

WOMEN IN THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY



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Community Outreach & Environmental Education
Specialist

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Overview



- What is public service?
- Ecology's mission
- Nuclear Waste Program (groundwater model)
- My background
- Tell me about yourself
- Notable women in my office
- Current opportunities at Ecology
- Q&A? Career planning?

Public Service vs. Private Sector

- ◎ Mission-driven vs. profit-driven
- ◎ Ecology's mission
 - Protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment
 - Promote the wise management of our air, land, and water for the benefit of current and future generations



Nuclear Waste Program: Reducing Toxic Threats

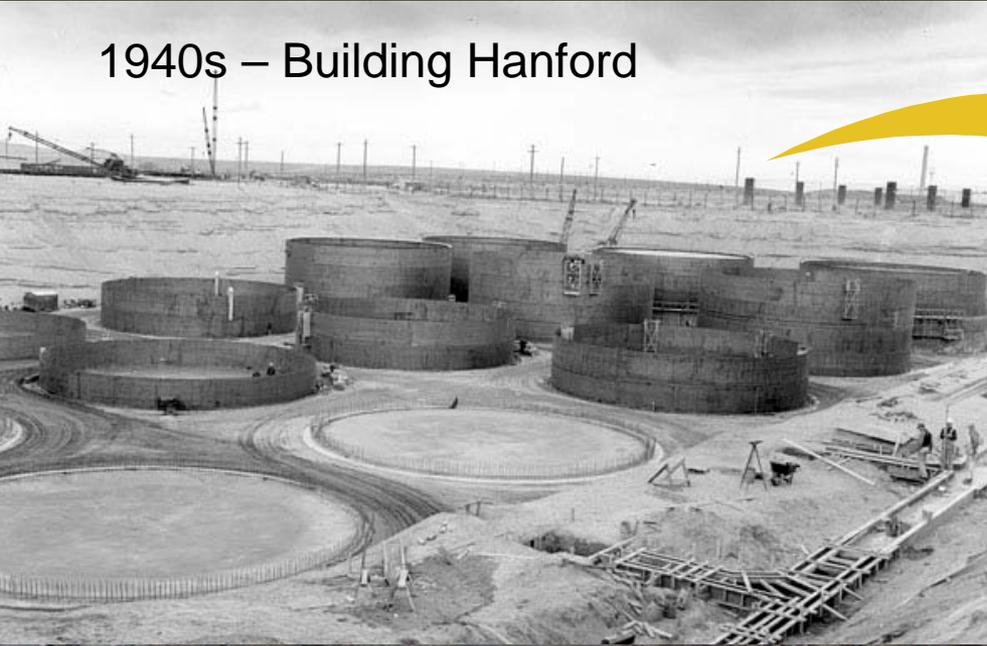


Keeping people and the environment safe from the dangers of mixed radioactive and chemically hazardous waste

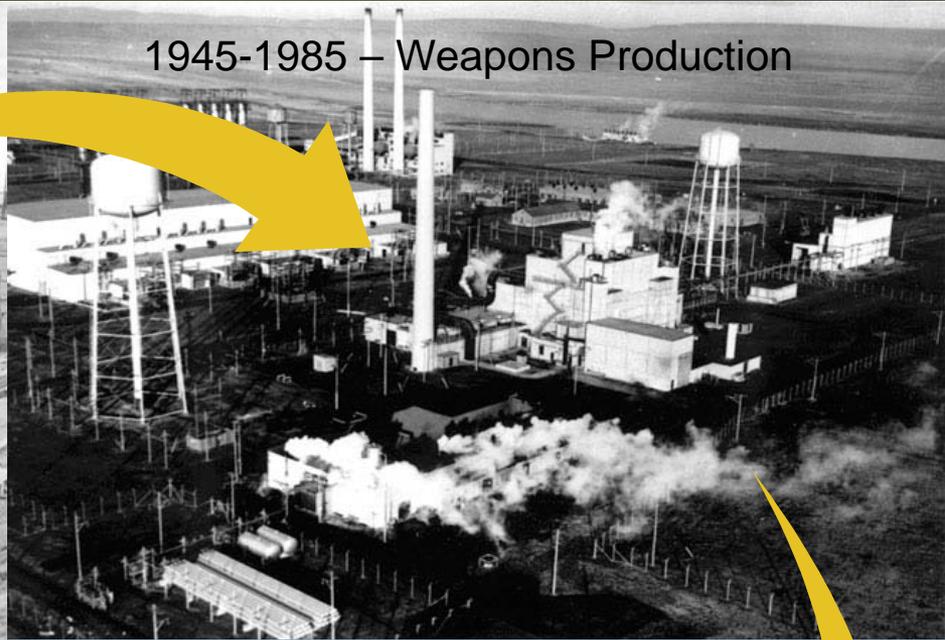
- Overseeing the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford cleanup activities
- Regulating mixed wastes at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard complex
- Regulating commercial nuclear facilities in the Tri-Cities area

Hanford Timeline

1940s – Building Hanford



1945-1985 – Weapons Production



Present – Cleanup



1990s – Decommissioning



Water Resources



Water Quality



Air Quality



Nuclear Waste Program



Toxics Cleanup



Spills



Solid Waste



Shorelands



Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction



Environmental Assessment



How did I get here?



Senator Patty Murray and me in my high school library in 1996

Little did know I'd later get the chance to work
for the State of Washington, too!

Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist

Tank Waste Treatment Section



◎ Education

- B.A. in Studio Art (painting, ceramics)
- M.A. in English (technical communication)

◎ Job duties

- Public/educational outreach
- Website Coordinator
- Publications Coordinator
- Writing, editing, document design

Tell me about yourself

- ◎ Name
- ◎ Grade
- ◎ Where you have lived and how that has affected you
- ◎ Hobbies/interests
- ◎ Plans after you graduate

Suzanne Dahl, Hydrogeologist

Tank Waste Treatment Manager



Education

- B.S. in Geology
- M.S. in Hydrogeology

Job Duties

- Manage 14 engineers and permit writers who regulate the world's largest waste treatment plant
 - Worth \$12 billion
 - Will treat 56 million gallons of highly radioactive waste left in 177 underground tanks

She also writes poetry in her spare time...

- ["One Lone Aquifer's Life"](#)
- ["I Met a Man"](#)

Nancy Uziemblo, Geologist

Cleanup Section

Education

- B.S. in Geological Science
- M.S. in Materials Science and Metallurgy

Job Duties

- Assure that tank waste transfers are completed and protective of the environment
- Visit grade schools to do hands-on geology activities

Her advice:

- “Study and work in a field that you enjoy! It especially feels good if you are helping people, the environment, and leaving your ‘mark’ to make this earth a better place!”



Kristi Wold, Permit Writer

Cleanup Section

◎ Education

- B.A. in Technical Communication
- M.S. in Environmental Science

◎ Job Duties

- Prepare and negotiate permits
- Inspect treatment, storage, and disposal facilities

◎ Her advice:

- “Focus on achieving your dreams. Seek mentors. A good mentor is essential. Don’t be afraid to try new things. What makes you most uncomfortable can turn out to be the best thing you ever do. Being scared of a new challenge is okay. Mastery of that challenge is great thing.”



Gain Experience Now

Ecology Youth Corps

(ages 13-17)

- Provide an important community service while gaining work experience
- Earn cash

(Funding suspended through June 30, 2011)

Washington Conservation Corps (ages 18-25)

- Work outdoors!
- Build your resume
 - Range of experiences
 - Paid trainings
- Earn cash and money for college

