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From: Williams, Tanya [tawi461@ECY.WA.GOV]
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 6:46 PM
To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: Ecology: Hanford Site Air Operating Permit (300 Area) comment period starts today

This message is from the Washington State Department of Ecology

Comment Period

Remove ten 300 Area facilities of the Hanford Site from the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit

August 28 through September 29, 2006

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The Washington State Department of Ecology seeks your input on a significant modification to the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit (AOP).

The proposed changes will remove ten 300 Area facilities on the Hanford Site from the AOP. These facilities are currently permitted by 17 radionuclide, toxic, or criteria air pollutant permits within the AOP. As facility operations and the need for AOP permitting end, the AOP would no longer regulate the emissions from the facilities. It is proposed that the buildings will undergo deactivation, decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition (D4). Emissions and monitoring associated with the D4 activities will be regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The facilities to be removed from the AOP are identified as Buildings 318, 320, 323, 325, 326, 329, 331, 340, 3730, and MO-423. These buildings, respectively, are the laboratories for Radiological Calibrations, Physical Sciences, Mechanical Properties, Radiochemical Processing, Material Science, Chemical Sciences, and Life Sciences, in addition to the Waste Neutralization, Gamma Irradiation, and Radiological Counting facilities.

Ecology will submit a draft permit modification for public comment. The permit holder is the U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office, PO Box 550, Richland, WA 99352. The public comment period will run from August 28 through September 29, 2006.

How will the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit change?

The permit modification will remove requirements for monitoring and control of radioactive, toxic, and criteria air pollutant emissions at Buildings 318, 320, 323, 325, 326, 329, 331, 340, 3730, and MO-423 from the AOP as the new removal action work plan for 300 Area facilities begins to regulate air emissions under CERCLA authority.

The work plan will involve D4 of the buildings, their stacks, and related facilities. The removal action work plan will provide an air monitoring plan that establishes monitoring and control requirements under CERCLA guidelines. The plan will include applicable, reasonable, and appropriate requirements for monitoring and control of contamination and releases for the buildings during D4 activities.

How do I view related documents?

During the comment period, the affected portions of the AOP and the supporting CERCLA approval documents are available for public review Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., at the Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program Library, 3100 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, Washington. To make an appointment to review the documents call 509-372-7920. You can also view the documents online at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm or at one of the public information repositories, <http://www.hanford.gov/?page=80&parent=15>.

Send all comments in writing to:
Doug Hendrickson
Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
dohe461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology will consider and respond to all comments received during the public comment period. No public hearing is scheduled at this time; however, Ecology will consider requests for a hearing. Please contact Tanya Williams at 509-372-7883 or tawi461@ecy.wa.gov to request a public hearing or for more information.