



Regulatory Perspective

Fiscal Year 2010 Hanford Funding

Washington State Department of Ecology

March 26, 2008

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is seriously concerned with the current funding levels proposed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. The FY 2009 funding proposal was over \$600 million less than needed to keep the cleanup on schedule. For FY 2010, the cumulative result of U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) failure to request adequate funding is a bow wave of unfunded cleanup needs that exceeds a billion dollars.

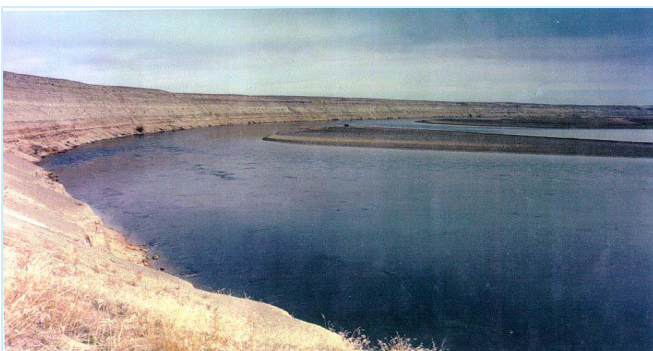
Without adequate sustained funding, the cleanup of Hanford will take longer, cost more, and continue to place the public and the environment at risk. There are serious impacts to Tri-Party Agreement cleanup milestones, including the work on:

- Tank Waste Treatment
- Tank Waste Retrieval
- Groundwater and Vadose Zone
- Central Plateau Soil and Waste Management
- River Corridor Cleanup

Responsible Management of Cleanup Dollars

We must be good stewards of every tax dollar received at Hanford. Ecology will hold itself accountable to ensure its own operations are effective in supporting regulatory decisions. By controlling the cost of regulatory transactions, more money can be applied to tangible cleanup up of the soil, water and air.

We challenge USDOE and their contractors to look at their huge cost of base operations. We all must commit to review these activities so that we can spend each tax dollar wisely. We need to maximize the dollars spent directly on actual cleanup.



"The president wants to increase spending on every major category of our government's nuclear program except one: cleaning up the toxic legacy that lurks at nuclear reservations and facilities around the nation. The administration wants more funding for nuclear weaponry, nuclear energy, nuclear science and management. But it would spend \$800 million less on environmental cleanups..."

Governor Chris Gregoire

Tank Waste Treatment

- Ecology is pleased to see the Waste Treatment Plant fully funded, however, startup will be delayed until 2019.
- Ecology supports early start-up of the Low-Activity Waste Facility.
- Supplemental treatment is needed to have adequate capacity to treat all the tank waste.

Tank Waste Retrieval

- Key to Hanford cleanup is the focus on removing wastes from the remaining 142 leaking, aging underground single-shell tanks (SST).
- 53 million gallons of radioactive waste must be retrieved, treated and vitrified into a stable glass form.
- Recent reductions of funding reduces retrieval rates to one tank per year; this is unacceptable.
- Ecology requests USDOE to retrieve SSTs at a minimum rate specified in the 2007 draft negotiation proposal – averaging two tanks per year.
- Ecology supports an evaluation of the tanks' physical structure to ensure the tanks can safely store waste.



The Tri-Party Agreement Status

Although negotiations began last year on parts of the Tri-Party Agreement and continue at this time, we stand firm on the commitments made by the USDOE to fully fund the cleanup of the Hanford Site. We are willing to work with the USDOE to discuss cleanup priorities, but the work will not be negotiated to accommodate an assumed budget shortfall.



Groundwater and Vadose Zone

- Increased groundwater work scope is supported, however it comes at the expense of building and soil remediation.
- The remediation of the vadose and groundwater in the central plateau must be completed by 2024.
- Remediation of carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, uranium and technetium in the central plateau needs funding.
- Need funding for vadose zone (deep and shallow) remediation.

Central Plateau Soil and Waste Management

- Cleanup of soil sites scheduled to start this year on the central plateau should be funded to continue.
- Treatment and certification of transuranic waste for off site disposal needs increased funding.

River Corridor Cleanup

- Soil, buildings and groundwater cleanup needs to be completed by 2024. Funding is not adequate as proposed.
- Complete removal of both K East and K West Basins, the spent nuclear fuel, sludge, debris and water milestones will all be missed due to funding shortfalls.

Hanford Cleanup Priorities

Ecology believes it is important for the three parties to create a Hanford Integrated Priority List. This list can be used to apply additional cleanup money when it is available. Having public input on near term priorities is essential. Ecology also supports the immediate development of a lifecycle baseline report to help all of us understand and discuss cleanup cost and schedule choices.

Your views and concerns are important to us.

Please contact us if you would like more information or if there are other issues of concern you would like to discuss.

Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
Sharon Braswell
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
Phone: (509) 372-7895
Email: shab461@ecy.wa.gov