



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 18, 2013

13-NWP-062

Mr. Matthew S. McCormick, Manager
Richland Operations Office
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, A7-50
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Opening the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit for Public Comment

Dear Mr. McCormick:

An appeal of the Hanford Air Operating Permit (AOP) was filed with the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) on April 22, 2013. The appeal alleges that an improper public comment period was held for the AOP. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) discussed the issue with the Permittee, the United States Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (USDOE-RL). The two Agencies agree that the process may have been confusing. Therefore, we are reopening the AOP for public comment in order to remove any confusion.

Ecology is reopening the existing AOP for cause under authority of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-40-730 (1) (d). WAC 173-401-730 (3) requires that reopenings shall not be initiated before a notice of such intent is provided to the Permittee. This requirement was met on May 24, 2013, when Marla Marvin, Attorney for the USDOE-RL, signed the respondents' stipulation in response to a Motion for Summary Judgment to reopen the AOP for public comment.

The AOP which was issued on April 1, 2013 will be reopened for public comment from June 30, to August 2, 2013. Currently no public hearing has been scheduled. A separate notification will be issued if a public hearing is scheduled. A DVD of the entire AOP for public comment is enclosed. The DVD contains a user interface to select and open the desired file. The files and supporting documents for the public comment period can also be accessed on the Ecology Nuclear Waste Program website at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/comment_periods.htm.

After the public comment period closes, Ecology will consider comments received and issue a responsiveness summary to address comments on the AOP. If warranted, Ecology will then revise the AOP and submit it to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a 45-day review. The revised permit will then be issued after the EPA review.

During the public comment period and until Ecology issues a revised permit, Hanford Site Title V Air Operating Permit, Number 00-05-006, Renewal 2, will remain in effect.



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If you have questions regarding the public comment period, please contact Madeleine Brown at madeleine.brown@ecy.wa.gov or 509-372-7936 or Philip Gent at philip.gent@ecy.wa.gov or 509-372-7983.

Sincerely,



Ron Skinnarland
Manager, Waste Management Section
Nuclear Waste Program

pg/jvs

cc w/enc:

Dennis Faulk, EPA
Laurie Kral, EPA Region 10
Kevin Smith, USDOE-ORP
John Martell, WDOH
Robin Priddy, BCAA

Public Information Repositories:

USDOE Reading Room, Washington State University-Tri-Cities, CIC (Janice Parthree)
USDOE Administrative Record, (Heather Childers)
Gonzaga University, Foley Center, (John Spencer)
Portland State University, Branford Price Millar Library, (Claudia Weston)
University of Washington, Suzzallo Library, Government Publication Division, (Hilary Reinert)
Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program Resource Center, (Valarie Peery)

cc w/o enc:

Paul Harrington, USDOE-ORP
Marla Marvin, USDOE-RL
Doug Hardesty, EPA Region 10
Nancy Helm, EPA Region 10
Dan Meyer, EPA Region 10
Frank Russo, BNI
Moses Jaraysi, CHPRC
Joe Burrell, JCI
Ken Niles, ODOE
John Schmidt, WDOH
Administrative Record: AIR Permits
Correspondence Control, USDOE-ORP
Correspondence Control, USDOE-RL
Environmental Portal

Robert Anderson, MSA
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