

Washington State Department of Ecology



Hanford Funding and Impacts to Cleanup Priorities

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Ecology Concerns – FY 2009 Hanford Funding

USDOE continues to make progress in the cleanup of Hanford. But, there are serious challenges to the milestones and schedules in the Tri-Party Agreement which governs the cleanup of the Hanford Site.

Overall, the Department of Energy has not identified and requested adequate funding to meet the cleanup challenges at Hanford, recover from past shortfalls, nor keep pace with the agreed to schedule set forth in the Tri-Party Agreement.

The Washington State Department of Ecology is concerned about the fiscal-year 2009 funding for Hanford cleanup and USDOE's proposed baseline for FY 2010 beyond.



Ecology Concerns – 2009-10 Hanford Funding

- Despite receiving budget information on cleanup compliance needs from the local field offices, the U.S. Department of Energy and the current administration are failing to meet their legal obligation to the citizens of the Pacific Northwest to clean up Hanford.
- Moreover, the Department of Energy's baseline and out year schedule do not meet the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) legal schedules.
- It appears that compliance with state and federal laws and agreements were not a priority in the baseline development assumptions and that cleanup across Hanford will be delayed, in some cases, for decades.



Ecology Concerns – 2009-10 Hanford Funding

Without adequate sustained funding, the cleanup of Hanford will take longer, cost more, and continue to place the public and the environment at risk.

There are serious impacts to Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) cleanup milestones, including the work on the following:

- Tank Waste Treatment
- Tank Waste Retrieval
- Groundwater and Vadose Zone
- Central Plateau Soil and Waste Management
- River Corridor Cleanup



Ecology Concerns – 2009-10 Hanford Funding

- The greatest single health and safety risk at Hanford is 53 million gallons of radioactive waste – much of it sitting in obsolete, leak-prone tanks that are decades past their design life.
- We need to get the radioactive waste out of those tanks without delay – and that can only happen if we complete the treatment plant, empty the tanks, and convert the waste into stable glass.
- Ecology expects consistency and commitment from the Department of Energy -- to keep its commitments to the citizens of Washington and neighboring states to clean up the Hanford Site, to comply with the schedules in the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement), and continue cleanup progress at Hanford.
- Delays and restarts have never resulted in cheaper, faster, or safer cleanup.



Ecology Concerns – 2009-10 Hanford Funding

Impacts to Cleanup Priorities



Tank Waste Treatment

- Ecology is pleased to see the WTP fully funded, however, startup will be delayed until 2019.
- Ecology supports early start-up of the Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility.
- Supplemental treatment must proceed to enable complete tank waste treatment capacity.





Tank Waste Retrieval

- Key to Hanford cleanup is the focus on removing wastes from the 149 leaking, aging underground single-shell tanks (SST).
- 53 million gallons of radioactive waste must be retrieved, treated and vitrified into a stable glass form
- Recent reductions of funding reduces retrieval rates to one tank per year; this is unacceptable.
- Ecology requests USDOE to retrieve SSTs at a minimum rate specified in the 2007 Draft negotiation proposal – averaging two tanks per year.
- Ecology supports an evaluation of the tanks' physical structure to ensure the tanks can safely store waste.





Groundwater and Vadose Zone

- Increased groundwater work scope is supported, however it comes at the expense of building and soil remediation.
- The remediation of the vadose and groundwater in the central plateau must be completed by 2024.
- Remediation of carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, uranium and technetium in the central plateau needs funding.
- Need funding for vadose zone (deep and shallow) remediation.





Central Plateau Soil and Waste Management

- Cleanup of soil sites scheduled to start this year on the central plateau should be funded to continue.
- Treatment and certification of TRU waste for off site disposal needs increased funding.





River Corridor Cleanup

- Soil, buildings and groundwater cleanup needs to be completed by 2024. Funding is not adequate as proposed.
- Complete removal of both K East and K West Basins, the spent nuclear fuel, sludge, debris and water milestones will all be missed due to funding shortfalls.





The TPA Status

Although negotiations began last year on parts of the Tri-Party Agreement and continue at this time, we stand firm on the commitments made by the USDOE to fully fund the cleanup of the Hanford Site.

We are willing to work with the USDOE to discuss cleanup priorities, but the work will not be negotiated to accommodate an assumed budget shortfall.



Hanford Cleanup Priorities

- Ecology believes it is important for the three parties to create a Hanford Integrated Priority List. This list can be used to apply additional cleanup money when it is available.
- Having public input on near term priorities is essential.
- Ecology also supports the immediate development of a lifecycle baseline report to help all of us understand and discuss cleanup cost and schedule choices.





Ecology Concerns – FY 2010 Hanford Funding

USDOE has missed critical Tri-Party Agreement milestones and several more are in jeopardy.

We are concerned about the Federal government's commitment to meet its legal obligation to clean up the Hanford Site.

The work is difficult, challenging, and will require extraordinary effort and commitment from us all.

All of us need to work together to ensure adequate funding for the safe and final cleanup of the Hanford Site.



Ecology Concerns – FY 2010 Hanford Funding

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