



## U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10



May 20, 2025

25-SGD-0022

The Honorable Shannon F. Wheeler, Chairman  
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 305  
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

### OFFER FOR CONSULTATION ON UPCOMING 300 AREA RECORD OF DECISION AMENDMENT SPECIFIC TO THE 300-296 WASTE SITE

The U.S. Department of Energy, Hanford Field Office (HFO) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invite the Nez Perce Tribe to consult on a proposed amendment to the 300 Area 2013 Record of Decision (ROD), specifically concerning the 300-296 waste site at the Hanford Site. This decision will be made in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and will include an opportunity for public comment beginning June 9, 2025. Consultation may occur before, or in parallel with, the public comment period. HFO is the CERCLA lead agency for implementing the remedy, and EPA is the lead agency for oversight.

#### **Background on the ROD Amendment**

Remediation of the 300-296 waste site soil below the 324 Building was specifically addressed in the 2013 ROD, with the remove, treat, and dispose (RTD) alternative identified as the selected remedy. This remedy was consistent with other waste sites in the 300 Area and included institutional controls as a component of the remedy decision. This involved excavating contaminated soil through the 324 Building B-Cell floor using equipment within the building. In 2023, HFO and EPA identified changed conditions that necessitated a re-evaluation of the original remediation approach. Following the CERCLA process, HFO and EPA collaboratively developed a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) and Proposed Plan (PP) to support a ROD Amendment. In December 2024, the Nez Perce received copies of the FFS, Draft A, which evaluates remediation alternatives for the 300-296 waste site, and the PP, Draft A, which identifies the preferred alternative.

The FFS assessed two alternatives against the nine CERCLA criteria specified in the National Contingency Plan, 40 CFR 300.430. Both alternatives meet the threshold criteria and would achieve the same clean-up levels and remedial action objectives. The primary difference between the two alternatives is the timing of the 324 Building demolition relative to the remediation of

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radioactively contaminated soils beneath a portion of the building. As detailed in the PP, the preferred alternative is to conduct all soil remediation after the demolition of the 324 Building. This alternative is preferred because it can be completed with reduced risk and exposure to workers, in a shorter timeframe, and at a lower cost, while still maintaining RTD as the remedy.

### Offer for Consultation

We invite the Nez Perce Tribe to engage in consultation on this proposed ROD Amendment.

If the Nez Perce wishes to consult, please contact Kim Ballinger, HFO Tribal Affairs Program Manager, at (509) 438-0307, within 30 days of the date of this letter, to arrange either an in-person or a virtual conference. EPA will also post this consultation opportunity on its Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System, an online tool that publicizes upcoming and current consultation opportunities for Tribal Governments.

**Brian A.  
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Brian A. Harkins  
Acting Manager  
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Calvin J. Terada, Director  
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SGD:BWV

cc: D. R. Einan, EPA  
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C. Sixkiller, Ecology  
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M. Sobotta, NPT  
Administrative Record (300-FF-2)  
Environmental Portal