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**FACT SHEET**  
**CLOSURE GROUP 23, GROUT TREATMENT FACILITY (GTF)**

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1 **FACT SHEET**  
2 **CLOSURE GROUP 23, GROUT TREATMENT FACILITY (GTF)**

3 **Unit Description**

4 The Grout Treatment Facility (GTF) is a group of underground vaults built in the 1980s as a pilot project  
5 for grouting waste. GTF is located in Hanford's 200 East Area. More information about the GTF is  
6 available in Addendum A.

7 After pilot testing in the early 1990s, this treatment, storage, and disposal approach was abandoned.  
8 However, the Permittees had already submitted a permit application for the facility, and the GTF was  
9 under interim status.

10 **Type and Quantity of Waste**

11 The GTF was meant to use grout to treat and dispose of approximately 100,000 gallons of mixed  
12 (radioactive and chemical) tank waste per day. After construction and testing, there were questions as to  
13 total integrity of the grout monoliths and some of the leaching characteristics. Concerns were raised by  
14 the citizens and tribal nations. At that point the State of Washington and the Permittees decided this  
15 treatment approach was not viable for the future assumed waste streams. The material GTF received  
16 during the pilot testing phase poses no threat to human health or the environment.

17 **Basis for Denying the Unit-Specific Permit**

18 In 2008, Ecology considered implementing a procedural closure for the GTF, but because the facility had  
19 received material during the pilot testing phase, procedural closure was impractical.

20 In 2009, Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considered two other options for closure  
21 of the GTF. The options were based the approaches described in "Procedures for decision making" in  
22 Washington Administrative Code ([WAC 173-303-840](#)(2)). The two options were:

- 23 1. Prepare a draft permit with a closure plan according to [WAC 173-303-840](#)(2)(b).
- 24 2. Deny the permit application according to [WAC 173-303-840](#)(2)(c).

25 Permit application denial was considered the most efficient approach for the GTF. [WAC 173-303-](#)  
26 [840](#)(2)(c) describes this approach as follows: "If the department tentatively decides to deny the permit  
27 application, then the department will issue a notice of intent to deny. A notice of intent to deny the permit  
28 application is a type of draft permit which follows the same procedures as any draft permit prepared under  
29 this subsection. If the department's final decision is that the tentative decision to deny was incorrect, then  
30 the department will withdraw the notice of intent to deny and proceed to prepare a draft permit under this  
31 subsection."

32 Ecology informed the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) of this decision on August 18, 2009.  
33 USDOE concurred with the decision in a letter dated September 25, 2009 (09-ESQ-506).

34 The public can comment on this decision during the site-wide permit renewal comment period.

35 [WAC 173-303-610](#)(2)(a)(iii) states, "Return the land to the appearance and use of surrounding land areas  
36 to the degree possible given the nature of the previous dangerous waste activity." The land use  
37 surrounding the GTF is industrial, so returning the land to the "use of the surrounding land areas" is of  
38 minor or no consequence.

39 USDOE does not plan any future use of the empty vaults. This fact sheet allows USDOE the option to  
40 reapply for a permit if they determine a future use for the empty vaults.

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1 **Corrective Action Authority**

2 Although the GTF units are no longer dangerous waste management units, they are still considered solid  
3 waste management units subject to corrective action authority. Ecology retains corrective action authority  
4 under [WAC 173-303-646](#), should any new information about the facility warrant a substantive response  
5 action.

6 **Requested Variances or Alternatives**

7 This unit has no requested variances or alternatives.

8 **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination**

9 The SEPA determination for this unit is in the Hanford-Wide Permit Fact Sheet.

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