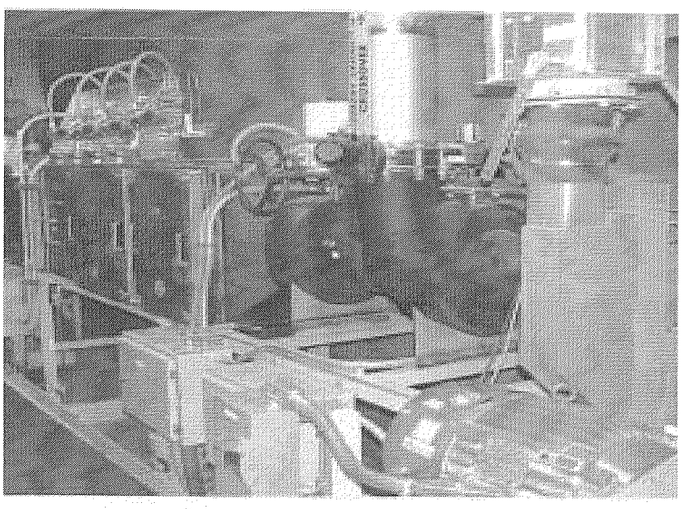
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Public Comment Period

Proposed permit for air quality standards and equipment changes in the AY and AZ tank farms at Hanford

April 1 through April 30, 2008

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a draft approval order for a Notice of Construction. The U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection (ORP) wants to change the conditions in the air permit for the AY and AZ tank farms. Permit modifications will address changes in equipment and in emissions.



Primary ventilation at AY-AZ tank farms. The equipment in the second cabinet from the right will be removed.

On April 1, we will start a 30-day public comment period for a Notice of Construction for the ventilation system in the AY and AZ tank farms. The tanks are near the PUREX Plant on Hanford's central plateau.

Why is the approval order needed?
ORP is retrieving waste from single-shell tanks and putting it into the AY and AZ tank farms. This introduces new pollutants and has caused ammonia emissions to rise. Ecology will identify and set standards for the new pollutants. The new standards would allow more ammonia to be released at levels that would still be safe for workers, the public, and the environment.

Also ORP wants to stop using and to remove a high-efficiency gas absorber that was installed to capture radioiodine. ORP believes the waste does not emit enough iodine to warrant this treatment. Removing this equipment will result in minor increases of toxic air pollutants.

How can you learn more about the draft approval order?
The documents related to the approval order are available online at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm.

You can review the draft at Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Resource Center in Richland. For a viewing appointment, call 509-372-7920. You can also review the proposal at Hanford's public information repositories, listed below.

Ecology does not plan to hold a public hearing. But if the public expresses interest, one could be scheduled. To request a hearing, contact Madeleine Brown, 509-372-7936 or mabr461@ecy.wa.gov. For more information, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 800-321-2008.

How can you make a comment?
Send all comments in writing by Wednesday, April 30, 2008, to:

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Hanford Information Repositories

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Ave.
Attn: Don Frank 503-725-4132
Map: http://www.pdx.edu/map.html

Richland
U.S. Department of Energy Reading Room
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Dr.
Attn: Janice Parthree 509-372-7443
Map: http://tinyurl.com/2axam2

Spokane
Gonzaga University
Foley Center
502 E. Boone Ave.
Attn: Linda Pierce 509-323-3834
Map: http://tinyurl.com/2c6bpm

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase 206-543-4664
Map: http://tinyurl.com/m8ebj

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