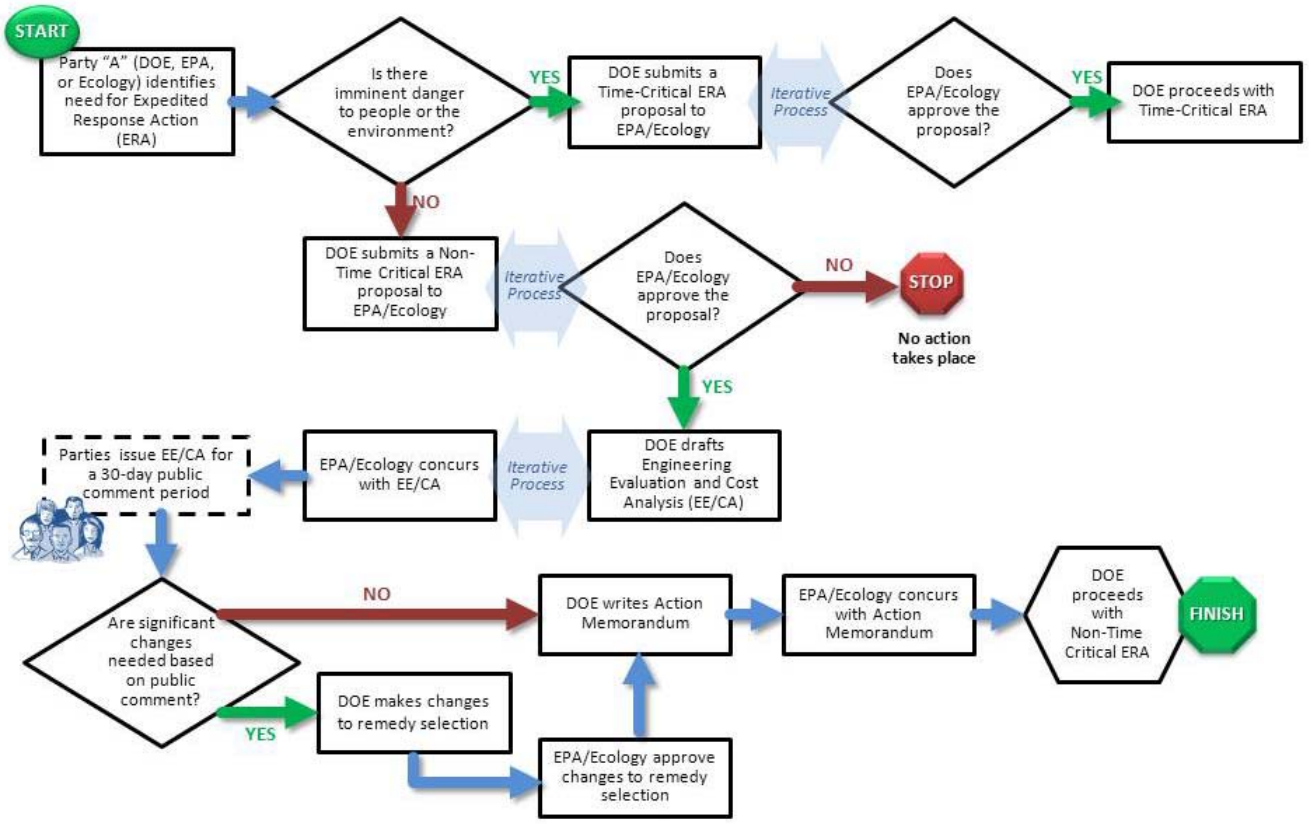


Figure 5. Tri-Party Agreement Expedited Response Action Decision Process (non-time critical)

SECTION 3. INFORMATION RESOURCES

The TPA agencies use a variety of communication tools. These are described in the following sections.

Mailing Lists

The TPA agencies maintain a mailing list for individuals who would like to receive information on Hanford activities. Mailings include postcards on upcoming public involvement activities, fact sheets, and meeting announcements.

Email List

The TPA agencies also maintain an email list, commonly referred to as the Hanford Listserv. Individuals on the email list receive notices on activities related to Hanford. These notices could include announcements of public comment periods, press releases, fact and focus sheets, and meeting announcements.

You can join the Hanford email list by visiting http://listserv.wa.gov and selecting the "Hanford Info" option from the list provided.

Publications

A continuing goal of the TPA agencies is to improve the readability of Hanford Site publications. These publications include fact and focus sheets, responsiveness summaries, comment and response documents, and other summary publications. The TPA agencies believe providing accurate, up-to-date information is fundamental for active public participation in TPA decisions.

*To join a mailing list, email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at **1-800-321-2008***

Tri-Party Agreement Public Involvement Calendar

The TPA Public Involvement Calendar is updated regularly and provides the dates for upcoming meetings, public comment periods, and other public Hanford cleanup forums. The TPA Public Involvement Calendar is available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PI/pdf/TPA_PI_Calendar.pdf

Media Activities

To keep the public informed, the TPA agencies conduct a variety of activities to ensure the media has timely, complete, and accurate information about Hanford Site cleanup and compliance activities.

Media assigned to cover Hanford have a number of resources available to them. The Newsroom, http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/Newsroom , identifies contact names and numbers of DOE's media relation professionals, videos of site activities, photos, press releases and fact sheets about projects and facilities.

Public Information Repositories

The Public Information Repositories give the public access to information on TPA activities and provide documents for public review and comment. The Public Information Repositories also provide computers and assistance for the public to electronically access information in the Administrative Record.

Documents may not be checked out, but copies may be made. Call your local repository for information on hours and access.

Tri-Party Agreement Administrative Record and Public Information Repository
2440 Stevens Center, Room 1101
P.O. Box 950, Mail Stop H6-08
Richland, WA 99352
509-376-2530

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195
206-543-5597
www.lib.washington.edu/govpubs/

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
1875 SW Park Avenue, P.O. Box 1151
Portland, OR 97207-1151
503-725-4542
http://library.pdx.edu/

DOE Public Reading Room

Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Richland, WA 99352
509-375-3308
http://reading-room.pnnl.gov/

Gonzaga University
Foley Center Library
502 E. Boone Ave.
Spokane, WA 99258
509-313-6110
www.gonzaga.edu/Academics/Libraries/Foley-Library/

Online Resources

Websites that provide information about Hanford Site activities include the following:

Administrative Records and Public Information Repository:
http://www5.hanford.gov/arpir/

Hanford Advisory Board:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab Hanford Events

Calendar:
www.hanford.gov/pageaction.cfm/calendar

Hanford Reading Room: http://reading-room.labworks.org/

Hanford Site Tours:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSiteTours

Hanford Speakers Bureau Program:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordSpeakersBureau

Hanford Public Involvement Plan:
www.hanford.gov/?page=89

Tri-Party Agreement:
www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/TriParty

TPA Public Involvement Calendar:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm

U.S. Department of Energy:
www.hanford.gov/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
http://www.yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/Hanford

Washington State Department of Ecology:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/

For More Information

Email Hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 to request information about cleanup and compliance activities at Hanford. The TPA agencies strive to provide a timely response to all requests.

SECTION 4. OTHER GROUPS INVOLVED IN HANFORD

This section includes information about other governments and public organizations involved with Hanford Site issues. The TPA agencies assess public interest and areas of public concern regarding specific actions based on consultations with Tribal Nations and interaction with the Hanford Advisory Board and the State of Oregon, especially when public participation activities are conducted in Oregon.

Tribal Nations

The Hanford Site is located on land that historically was extensively used by Native Americans. The land was ceded to the United States under separate treaties with Tribal Nations. As a result of treaties with the United States, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe retained certain rights at the Hanford Site.

Tribal members visit Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

The policies of both the United States and Washington State commit to maintaining a government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations. DOE consults with Tribal Nations regarding DOE actions, decisions, and program implementation that may affect the tribes. In addition, DOE consults with the Wanapum Tribal Community that lives adjacent to the Hanford Site and with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on cultural resource issues.

The TPA agencies take a proactive approach to soliciting input from Tribal Nations on TPA policies, issues, and decisions. Specifically, the TPA agencies conduct periodic briefings for the affected Tribal Nations. DOE provides copies of TPA documents concurrently to Tribal Nations, Ecology, and EPA.

Oregon Department of Energy

The Oregon Department of Energy is the lead Oregon agency on Hanford Site issues. This office monitors cleanup and other activities at Hanford and the potential impact on the downstream Columbia River environment. Oregon staff work with DOE and local governments on safe transport of Hanford nuclear wastes through Oregon.

Oregon Department of Energy staff also support the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, which recommends policy and advises the Oregon Governor on Hanford Site issues.

The Oregon Department of Energy is also the lead for Hanford emergency planning and response and public involvement in Oregon. For more information, contact the Oregon Department of Energy at 503-378-4040 or in Oregon at 1-800-221-8035, or visit www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/.

Transportation of Hanford Waste

Briefings for Elected and Appointed Officials and Agency Representatives

Many people receive information about Hanford from elected or appointed officials, or from agencies other than DOE, Ecology, or EPA. The TPA agencies work to keep public officials informed through publications, mailings, and periodic briefings. The TPA agencies also try to respond to questions from officials and other agency representatives in a timely manner. The TPA agencies welcome requests for information or comments on public involvement activities from other officials or agency representatives.

Local Involvement

Several public and private organizations in the Tri-Cities area interact with the TPA agencies on Hanford cleanup issues. These organizations include the Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council; Central Washington Building Trades Council; Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council; Hanford Communities; Benton, Franklin, and Grant County governments; and the city governments of Richland, West Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick.

Hanford Advisory Board

The HAB was created by DOE in 1994 to advise the TPA agencies on major cleanup policy decisions. It is a subcommittee of the DOE Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The HAB is composed of 32 members and their alternates, who represent a broad range of stakeholders. These stakeholders include environmental groups, Hanford Site employees, the public, local government, higher education, and the State of Oregon. The three affected Tribal Nations are represented on the HAB.

The HAB's mission statement describes the Board as "a non-partisan and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected over the short- and long-term by Hanford cleanup." The HAB was created to provide consensus advice to DOE, EPA, and Ecology on selected major policy issues related to Hanford cleanup.

To fulfill its role, the HAB has researched and provided consensus advice on topics ranging from spending and budget priorities to technical recommendations on removing tank waste.

Additionally, the HAB has issued advice on public involvement.

For a copy of the Board's Operating Ground Rules, meeting agendas, and other information, visit the HAB website at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab .

The HAB's Public Involvement and Communications Committee discusses outreach plans for Hanford

Other Agencies Involved in Hanford Site Cleanup

Washington State Department of Health

The Washington State Department of Health's Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford radioactive air emissions. The Division conducts environmental radiation monitoring to fulfill its public health responsibilities and verifies the results of monitoring performed by DOE and its contractors. The Division also conducts joint investigations with Ecology into practices at Hanford. For more information, contact the Department of Health Richland office at 509-946-0363. For questions regarding public health, call 1-800-525-0127 (available in Washington State only) or visit www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/rp/

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife monitors Hanford Site activities related to restoration and mitigation programs to prevent injury to fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The Department also issues state permits for cleanup work involving the disturbance of the Columbia River and its shoreline outside of CERCLA work, which is exempted. For more information, contact

the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-902-2250 or visit the website at www.wdfw.wa.gov .

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge under a Permit and Memorandum of Understanding with DOE. The land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes all Hanford Site lands north of the Columbia River and those in the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. For more information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 509-546-8300 or visit www.fws.gov/hanfordreach/ .

Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (HNRTC) is a collaborative working group chartered to address natural resources impacted by Hanford Site releases of hazardous substances. The objectives of the HNRTC are to:

- Help ensure that natural resource values are fully considered in decision-making related to the Hanford Site.
- Integrate, to the extent practicable, natural resource restoration into cleanup actions and to minimize additional injuries to natural resources during cleanup.
- Encourage the development and implementation of sitewide natural resource planning which supports mitigation, restoration, and management goals, and encompasses good stewardship practices.

For more information on the HNRTC, visit http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HNRTC .

Years of security and little human contact over much of the Hanford Site has created a refuge for a variety of wildlife as well as endangered plants

The Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and is the primary spawning grounds for fall Chinook salmon

SECTION 5. SITE INFORMATION

This section provides a general description of the Hanford Site, its activities and past practices. It is not a complete description of all that is known about the Hanford Site, its operations, or its waste management history. Most recent data may be found in several documents available at the DOE Public Reading Room in Richland, by searching the Reading Room's catalog at http://reading-room.labworks.org/ or by reviewing Hanford Projects and Facilities information at http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/ProjectsFacilities

Hanford Site Description

Hanford is approximately 140 miles southwest of Spokane, 200 miles southeast of Seattle, and 200 miles northeast of Portland, (See Figure 6.) The Columbia River borders the northern portion of the site, and then turns south to form part of the eastern boundary.

The geologic structure beneath the Hanford Site consists of three distinct formations. The deepest level is a thick series of basalt flows that have been warped and folded, resulting in extensions that crop out as rock ridges in some places. Layers of silt, gravel, and sand form the middle level, known as the Ringold formation. The uppermost level is known as the Hanford formation and consists of gravel and sands deposited by catastrophic floods. Both confined and unconfined aquifers can be found beneath the Hanford Site. Confined aquifers consist of water-saturated, porous material confined by layers of basalt. Unconfined aquifers consist of water-saturated, porous material located above the first confining basalt layer. The depth of the water table ranges from 60 to 250 feet below ground.

Semi-arid land with a sparse covering of cold desert shrubs and drought-resistant grasses dominates the Hanford Site landscape. Forty percent of the site's annual 6.80 inches of rain occurs between November and January. The land surrounding the Hanford Site is used primarily for agriculture and livestock grazing.

The major population center near the site is the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland and West Richland). The southwest area of the Hanford Site, covering 120 square miles, is designated as the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve is managed for DOE by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior, and is used for ecological research and preservation.

The site's Wahluke Slope area, also known as the North Slope, located across the Columbia River, is also managed for the DOE as a wildlife refuge by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Contaminated areas of the Wahluke Slope and Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, which comprise 45 percent of the 586-square-mile site, have been addressed and removed from the EPA Superfund list. In 2000, President Clinton created the Hanford Reach National Monument that encompasses a quarter-mile corridor on each side of the Columbia River for a 51-mile stretch through the Hanford Site. The Hanford Reach National Monument is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DOE.

Non-DOE facilities within Hanford Site boundaries include those owned by Energy Northwest, a public utility. The Columbia Generating Station (formerly

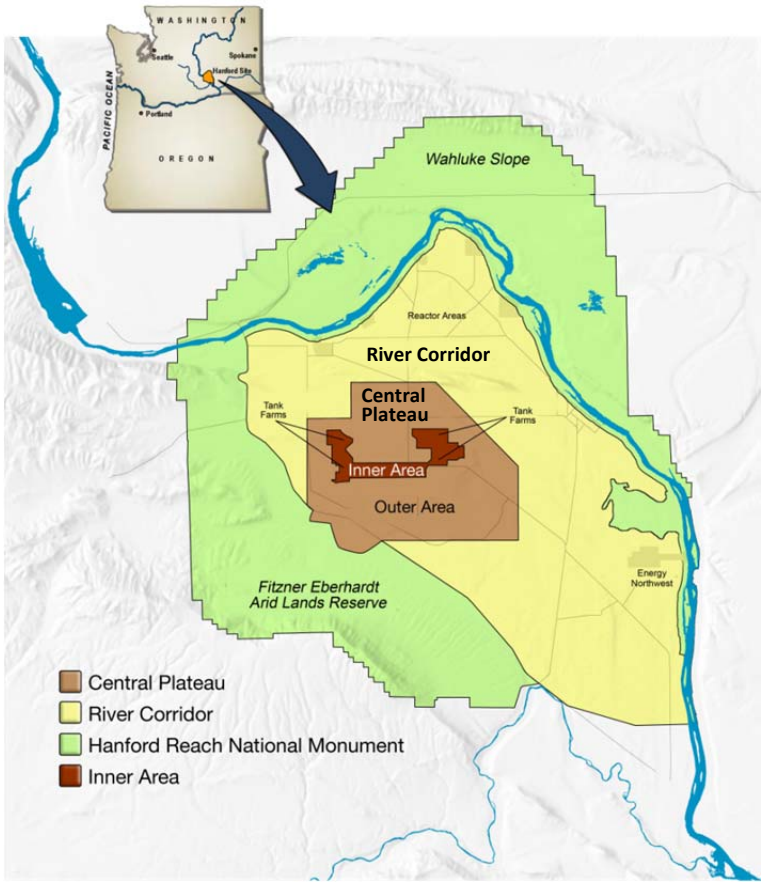


Figure 6. Hanford Site in proximity to Spokane, Seattle, and Portland

WNP-2) is the only nuclear power plant operating to make electricity in the Pacific Northwest. Another non-DOE facility on the Hanford Site is a commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal facility operated by US Ecology, a private firm licensed by Washington State.

Additionally, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) project, a joint endeavor of the California Institute of Technology, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, was built on the Hanford Site in 1994. LIGO is an advanced scientific observatory, designed to team with similar projects in Louisiana and Italy, for detecting gravitational waves.

Findings are expected to aid in understanding the workings of the universe, including Einstein's theories of relativity. The Hanford Site location was selected because of its available space and seismic stability.

DOE facilities are located throughout the Hanford Site and the city of Richland. The site is divided into six administrative areas, known as the 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, and 1100 Areas.

The first four areas contained most of the nuclear operations at the Hanford Site. The 100 Area includes nine deactivated nuclear production reactors along the northern stretch of the Columbia River, often referred to as the River Corridor. The 200 East and 200 West Areas, located in Hanford's Central Plateau, contain 56 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste in aging underground tanks, the principal nuclear chemical processing and waste management facilities, several large waste disposal areas, and many other facilities. The 300 Area, approximately three miles north of the city of Richland, contains research and development laboratories and former reactor fuel manufacturing facilities. The Fast Flux Test Facility, a former breeder reactor, is located in the 400 Area and is now shut down.

The 600 Area is the administrative designation for site lands that are not part of any other administrative area. The 1100 Area, located adjacent to the Richland city limits, once contained, among other things, vehicle maintenance and storage facilities. However, this 1.25-square-mile part of the 1100 Area was cleaned up and removed from the Superfund list in 1996. The land was transferred to the Port of Benton (a local port district) to assist in economic diversification in the North Richland area and is no longer a part of the Hanford Site.

Hanford Site History

The Hanford Site was originally inhabited by Native Americans, primarily the Wanapum Band. It was also used by the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse Tribes. In 1855, the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla Tribes signed treaties with the United States under which the tribes ceded to the federal government the lands on which the Hanford Site is located.

The Tribal Nations reserved certain rights in the ceded lands such as taking fish from all streams within or adjacent to the territory and at their usual and accustomed places and erecting temporary buildings for curing fish. The Tribal Nations also reserved the right to hunt, gather roots and berries, graze their horses and cattle on open and unclaimed land, and to observe traditional religious practices at physical locations considered sacred.

Parts of the land, now the Hanford Site, were settled by non-Native Americans and used for irrigated orchards, farms, and ranches before World War II. About 6,000 acres were used to grow peaches, pears, grapes, asparagus, and other agricultural products. The towns of Hanford, White Bluffs and Richland were founded by some of these early settlers.

Town of White Bluffs, 1938

Hanford Site construction began in March 1943 after the Manhattan District of the Army Corps of Engineers chose it as one of the sites for the highly secret Manhattan Project. Hanford's mission was to produce plutonium for the world's first nuclear weapons. Hanford was considered an ideal site for the Manhattan Project for several reasons: 1) its remote location; 2) access to railroad systems; 3) the abundance of water from the Columbia River for cooling the reactors; and 4) the abundance of hydroelectric power from dams on the Columbia River. About 1,500 people who were living within the site boundaries were forced to move.

In September 1944, with the first operation of B Reactor in the 100 Area, the Department of Defense (at that time known as the War Department) began producing plutonium. B Reactor startup was followed by the startup of D Reactor in December 1944 and F Reactor in February 1945. These three reactors produced the initial plutonium for nuclear weapons.

By 1955, seven reactors similar in design to the original B Reactor were built and all eight reactors were in operation to produce plutonium at the Hanford Site. Between 1959 and 1963, a powerful dual-purpose reactor, N Reactor, was built. In addition to producing plutonium, N Reactor steam was used to make electricity. In 1966, the utility known then as the Washington Public Power Supply System (now Energy Northwest) built a power generating facility near the N Reactor to harness reactor steam to generate electricity.

Construction of Hanford Tank Farm

In addition to the reactors, operations at the Hanford Site included other elements of the nuclear fuel cycle: fuel fabrication, chemical processing, waste management, and research and development facilities.

The development of Hanford's plutonium production capacity resulted in the growth of the area surrounding the site. In the months following initial construction on the site in 1943, more than 50,000 construction workers moved to the Hanford area. Many of these workers later settled in the Tri-Cities, which became not only the fourth largest metropolitan area in Washington, but also a new economic hub for the region.

Eight of the nine plutonium production reactors were closed between 1964 and 1971 when the nation's plutonium needs diminished due to a shift in national defense policy. As part of a national program to investigate peaceful uses of nuclear power and research, the Hanford Site was chosen as the location for the Fast Flux Test Facility advanced breeder reactor in 1967.

In the early 1980s, Hanford Site activities shifted again to re-emphasize defense production. Site facilities were upgraded and used to produce material that was to be part of President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (sometimes known as Star Wars).

Beginning in 1989, DOE's primary mission at the Hanford Site shifted from production to waste cleanup. The TPA was signed in May 1989 by DOE, EPA, and Ecology. No plutonium for defense purposes has been produced at the Hanford Site since that time.

Past and Present Operations at the Hanford Site

Current DOE activities at the Hanford Site focus on waste management and environmental cleanup.

When the cleanup effort began, a primary focus was to resolve immediate threats to human health and the environment. These threats included aging tanks filled with hazardous waste and spent nuclear fuel stored in leaking basins near the Columbia River. Cleanup has now reached the point where most immediate risks have been resolved and the task of addressing the long-term risks is underway. Groundwater treatment systems are in place that will require long-term operation. Additionally, the majority of the waste in the tanks remains to be retrieved, treated, and disposed.

There are three main components of Hanford Site cleanup. They are:

1. River Corridor which consists of the 100, 300, 400, 600 Areas
2. Central Plateau, also known as the 200 Area and
3. Tank Farms, located in the Central Plateau

The components of the Hanford Site are shown in Figure 6 (page 19) and described in the following sections.

River Corridor

Nine plutonium production reactors were built in six areas along the Columbia River. These reactors are known as the B, C, D, DR , F, H, K-East, K-West, and N Reactors. All of the reactors have been shut down as of 1988. The B Reactor has been named a National Historic Landmark and is open for public tours. Associated liquid and solid waste disposal sites and contaminated groundwater near the river

K East and K West Reactors

are being remediated. The River Corridor accounts for about 220 square miles of the Hanford Site.

Cleaning up the River Corridor is a large and complex task. More than 760 solid and liquid waste sites were identified in the River Corridor, some of which have contaminated soil down to groundwater. In addition, there were originally more than 1,000 aboveground structures that needed removal. When buildings that are radioactively and/or chemically contaminated are demolished and removed, steps have to be taken to ensure that neither workers nor the environment will be exposed to hazardous substances during work activities.

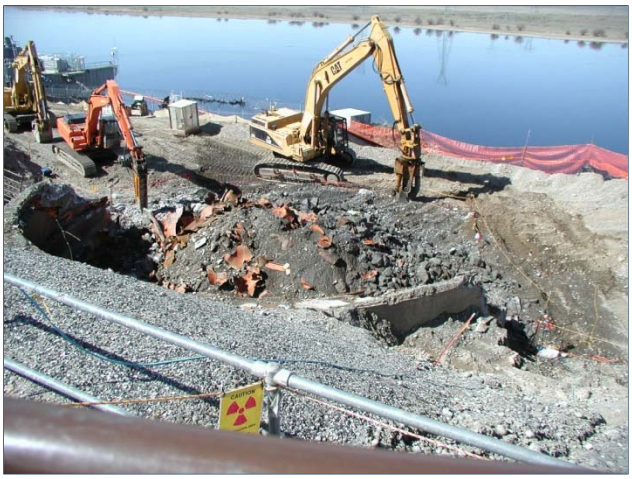
The reactors themselves remain highly radioactive after many years of producing plutonium. With the exception of the B Reactor, which is designated a National Historic Landmark; the reactors are being placed into a safe and stable configuration known as "interim safe storage." They will remain in storage until final decommissioning.

Activities at the 300 Area generated both solid and liquid wastes. The 300 Area consisted of more than 250 office buildings, laboratories, experimental nuclear reactors, and manufacturing facilities. Most of these buildings have been or will be demolished.

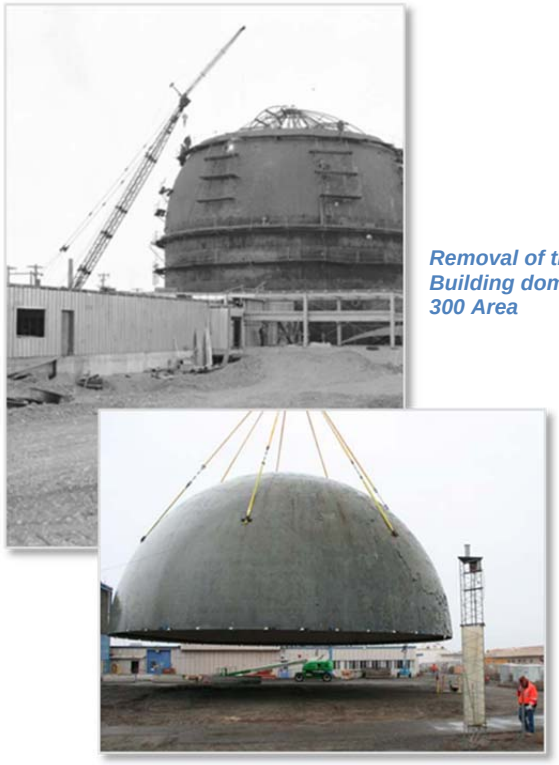
Today, cleanup work to preserve and protect the Columbia River is a top priority at Hanford.

Central Plateau

The Central Plateau includes approximately 75 square miles in the central portion of the Hanford Site. Cleanup of the Central Plateau is a highly complex activity because of the large number of waste sites, surplus facilities, active treatment and disposal facilities, and areas of deep soil contamination. Past discharges of more than 450 billion gallons of liquid waste and cooling water to the soil have resulted in about 80 square miles of contaminated groundwater. The Central Plateau is divided into two areas; the Inner Area and the Outer Area.



Removing concrete debris and piping from the River Corridor



Removal of the 309 Building dome in the 300 Area

Inner Area

The Inner Area is about 10 square miles and contains the major nuclear fuel processing, waste management, and disposal facilities – including the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, a federally regulated landfill that accepts Hanford

Removal of Waste Container from Burial Ground in the Central Plateau

CERCLA waste. Pump-and-treat systems are in place here to remediate and contain groundwater contamination plumes so that they do not reach the river. The Inner Area is anticipated to be the final footprint of Hanford and will be dedicated to long-term waste management and containment of residual contamination.

Outer Area

The Outer Area of the Central Plateau is about 65 square miles. Cleanup work here consists mainly of demolishing facilities and remediating waste sites. Completing this work will further reduce Hanford's active cleanup footprint.

Removal of railcars from Outer Area

Some railcars were sent to the B Reactor National Historic Landmark for preservation

Tank Farms Project

After irradiated fuel rods were taken from the nuclear reactors to the processing facilities, they were exposed to a series of chemical processes for plutonium retrieval. The resulting chemical and radioactive wastes were sent to 177 underground storage tanks divided into 18 groups of tanks called "tank farms." The tanks ranged in capacity from 55,000 gallons to more than 1 million gallons. Approximately 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste remain stored in these tanks. Some of this liquid waste has reached groundwater.

Removal of Transfer line in Tank Farms

The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP), also known as the Vitrification Plant, covers about 65 acres. The WTP will use vitrification to immobilize most of Hanford's tank waste. Vitrification is accomplished by mixing the waste with glass forming materials in a high temperature environment. As the materials are heated to 2100 degrees Fahrenheit, the waste and glass forming materials become red hot and bond together. The "liquid glass" is poured into stainless steel canisters to cool. Once the waste has cooled, the now-solid (vitrified) waste within the canisters can be permanently and safely disposed of.

Construction of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

APPENDIX A

Frequently Asked Questions

Tri-Party Agreement

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT AGENCIES

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

INSIDE THIS FAQ:

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"As-needed" Bases	2
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Requesting Meetings	3
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Other Activities	4

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Hanford Public Involvement

NOVEMBER 2011

What's Required for Public Involvement at Hanford?

Legal requirements for public involvement at Hanford are identified in Section 10 of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). The TPA requires that:

- Information will be readily available to the public. This is accomplished, in part, by establishing public information repositories and providing access to either electronic or hard copies of documents found in the Administrative Record.
- The TPA agencies will maintain the Hanford Site postal mailing list and Hanford electronic mailing list. The TPA agencies will periodically distribute information through these mailing lists.
- A community relations plan will be issued for the Hanford Site. This is required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and also satisfies requirements under the Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Hanford Public Involvement Plan fulfills these requirements.

Regarding public meetings, the TPA also states that:

- At least one public meeting will be held in the spring to discuss the impact of budget decisions and take public comment and questions on cleanup priorities.
- Additional public meetings on other Hanford decision documents will be scheduled on an as-needed basis. The TPA agencies will consider scheduling public meetings in situations involving complex issues or a high level of public interest.

What is the Hanford Public Involvement Plan?

The Hanford Public Involvement Plan, referred to as "the Plan" for short, helps identify how the public can become involved in the Hanford cleanup decision-making process. It also describes how the TPA agencies consider public input while determining when and where public meetings will be held.

The Plan was first issued in 1990 and has been revised several times since then. Changes are necessary when the material in the Plan becomes dated and as Hanford cleanup progresses.

The Plan serves as the overall guidance document for public participation and outreach activities at Hanford.

Public input can influence Hanford cleanup decisions

What is "Public Comment"?

"Public Comment" refers to input provided by members of the public on documents issued by the TPA agencies. Input can be in the form of oral comments provided at public meetings or written comments submitted by mail or email.

A formal public comment period is required for certain TPA documents.

These documents include:

- Significant Changes to the TPA
- CERCLA Feasibility Studies/ Proposed Plans
- Interim Response Actions and Interim Measures
- RCRA Hanford Site Permit

Sometimes the TPA agencies ask for informal public input on Hanford programs and activities that are not specifically related to a cleanup decision. This input may be used to improve document clarity or determine a need for additional outreach activities on a specific topic.

Responses to public comment are provided in Responsiveness Summaries and Comment and Response Documents.

How are public comments used?

All public comments received on a CERCLA action or Hanford Site Permit action are considered before finalizing a cleanup decision. CERCLA decisions (referred to as a Record of Decision) include a **Responsiveness Summary** that summarizes public comments received on a proposed cleanup plan and provides the TPA agencies' responses. It also identifies where public comments influenced change in the proposed cleanup and explains why the final cleanup decision was selected.

Public comments received on other decisions, such as on significant changes to the TPA or on Hanford Site Permit actions, will be addressed in a **Comment and Response** document. These documents are available to the public through Hanford's Administrative Record (see page 3).

What does "as-needed basis" mean?

The TPA states that additional public meetings on Hanford decision documents will be scheduled on an as-needed basis. This "as-needed basis" is assessed through interactions between the TPA agencies and stakeholders, interested members of the public, the Hanford Advisory Board, and the State of Oregon. Input received through consultations with tribal governments is also considered.

Interactions between TPA agencies and the public can be in the form of conference calls, webinars, workshops, or other types of communication. To find out more about when these activities take place, please join the Hanford email list (page 4).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

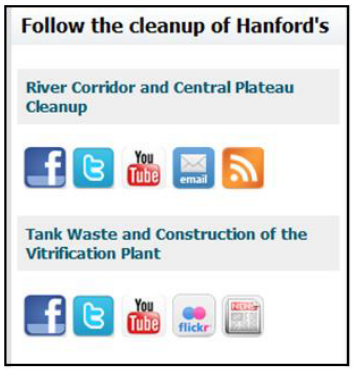
How are people notified of upcoming public meetings/hearings?

When it comes to notifying the public of upcoming public meetings and hearings, there are some actions required by the TPA. The TPA states that:

- Public meetings will be announced by means of a public notice in a newspaper of regional circulation. Notice will also be provided through the Hanford mailing list 2-3 weeks prior to the public meeting.
- Public hearings will be announced at least 30 days prior to the hearing.
- A public notice of availability of documents out for public comment will be published in a regional newspaper.
- Copies of all public comments received and the agencies' responses to comments will become part of the Administrative Record.

The TPA agencies use other methods to notify the public. This includes the use of social media such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube videos, and online calendars.

Check out www.hanford.gov and look for these icons to follow Hanford cleanup.



How do I request a public meeting or hearing?

A member of the public may request a public meeting on a CERCLA action or a public hearing on a Hanford Site permit action. Please note that a request for a public hearing must be submitted in writing.

Points of contact are identified on information distributed for the specific action. However, standing ways to request a meeting are by phone or email at:

Hanford Cleanup Line:
1-800-321-2008
Email:
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

Photo: Public workshop on Hanford's radioactive solid waste burial grounds.

A public hearing usually deals with a RCRA action while public meetings usually deal with CERCLA actions.

How can I access Hanford documents?

Hanford documents are electronically available on the Administrative Record (AR) website. The AR consists of important documents that are used when making cleanup decisions. You can access the AR at http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/.

Files on the AR are sorted by categories such as author, document number, and operable unit to make it easier to find a specific document. Files are also electronically accessible at public information repositories.

Hard copies of documents out for public comment will be placed in the public information repositories (PIR). PIRs are located in Richland, Seattle, Spokane, and Portland. Address and contact information are available on the mentioned website.

Need help finding a document?
Contact the Hanford Cleanup line or email.

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Hanford Public Involvement and Outreach

Public meetings are only one way the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies interact with the public. The TPA agencies work collaboratively and individually to provide other types of public involvement and outreach activities. Examples of these activities are classroom visits and Hanford-related student projects; presentations to community groups; Hanford Communities videos; exhibits at local and regional events (fairs, expos, etc.); the Hanford Speakers Bureau; agency and stakeholder updates and newsletters; and use of social media tools.

To learn more about Hanford, join the Hanford mailing list or the electronic listserv. The TPA agencies use these lists to send out information on upcoming public involvement opportunities and to provide updates on Hanford activities. You can join the Hanford email list by visiting http://listserv.wa.gov or by contacting the Hanford Cleanup Line or email (page 3). Information on upcoming events is also available on the following online calendars:

Hanford Events Calendar:
www.hanford.gov/pageaction.cfm/calendar

TPA Public Involvement Calendar:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm

Tri-Party Agreement
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington State Department of Ecology
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

APPENDIX B

Reference: Other Laws

The following describes the public involvement requirements of additional laws that may pertain to Hanford cleanup actions. When more than one set of public involvement requirements applies to a specific decision, activity or action, the TPA agencies will review the pertinent requirements and coordinate and/or combine them to conduct a comprehensive process.

The Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act is a 1977 amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, which set the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States. EPA can delegate authority to implement these requirements to the state. Ecology oversees Washington State Discharge permits issued for the 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility and the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility.

Both the state and federal permit processes include requirements for public involvement and comment.

The state public involvement requirements related to water regulations can be found in Washington Administrative Code 173-216-090 and 173-216-100. Public involvement requirements pertaining to wastewater discharge to the groundwater include a minimum 30-day public comment period and consideration for a public hearing if there is significant interest.

The Clean Air Act

The EPA delegated Clean Air Act responsibility to Ecology and the Washington Department of Health. Ecology and the Department of Health jointly regulate air emissions at Hanford. The EPA has regulatory authority over National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants provisions for primary air pollutants. The primary air pollutants are sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen oxides, and lead.

The Washington Department of Health Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford Site radioactive air emissions and conducts environmental radiation monitoring. Ecology oversees implementation of the Title V, Air Operating permit, and provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The state public involvement requirements related to air regulations are in Washington Administrative Code 173-401-800. Public involvement requirements pertaining to Air Operating permits include publication of notices in local newspapers, distribution of notice to a facility-specific mailing list, a minimum 30-day public comment period on proposed permits, and 30 days notice prior to a public meeting.

Environmental Justice

DOE and EPA each have programs and policies to incorporate Environmental Justice in their actions.

Information on EPA's Environmental Justice program is available at: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/.

Information on DOE's Environmental Justice policies and programs can be found at: www.lm.doe.gov/default.aspx?id=1889.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that all federal agencies consider the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. NEPA regulations are located at 40 CFR 1500 through 1508 and DOE's implementing regulations for NEPA are located at 10 CFR 1021, which also includes requirements for public participation.

For more information on NEPA, contact the DOE NEPA Compliance Officer at 509-373-5227.

State Environmental Policy Act

Ecology must review the state permitting of several Hanford Site projects under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The purpose of SEPA is to ensure that environmental values are considered by state and local government officials when making decisions. Before taking actions (issuing permits, etc.), state agencies must follow specific procedures to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the environment. The severity of the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed project will determine whether an environmental impact statement is required.

The public participation requirements of SEPA can be found in Washington Administrative Code 197-11-510. Public participation procedures. The state can also require that additional public notice be provided through publication in local newspapers, media contacts, publication in the SEPA register and other methods. Public hearings may be scheduled based on the lead agency's discretion.

Model Toxics Control Act

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington State's version of CERCLA. Ecology implements MTCA's public involvement activities, which are similar to CERCLA public involvement requirements.

The public involvement requirements of MTCA include a minimum 30-day public comment period, early planning of public participation activities, requirements for contents of public notice on site-specific risk assessments, and requirements for who shall receive notice and where notices will be published.

Additionally, MTCA requires a public participation grant program to provide funding for citizen-based public participation efforts.

For more information on public participation grant application process, contact Ecology's Solid Waste/Financial Assistance program at 360-407-6061. For more information about MTCA, call Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program at 360-407-7170 or go to http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/9406.pdf.

Toxic Substances Control Act

The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) provides for protection of human health and the environment from exposure to certain hazardous and toxic chemical substances and mixtures (e.g., Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) and newly manufactured chemicals). DOE has in place a program for the cleanup, treatment, and disposal of materials regulated by TSCA. TSCA, Title 15, United States Code, Section 53, and its regulations are administered by EPA. For more information, call EPA at 1-800-424 -4372.

Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, requires that certain information, such as descriptions of agency organization and office addresses, statements of agency operations, rules of procedures, general policy statements, final opinions made in the adjudication of cases, and administrative staff manuals that affect the public must be made available for inspection by the general public. This is accomplished through the use of public reading rooms.

All other agency records may be requested under the FOIA, regardless of the format of the record (i.e., electronic records, photographs, videos, audio recordings, etc.). For more information about the FOIA, visit www.hanford.gov/?page=64.

The FOIA applies to documents held by agencies in the executive branch of the federal government, including DOE and EPA. The FOIA does not apply to Congress or the judicial branch, nor does it apply to records of state or local governments. However, many state governments have their own open records laws.

State of Washington Public Disclosure Law

Requests for public records from state agencies, including the Departments of Ecology and Health, concerning Hanford cleanup activities and compliance must be made in accordance with state law. The guidelines for the state's public disclosure law are in the Revised Code of Washington, chapter 42.17. State law requires the public records coordinator to set appointments for review of records and documents between 9 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily. There is no fee for viewing records.

Requests may be filled through telephone or fax. Copying and postage fees may apply. For more information, contact the Nuclear Waste Program Public Records coordinator at 509-372-7920.

APPENDIX C

Documents Accessible from the Administrative Record (AR)

The AR serves the same purpose in the CERCLA, RCRA and Washington State Dangerous Waste Programs. The AR is the body of documents and information that is considered or relied on to arrive at a decision for remedial action or hazardous waste management.

In addition to the larger AR, an AR file is established for each CERCLA remedy decision and HWMA permit action. It will include all the documents considered or relied on in arriving at a decision or to issue a permit or permit modification. When the investigation process begins or when a permit action begins, the AR file is established. The TPA identifies the types of documents that will be included in the AR. These types of documents are listed below. The DOE is responsible for management of the official Administrative Record files. The TPA AR is available at http://www5.hanford.gov/arpir/. Predefined searches are available to help locate documents. The predefined topics are:

- Select by Author
- Select by Company
- Recently Added Within 90 days
- Select by Date Range
- Select by Document Number
- Select by Operable Unit
- Select by Treatment Storage Disposal Unit
- Select by Waste Management Area
- Select by Tri-Party Agreement Milestone
- Select by Document Type
- Select by Natural Resource Trustee Council

Administrative Record Documents

Factual Information/Data (CERCLA)

- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study work plan
- Remedial Investigation Phase I report
- Feasibility Study Phase I and II report
- Feasibility Study Phase III report
- Proposed Plan
- Abatement Proposal
- Interim Response Action Proposal
- Documentation of preliminary assessment/site investigation
- Treatability study work plan ach characterization plan
- ATSDR health assessment
- Work plan change notice
- Sample data results

Factual Information/Data (RCRA)

- Closure Plan
- Permit application (Part A and Part B)

- Draft permit (or permit modification) or notice of intent to deny
- Statement of basis or fact sheet, including all resources to documentation
- RCRA facility assessment report
- RCRA facility investigation/corrective measures study work plan
- RCRA facility investigation report (preliminary and final)
- Corrective measures study report (preliminary and final)
- Interim measure proposals
- Procedures as specified in work plans
- Work plan change notice
- Sample data results

Policy and Guidance

- Memoranda on policy decision
- Guidance documents
- Supporting technical literature

Decision Documents

- Record of Decision
- Responsiveness summary
- Letters of approval
- Action memoranda
- Waiver requests and regulatory agency responses
- Final determination pursuant to dispute resolution

Enforcement Documents

- Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order including Action Plan
- Administrative orders
- Consent Decrees
- Affidavits

Tribal Participation

- Correspondence to or from the Tribes
- Tribal comments
- Responses to Tribal comments

Public Participation

- Public Involvement Plan (formerly known as the Community Relations Plan)
- Correspondence to or from the public
- Public notices
- Public comments
- Public meeting minutes
- Public hearing transcripts
- Responses to public comments
- Fact sheets (public information bulletins)

APPENDIX D

Hanford Public Involvement Plan Update Process

The typical process for updating and revising the Hanford Public Involvement Plan (formerly known as the Community Relations Plan – CRP) follows these steps:

First, the TPA agencies identify the need to update or revise the document.

Second, the TPA agencies work collaboratively to revise the document. If significant changes are proposed, the Hanford Public Involvement Plan goes out for a 45-day public comment period. During this time, the agencies may hold public meetings if there is a high level of public interest.

After the public comment period closes, all comments received are considered before finalizing the Hanford Public Involvement Plan. A Comment and Response Document is also prepared.

The Hanford Public Involvement Plan is revised periodically. This is the fifth revision to the plan since it was originally issued in 1990. Since 2009, the Agencies engaged in informal discussions with the HAB Public Involvement and Communication (PIC) committee on revising the CRP. The Board issued two pieces of advice (#225 and #240) recommending areas of improvement and change. In September 2011, the agencies provided a revised copy of the CRP to the PIC committee and the HAB issued advice #251 on the draft plan at its November 2011 meeting. A formal public comment period on the proposed changes, originally scheduled to run from October 10 through November 8, 2011, was extended through December 15, 2011 in response to requests from stakeholders.

Individuals sent written comments through the mail or electronically. Written and verbal comments were collected from a webinar and at two in-person public meetings held in Seattle and Spokane, WA. The TPA agencies read and considered each comment received. All public comments and agency responses are provided in the "Tri-Party Agreement Hanford Public Involvement Plan Comment and Response Document." The document is available in the administrative Record and at http://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/TPA_Commnet_Response_Document-10-2012.pdf

The TPA agencies mailed a fact sheet to approximately 2,300 individuals on the Hanford Mailing list on October 6, 2011 that provided information on the proposed changes to the Plan and information on the webinar and public meetings. The webinar, public meetings and comment period were publicized in a Hanford Listserv message sent to an estimated 700 individuals on September 29, 2011 with the fact sheet attached. The agencies also produced a YouTube video (available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HrRddxXu64) that briefly discussed the proposed changes to the Plan and information on how to provide public comment. The TPA agencies placed ads in Tri-City Herald on November 7, 2011 and Seattle Weekly on November 9, 2011. Additional articles on the webinar and public meetings were published in the Tri-City Herald (November 9, 2011), online at www.nwcn.com (Northwest Cable News), and in the Tacoma News Tribune (November 7, 2011).

Below is a summary of the number of individuals who participated in the webinar and in-person public meetings (excluding agency staff):

- November 9, 2011 Webinar Public Meeting
  - 16 participants
- November 15, 2011 Public Meeting in Seattle, WA
  - Approximately 26 participants
- November 16, 2011 Public Meeting in Spokane, WA
  - 5 participants

APPENDIX E

Hanford Acronym List

While this list is in no way complete, it provides the meaning of some of the primary acronyms used at Hanford and referenced in this Plan. For a complete list of Hanford Site abbreviations and acronyms, go to www.hanford.gov/c.cfm/tools/acronym.cfm.

CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CR – Continuing Resolution

C.R. – Change request

CRP – Community Relations Plan

DOE – U. S. Department of Energy

Ecology – Washington State Department of Ecology

EE/CA – Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FOIA – Freedom of Information Act

FY – fiscal year

HAB – Hanford Advisory Board

HNRTC – Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

HWMA – Hazardous Waste Management Act (Washington State)

LIGO – Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory

MTCA – Model Toxics Control Act

NCP – National Contingency Plan

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NOD – Notice of Deficiency

NPL – National Priorities List

OMB – Office of Management and Budget

ORP – Office of River Protection

PCBs – Polychlorinated Biphenyl

PI – Public Involvement

PIRs – Public Information Repositories

Plan – Hanford Public Involvement Plan (formerly known as the Community Relations Plan)

RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976

RI/FS – Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

RL – Richland Operations Office

RODs – Record of Decisions

SEPA – State Environmental Policy Act

TAG – Technical Assistant Grants

TPA – Tri-Party Agreement (Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order)

WNP-2 – Washington Nuclear Project/Plant 2 (Columbia Generating Station)

WTP – Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant