

Rotary Core Sampling Systems for Hanford's Tanks

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a change to the Hanford Site Air Operating Permit (AOP). The AOP regulates air emissions from Hanford's tank ventilation systems.

How Will the Permit Change?

The change to the AOP would allow the United States Department of Energy to install up to two rotary core sampling systems for Hanford's [underground tanks](#).

The tanks are in Hanford's 200 East Area and 200 West Area, near the center of the Hanford Site. The tanks store high-level radioactive and chemical waste remaining from Hanford's plutonium manufacturing.

The rotary core sampling systems are needed to collect samples of solid materials in the tanks so the waste can be managed more safely.

The installation of the sampling systems would result in emissions of four toxic air pollutants. The modeled emissions are:

Hexavalent chromium – 0.00347 pounds per year.

N-nitrosodimethylamine – 0.0913 pounds per year.

Ammonia – 3.83 pounds a day.

Dimethyl mercury – 0.0000000379 pounds per year.

Dimethyl mercury levels exceed a threshold requiring further study. So Ecology is preparing a detailed toxicological analysis, and we will include the results and conditions in the issued AOP.

The formal name for this change to the Hanford Air Operating Permit is the "Approval Order for Notice of Construction." The approval order will become part of the permit.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Hanford Air Operating Permit ensures that Hanford's air emissions stay within safe limits that protect people and the environment.

Public Comment Period

May 31 – July 3, 2015

To Submit Comments

Send comments or questions by email (preferred), U.S. mail, or hand deliver them to:

Philip Gent
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

When the comment period closes, we will consider the comments received and revise the permit as needed. Then we will issue the revised permit and Response to Comments.

Public Hearing

A public hearing is not scheduled, but if there is enough interest, we will consider holding one. To request a hearing or for more information, contact:

Madeleine Brown
Department of Ecology
800-321-2008
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

Special Accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 509-372-7950.

Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711.

Information Repositories and other document review locations

Online

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/comment_periods.htm

Richland

Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program
Resource Center
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
Contact: Valarie Peery
509-372-7950
Valarie.Peery@ecy.wa.gov

Dept. of Energy Administrative Record
2440 Stevens Drive, Room 1101
Richland, WA 99354
Contact: Heather Childers
509-376-2530
Heather_M_Childers@rl.gov

Department of Energy Reading Room
2770 Crimson Way, Room 101L
Richland, WA 99354
Contact: Janice Scarano
509-372-7443
DOE.reading.room@pnnl.gov

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97207
Contact: Claudia Weston
503-725-4542
Westonc@pdx.edu

Seattle

University of WA Suzzallo Library
P.O. Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195
Contact: Cass Hartnett
206-685-3130
Cass@uw.edu

Spokane

Gonzaga University Foley Center
502 E Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
Contact: John S. Spencer
509-313-6110
spencer@gonzaga.edu

Information for Public Review

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the documents for our decision to change the permit.

- The application letter
- The draft approval order, conditions, and restrictions
- State Environmental Policy Act documentation

These documents can be found online or at the locations listed in the box on the left.

Air Pollution Regulations

Ecology is following [Washington Administrative Code 173-400](#), General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources, to process the U.S. Department of Energy's request to change the permit.

Washington Administrative Code Section [173-400-171](#) covers how we conduct this public comment period. It outlines when, where, and how we notify the public and provide the proposal for review.

Permittee/Site Owner

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



A Hanford tank farm as it appears today. Tanks are underground.