



Public Comment Period

January 22 – February 20, 2008

Energy Northwest's Closure Plan for the Mixed Waste Storage Area at the Columbia Generating Station

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a **draft closure plan for the mixed waste storage area (MWSA) at Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station**. The 30-day comment period is from January 22 through February 20, 2008.

Energy Northwest is a consortium of public and private electric utilities. It operates a nuclear power plant along the Columbia River, 12 miles north of Richland on the Hanford Site. The Columbia Generating Station is located on land leased from the U.S. Department of Energy but it is not part of Hanford or Hanford cleanup activities.

Energy Northwest has submitted a closure plan for its MWSA at the Columbia Generating Station. The MWSA is on the lower level of Building 3 inside the station powerblock complex. Energy Northwest intends to close this storage area in 2008.

Typically, Energy Northwest stores only small quantities of mixed waste in the MWSA. All the mixed waste in this area is stored in containers on secondary containment spill pallets or an epoxy-coated, concrete floor with a containment berm.

In May 2007 Energy Northwest shipped all the mixed waste in the MWSA offsite. Only small quantities (less than 50 gallons) of mixed waste have been in the facility since then. The facility has no mixed waste stored there now.

Up to 220 gallons of liquid waste and 8 cubic feet (approximately 55 gallons) of solid waste could be in the MWSA at any one time before it closes. Most of this waste would be stored in plastic or steel pails or drums of various sizes (5 to 55 gallons). If any waste is stored in the MWSA before it closes, Energy Northwest will remove the containers and send them to permitted facilities offsite for treatment or disposal. After Energy Northwest closes the MWSA, it will manage future wastes in 90-day storage areas.

Energy Northwest plans to meet closure requirements through "clean closure." It will close the MWSA by removing mixed wastes from the facility and removing or decontaminating any contaminated equipment or surfaces. It does not plan to dispose of any waste on site.

Ecology has tentatively decided to approve the closure plan. But we will not make a final decision until after we consider all public comments received.

Ecology does not plan to hold a public hearing, but if we receive a request for one, we will consider it. To request a hearing, contact Madeleine Brown at 509-372-7936 or mabr461@ecy.wa.gov. Or you may phone the Hanford cleanup line, 800-321-2008.

The **public comment period runs from January 22 to February 20, 2008**. We will consider all comments we receive during this period. We will issue a response to comments when we issue the final decision on the closure plan.

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call the Nuclear Waste Program at 800-321-2008. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Tell Us What You Think!

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Where can you see the draft closure plan?

Online

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/
commentperiods.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm).

At Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Office by
appointment at 509-372-7920.

Richland Public Library
1270 Lee Blvd (at Goethals & Lee)
Richland, Washington

How can you make a comment?

Send all comments in writing, by
Wednesday February 20, 2008, to:

Jeff Ayres
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354
509-372-7971 fax
jayr461@ecy.wa.gov

Nuclear Waste Program
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

