



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

FACT SHEET

**Proposed Permit Modification to Part II and Attachment 9 of the
*Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, Dangerous Waste
Portion, Revision 8C, for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste,
WA7890008967***

December 2015

This page is intentionally left blank.

FACT SHEET

Proposed Permit Modification to Part II of the *Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, Dangerous Waste Portion, Revision 8C, for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste, WA7890008967*

Permittees

The permit is to be issued to Hanford's owner and operators. The United States Department of Energy (USDOE), as the owner and operator of the facility, is a permittee. USDOE is a single permittee with two offices in Richland. Hanford contractors are also permittees because they are the co-operators.

United States Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
(Owner/Operator)
PO Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

United States Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
(Owner/Operator)
PO Box 450
Richland, Washington 99352

CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company
(Co-Operator)
PO Box 1600 MSIN H7-30
Richland, Washington 99352

Washington River Protection Solutions, LLC
(Co-Operator)
PO Box 850, MSIN H3-21
Richland, Washington 99352

Mission Support Alliance, LLC
(Co-Operator)
2490 Garlick, MSIN H1-30
Richland, Washington 99354

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
(Co-Operator)
PO Box 999, MSIN K1-46
Richland, Washington 99352

Bechtel National, Inc.
(Co-Operator)
2435 Stevens Center Place, MSIN H4-02
Richland, WA 99354

Washington Closure Hanford, LLC
(Co-Operator)
2620 Fermi Avenue, MSIN H4-24
Richland, Washington 99354

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing modifications to Part II Conditions and Attachment 9 of the *Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, Dangerous Waste Portion, Revision 8C, for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste* (hereafter called the Hanford Site-wide Permit) to update and add permit conditions. The proposed modifications also provide a new due date for the Annual Report for Groundwater and Vadose Zone Monitoring (the Report).

Ecology developed this Fact Sheet to fulfill the requirements of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [173-303-840\(2\)\(f\)](#).

This Fact Sheet is divided into four sections:

- 1.0 Hanford Site-wide Permit Background
- 2.0 Permit Conditions and Attachment 9 Descriptions
- 3.0 Annual Groundwater Report History
- 4.0 Procedures for Reaching a Final Decision on the Draft Permit Modification

1.0 Hanford Site-wide Permit Background

The Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program (NWP) manages dangerous waste within the state by writing permits to regulate its treatment, storage, and disposal.

Ecology has authority to regulate dangerous waste and the dangerous waste components of mixed (radioactive and dangerous) waste. The Hanford Site-wide Permit has requirements for the treatment, storage, and disposal of dangerous and mixed waste at Hanford. Ecology does not regulate waste that is solely radioactive. USDOE has exclusive authority to regulate radioactive materials and radioactive waste at Hanford.

Ecology first issued the Hanford Site-wide Permit in 1994. The facility has been operating under that initial permit since then. Since 1994, the permit has been modified several times to incorporate changes or updates and to incorporate and closeout several units.

The Hanford Site-wide Permit provides standard and general facility conditions, as well as unit-group conditions for the operation, closure, and post-closure care of mixed and dangerous waste management units (DWMU) at Hanford. These DWMUs are administratively grouped into operating, closure, or post-closure unit groups in the Site-wide Permit. Each unit group may contain one or more DWMU.

The Hanford Site-wide Permit is organized as follows:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Part I | Standard Conditions |
| Part II | General Facility Conditions |
| Part III | Final Status Operating Units |
| Part IV | Corrective Action for Past Practice Units |
| Part V | Units Undergoing Closure |
| Part VI | Units in Post-Closure |

The current Hanford Site-wide Permit, Rev. 8c has 14 final status unit group chapters within the larger Hanford Site-wide Permit. The dangerous waste management units that treat, store, or dispose of dangerous or mixed waste are administratively organized in the permit in 13 active DWMUs and one Corrective Action unit. All of the dangerous and mixed waste management areas throughout the Hanford Site make up one dangerous waste facility.

In 2012, the NWP issued Revision 9 of the Hanford Site-wide Permit with 37 unit groups and two Corrective Action units. The DWMUs within the unit groups are operating, closing, or in post-closure. At this time, the state is reconciling the over 5,000 public, EPA, and permittee comments received on that Revision 9 draft. Until a new Revision 9 of the Hanford Site-wide Permit is issued for a new public comment period, the legal and enforceable revision of the Hanford Site-wide Permit is Revision 8c.

2.0 Permit Conditions and Attachment 9 Descriptions

Change to Permit Condition II.F.2.a. This permit condition was identified as having an incorrect regulatory citation during the Groundwater Operation and Maintenance Dangerous Waste Compliance Inspections Ecology performed on May 19, 20, 21, and 27, 2015 at the USDOE Hanford Site. In the referenced Compliance Report section on Areas of Concern, Item 6, Permit Condition II.F.2.a., the text cites an incorrect [WAC 173-160](#) regulation. In this revision of 8C, the regulatory citation is being changed from [WAC 173-160-030](#) to [WAC 173-160-410](#)(13), to provide a definition for Resource Protection Well.

Addition of Permit Condition II.F.4. A new permit condition is being added to document the change in due date for the required annual groundwater report ([WAC 173-303-390](#) - Facility Reporting) for DWMUs under interim status groundwater monitoring requirements. The current regulatory required annual due date is March 1. Ecology, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and USDOE have agreed that a combined annual report, which includes all groundwater monitoring data for a

calendar year, is the preferred report format for all programs which use the data. To allow enough time for completion of the combined report each year, Ecology is changing the annual due date to July 31. The decision to make the change was documented in the letter from Ecology that allowed USDOE to submit the 2014 Report on July 31, 2015.

Change in Attachment 9 - Permit Applicability Matrix. The Permit Applicability Matrix is being updated to include the new permit condition II.F.4 and to correct a missing notation for existing Permit Condition II.F.2.a.

3.0 Annual Groundwater Report History

In 2009, the USEPA, Ecology, and USDOE discussed the Report format. USEPA and Ecology significantly modified the Report format and content through Hanford's Cleanup Constraints Challenges Team (C3T) process, with the state of Oregon's and the Tribal Nations' participation. Some major changes came out of this review process:

1. The Report had been issued for a USDOE fiscal year, from October 1 of a year to September 30 of the next year. The term of the Report was changed to cover a calendar year; which the schedule that matched the [WAC 173-303](#) regulations annual schedule for groundwater monitoring data.
2. The Report includes all data from Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Atomic Energy Act (AEA), and other miscellaneous project groundwater monitoring programs. Only the RCRA portion of the Report has a required due date of March 1 of each year.

The final data for a calendar year are available in January or February of the next year. Analysis of yearly data and the write-up of the evaluation of data takes at least four months in the next calendar year to produce a draft Report. The Report is then provided to the regulatory agencies for review.

The current report is over 1,000 pages and contains information on four major groundwater units in the Central Plateau, multiple groundwater units along the Columbia River, and numerous soil sites and facilities that have had leaks to the environment. This yields a report that is much more complex than the regulations probably envisioned. Past history has shown that USDOE cannot obtain and analyze data, then write a report on all these units and sites in three months.

Since agreeing to prepare a combined Report, from 2010 to 2014, the USDOE had to request due date extensions from Ecology. When the last extension to the due date was granted in 2014, Ecology made a decision to modify the Permit, allowing more time for USDOE to prepare and issue this Report.

4.0 Procedures for Reaching a Final Decision on the Draft Permit Modification

The Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations in [WAC 173-303-830](#) describe the types of changes or modifications that may be made to a Dangerous Waste Permit issued by Ecology.

The proposed permit modification changes one condition and adds another condition to Part II of the Site-wide Permit. The Part II draft permit modification consists of modifications to Section F, *Groundwater and Vadose Zone Monitoring*. Permit Condition II.F.2.a is being modified and II.F.4. is being added. Modifying and adding these permit conditions in Part II is conducted under an Agency-Initiated permit modification.

Attachment 9 *Permit Applicability Matrix* is being modified to add new Permit Condition II.F.4. and modify existing permit condition II.F.2.a. in the table for Part II Permit Conditions.

This draft permit modification was prepared according to the procedures in [WAC 173-303-840](#)(2). As required by [WAC 173-303-840](#)(3)(d), draft permits Ecology issues will have at least a 45-day public comment period. The public comment period for this draft permit begins on December 28, 2015 and ends on February 13, 2016.

Comments must be post-marked, received by e-mail, or hand-delivered no later than close of business (5:00 p.m. PST) February 13, 2016. Direct all written comments to:

Debra Alexander
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, Washington 99354
E-mail address: hanford@ecy.wa.gov

In accordance with [WAC 173-303-840](#)(10)(c), when a permit is modified, only those conditions to be modified will be reopened when a new draft permit is prepared. All other aspects of the existing Permit remain in effect for the duration of the modification.

Ecology will consider and respond to all written comments on this draft permit modification submitted by the deadline. Ecology will then issue a final permit modification that will become effective 30 days after the issuance date. If the final decision includes substantial changes to the draft permit modification because of public comment, we will consider initiating a new public comment period.

A public hearing is not scheduled, but if there is enough interest, Ecology will consider holding one. To request a hearing or for more information, contact:

Dieter Bohrmann
Washington State Department of Ecology
509-372-7950
E-mail address: hanford@ecy.wa.gov

After closing the 45-day public comment period, Ecology will issue the final Hanford Site-wide Permit with the modified Part II Permit Conditions and Attachment 9 to the permittees. The NWP will also issue a Response to Comments document to the permittees. The final permit decision may be appealed within 30 days after issuance of that decision. If there is no appeal, the permit will stand as issued.

Copies of the Part II, Section F *Groundwater and Vadose Zone Monitoring* draft permit condition modifications are available for review at the NWP Resource Center, USDOE Administrative Record and Hanford Public Information Repositories. For additional information, call the Hanford Cleanup Hotline toll-free at 800-321-2008 or email hanford@ecy.wa.gov.

United States Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program Resource Center
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, Washington 99354
Contact: Valarie Peery (509) 372-7950

United States Department of Energy
Administrative Record
2440 Stevens Drive
Richland, Washington 99354
Contact: Heather Childers (509) 376-2530

Hanford Public Information Repositories

Richland

United States Department of Energy
Reading Room
2770 Crimson Way
Richland, Washington 99354
Contact: Janice Parthree (509) 375-3308

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 Southwest Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97207
Contact: Claudia Weston (503) 725-4542

Seattle

University of Washington Suzzallo Library
PO Box 352900
Seattle, Washington 98195
Contact: Hilary Reinert (206) 543-5597

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
502 East Boone Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99258
Contact: John Spencer (509) 313-6110

Information on the proposed permit modification is also available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm>. If special accommodations are needed for public comment, contact Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program at 509-372-7950.

This page intentionally left blank.