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Richland Operations Office
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Richland, Washington 99352

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Mr. Roger Stanley
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504-8711

Dear Mr. Stanley:

RESUBMITTAL OF THE 2727-S CLOSURE PLAN

The U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) have taken the necessary actions to meet the review comments on the 2727-S Closure Plan (December 30, 1987 letter from Roger Stanley, State of Washington Department of Ecology, to H. E. McGuire, WHC). This letter transmits the revised closure plan (Attachment 1) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist (Attachment 2). Although we have completed a SEPA checklist for this closure plan, we would like to discuss our plans to submit NEPA documentation for future closure plan submittals and permit applications.

The SEPA Checklist discusses potential environmental effects specific to the 2727-S facility. A discussion of environmental impacts related to the Hanford Site in general or to general areas of the Hanford Site can be found in the Hanford Defense Waste-Environmental Impact Statement. The impacts discussed in the SEPA Checklist are not considered significant as part of the overall impacts of the Hanford Site. It is our recommendation, therefore, that no additional environmental documentation be prepared for the 2727-S facility closure.

If you have any questions regarding these documents, please contact Mr. H. E. McGuire on (509) 373-5415 or Ms. L. L. Powers on (509) 373-4981.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Izatt, Director
Waste Management Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office

R E Lerch

Ronald E. Lerch, Manager
Defense Waste Management Division
Westinghouse Hanford Company

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Enclosure

cc: R. L. Lerch, WHC
J. B. O'Hara, EPA

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SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   Closure of the 2727-S Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility.

   Information contained in this checklist applies only to the 2727-S Facility. Additional environmental information regarding the Hanford Site can be found in the Hanford Defense Waste - Environmental Impact Statement. (U.S. Department of Energy. 1987. Final Environmental Impact Statement - Disposal of Hanford Defense High-Level, Transuranic and Tank Wastes, DOE/EIS-0113, Richland, Washington)

2. Name of applicants:

   U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations (DOE-RL)
   Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC)

3. Address and phone number of applicants and contact persons:

   U.S. Department of Energy
   Richland Operations Office
   Waste Management Division
   P.O. Box 550
   Richland, Washington 99352

   Westinghouse Hanford Company
   Defense Waste Management Division
   P.O. Box 1970
   Richland, Washington 99352

   Contact persons:

   R. D. Izatt, Director
   (509) 376-1366

   R. E. Lerch, Manager
   (509) 373-2044

4. Date checklist prepared:

   February 24, 1988

5. Agency requesting the checklist:

   State of Washington
   Department of Ecology
   Mail Stop PV-11
   Olympia, Washington 98504

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

   All stored wastes have been removed from the facility. A schedule of

180 days following approval has been proposed to complete closure of the facility.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

   The facility will be permanently closed pending the approval of the closure plan, which will be submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology concurrently with this checklist. If the building is found to be free of contaminants, it may be reused at Hanford for equipment storage or similar use.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

   This SEPA Checklist is being submitted concurrently with the Interim Status Closure Plan for the facility, which describes the steps necessary for closure in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) as authorized by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (42 United States Code 6901-6987). An environmental evaluation is being prepared which will identify environmental impacts specific to the 2727-S Facility.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting property covered by your proposal?

   No applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting the facility.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

    Ecology is the only agency authorized to approve or permit final closure of the facility under requirements authorized by RCRA, the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (42 United States Code 6901-6987), and Chapter 173-303-400 of the Washington Administrative Code.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

    The facility, located in the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site, consists of a building, a concrete storage pad, and surrounding soils. The extent of this facility measures approximately 165 by 300 feet.

The metal building measures 20 by 40 feet and is set over two main curbed concrete cells which segregate oxidizing wastes from corrosive, organic, ignitable, and other waste types. The floor of the building is part of a concrete storage pad which extends beyond the building in all four directions. The concrete storage pad measures approximately 65 feet by 105 feet. Waste was stored both inside the building and outside on the concrete pad on pallets. During a very short operating period waste drums were also stored on pallets on the soil surrounding the pad.

The facility was used from 1983 to 1986 for container storage of nonradiactive dangerous and extremely hazardous wastes generated in the research and development laboratories, process operations, construction, maintenance, and transportation functions throughout the Hanford Site.

All stored waste from the facility has been removed and sent to an offsite Treatment, Storage, and/or Disposal (TSD) site. This project consists of final closure of the facility which is described below. The building, concrete storage pad, and soils will be tested for hazardous waste constituents. The building will be decontaminated, if necessary, and, if possible, reused on the Hanford Site. If decontamination procedures are not successful, the sectioned building will be removed to a TSD facility. The concrete storage pad, if necessary, will either be decontaminated by removing small localized areas of contamination or if contamination is extensive the whole pad will be removed to a TSD facility. If the soils are found to be contaminated they will be excavated and disposed of at a TSD facility.

Upon final closure of the facility the area will undergo reclamation to control dust, erosion, surface water runoff and promote post-closure usage. If soils are removed they will be backfilled with native soils, compacted, and graded. The closed facility will meet or exceed applicable federal and state closure requirements as established under RCRA.

12. Give the location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The facility is located in the southeast portion of the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site. Maps and detailed location plans are contained in the closure plan submitted with this checklist. A legal description was not readily available at this time but will be provided in the documentation for final closure certification.

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

Flat.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The approximate slope of the land at the facility is less than two percent.

c. What general types of soil are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The general soil type found at the facility is fine sand. No farming is permitted on the facility.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate the source of the fill.

If contaminated soils are found at the facility as a result of the sampling and analysis program, the contaminated soils will be removed and backfilled with noncontaminated native soil. The soil will then be compacted and graded. No site has been chosen yet for the fill soil.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, describe.

The potential for erosion at this site during closure is minimal. The combination of arid climate, high evapotranspiration rates, and minimal slope at the facility make damage from precipitation, excluding rare high-intensity rain events, very unlikely. Possible wind erosion of exposed soil resulting from the replacement of contaminated soils will be mitigated by revegetation.

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g. About what percentage of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

If no contamination is present in the concrete storage pad or only localized contamination is present and is removed, the concrete pad will remain at the facility. If the building is not contaminated it may also remain at its present location after closure. The pad and building would provide impervious surfaces on approximately one-sixth of the facility property. However, if the building can not be decontaminated and the concrete pad is extensively contaminated, they will be removed leaving no impervious surfaces on the site.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

If the soils at the facility are found to be contaminated they will be removed. The backfilled soil will be compacted, graded, and revegetated.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The trucks transporting contaminated materials from the facility will generate dust and gaseous emissions such as carbon monoxide. If removal of the concrete pad and the soils is required, there will be some additional dust due to this construction activity.

b. Are there any offsite sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any:

None.

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3. Water

a. Surface

1) Is there any surface water body in or in the immediate vicinity of the site including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

No. The closest body of surface water is the Columbia River, which is approximately 7 miles from the facility.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet of) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill.

Does not apply.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste material to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

2) Describe waste materials that will be discharged into the ground from septic waste tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water Run-off (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of run-off (including storm water) and methods of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other wastes? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and run-off water impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

___ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
___ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_X_ shrubs
_X_ grass
___ pasture
___ crop or grain
___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
___ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_X_ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered.

A small sparcely vegetated area of sagebrush/cheatgrass-Sandberg's bluegrass at the facility may be affected by closure activities. All areas denuded of vegetation as a result of removal of contaminated soils will be revegetated.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None on the 2727-S facility site. However, additional information on the Hanford Site environment can be found in the Hanford Defense Waste - Environmental Impact Statement.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

Wheatgrass vegetation will be used to revegetate the area if contaminated soil is removed as part of the closure effort.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:.....
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:.....
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:.....

None.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None on the 2727-S facility site. However, additional information on the Hanford Site environment can be found in the Hanford Defense Waste - Environmental Impact Statement.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Does not apply.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Decontamination and transportation equipment may be exposed to hazardous materials in the building, concrete storage pad, or soils. Precautions will be taken to prevent exposure of personnel

and the environment to any hazardous materials. Personnel will receive hazardous waste training and be cognizant of applicable health and safety measures.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

All samples collected, including decontamination rinseate, that are deemed contaminated will be sent to a TSD facility. At no time will waste materials be discharged directly to the ground.

b. Noise

1) What type of noise exists in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Clean up activities such as grinding of the concrete pad to remove localized contamination may increase noise levels during normal day shift hours. This activity has a short duration of less than two weeks. The completed project will have no effect on noise levels.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The facility is part of the Hanford Site owned by the U.S. Government and is co-operated by the DOE-RL and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC). The facility provided storage for hazardous wastes generated at the Hanford Site from 1983 to 1986. All waste stored at the facility has been shipped to a TSD facility. The Hanford Site encompasses 570 square miles used for a variety of DOE-RL projects including waste management and special nuclear materials production.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

The facility is not used for agricultural purposes. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selected the Hanford Site in 1943 as the location for producing special nuclear materials, all farming was ceased.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

A 20 by 40 foot metal building and a 65 by 105 foot concrete storage pad presently occupy the facility.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

During the closure process, the building and concrete storage pad will be demolished if found to contain hazardous wastes that can not practically be removed.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The facility possesses the zoning classification of federal land.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Does not apply.

g. If applicable, what is the current master shoreline program designation of the site?

Does not apply.

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h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Does not apply.

9. Housing

a. Indicate how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of the day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply.

c. What existing offsite sources of light and glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

None.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Does not apply.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

There are no known archeological or historical or native American religious sites at the facility.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

If exhumation of contaminated soil becomes necessary to clean close the facility and any evidence of potential historic or cultural value is found, all excavation work will cease pending evaluation of the significance of the find. If the find is determined to be significant, a plan will be devised to mitigate excavation impacts on the find.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

None.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest stop?

The facility is not publicly accessible and, therefore, is not served by public transit.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public sevices, if any:

Does not apply.

16. Utilities

a. List utilities currently available at the site (electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, etc):

The utilities available at the facility are electricity and telephone.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

A portable steam generator may be required for decontaminating of sampling equipment and materials.

C. SIGNATURES

The above answers are true and complete to the best of our knowledge. We understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

R. D. Izatt, Director
Waste Management Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office

Date

R. E. Lerch, Manager
Defense Waste Management Division
Westinghouse Hanford Company

Date

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Author CJ Geier S1-12

Addressee Mr. Roger Stanley
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Olympia, Washington 98504-8711

INCOMING LETTER:
Correspondence No. 8800549

RESUBMITTAL OF THE 2727S CLOSURE PLAN (Reference 8702487B)

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