Public comment invited

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing a change to the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit, Revision 8c. This change affects the Dangerous Waste Portion for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility.

The permittees are:

U.S Department of Energy  
Office of River Protection  
P.O Box 450, H-6-60  
Richland, WA 99352

Washington River Protection Solutions  
P.O Box 850 MSIN H3-01  
Richland, WA 99352

We invite you to comment on the proposed Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) Class 3 Permit Modification. The public comment period is from February 3 through March 19, 2020.

This proposal includes changes to multiple sections of the permit, including:

- Unit-Specific Permit Conditions
- Addendum A, Part A Form
- Addendum B, Waste Analysis Plan
- Addendum C, Process Information
- Addendum F, Preparedness and Prevention
- Addendum H, Closure Plan
- Addendum I, Inspection Requirements

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Background

The Hanford Site occupies 580 square miles in southeastern Washington State. Beginning in 1943, the site produced plutonium for the nation’s defense program. Plutonium production ceased in the late 1980s. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the primary missions at Hanford.

The 200 Area ETF is located near the center of the Hanford Site in the 200 East Area (see map on page 3).

The LERF and 200 Area ETF receive process wastewater from the 242-A Evaporator and other Hanford remediation and waste management activities. Wastewater from the LERF is pumped to the 200 Area ETF for treatment to remove contaminants.


Why this permit change matters

The LERF and 200 Area ETF play a vital role in supporting Hanford’s Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste program (DFLAW), which is an important part of the Hanford cleanup process. The proposed permit modifications will allow the permittees to connect a waste transfer line from Effluent Management Facility to LERF and to make improvements to the 200 Area ETF so that it can support tank waste treatment and the DFLAW mission.

Overview of changes

The improvements include:

- Adding a primary transfer line from the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) to LERF Basin 42.
- Installing a brine waste load-out system inside the 200 Area ETF.
- Permitting and installation of filter drain sump tanks in the 200 Area ETF Load-in Station.

Modifications to the permit addenda include:

- Revising the LERF and 200 Area ETF Operating Unit Group boundary to include the WTP to LERF Basin 42 primary transfer line.
- Facility improvements to accommodate increased wastewater volume in support of the DFLAW project.
- Leak detection, closure, and inspection requirements for the new equipment.
An electronic leak detection system will be installed on the primary transfer line from WTP to the LERF Basin 42. A sight glass will also be installed at the LERF Basin 42 catch basin.

The Brine Load-out System will be located within building 2025E. Brine waste from the Brine Load-out System will be transferred into containers called totes.

The existing filter drain sump tank is located in Building 2025ED, Load-in Station, which is also where the new filter drain sump tank will be installed. Filter drain sump tank 59-A-TK-2 is located in the east bay of 2025ED, and a similar 45-gallon sump tank, 59A-TK-3 will be installed in the west bay.

Reviewing the proposed changes

Ecology invites you to review and comment on this proposed Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility permit modification. See Page 1 for comment period dates and information on how to submit comments.

Copies of the application for the proposed permit and supporting documentation will be available during the public comment period online at Ecology’s website at https://www.ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Nuclear-waste/Public-comment-periods. The documents will also be available at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed on the last page.

Ecology will consider and respond to all comments received during the public comment period. We will document our responses and issue a response to comments document when we make our final permitting decision.
Hanford’s Information Repositories and Document Review Locations

**Washington**

**Richland**
Ecology Nuclear Waste Program
Resource Center
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
509-372-7950

U.S. Department of Energy
Administrative Record
2440 Stevens Drive, Room 1101
Richland, WA 99354
509-376-2530

Washington State University Tri-Cities
Department of Energy Reading Room
2770 Crimson Way, Room 101L
Richland, WA 99354
509-375-7443

**Seattle**
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
P.O. Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195
206-543-5597

**Spokane**
Gonzaga University
Foley Center
502 E Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
509-313-6110

**Oregon**

**Portland**
Portland State University
Millar Library
1875 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97207
503-725-4542