

# Ecology Proposes Permit Change to Close Parts of Hanford Storage Facility

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 would close Hot Cells A through F at the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF), which are no longer operating.

Large amounts of legacy contamination throughout the hot cells and ventilation system require stabilization of the contamination and upgrades to the ventilation system. The proposed changes are needed to support replacement of the K3 ventilation exhaust system at WESF, which is permitted under the Hanford Air Operating Permit.

As part of replacement of the ventilation exhaust system, the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractor (the permittees) proposed to stabilize WESF Hot Cell contamination left over from prior waste processing activities by filling Hot Cells A through F with grout. The stabilization effort requires submittal of a closure plan for WESF Hot Cells A through F.

Ecology has approved a treatment variance for specific waste items in Hot Cells B and C under [Washington Administrative Code 173-303-140](#). This variance will use grout to completely surround the waste containers, which protects human health and the environment by reducing the leachability of contaminants and minimizing waste generation and potential radiological exposure to workers. The treatability variance is detailed in the closure plan for WESF Hot Cells A through F.

Ecology invites you to review, and comment on this WESF Permit modification.

## View the Full Proposal

This document is a summary of the proposed WESF Permit changes. The full proposal is available beginning March 14, 2016, on [Ecology's website](#) ([www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm)) or at Hanford's public information repositories. (See locations on next page).

### WHY IT MATTERS

Nearly 2,000 capsules of cesium and strontium are stored underwater at Hanford's Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF). The ventilation system in the aging facility needs to be replaced. In order to replace the system, we need to close Hot Cells A through F, which are no longer operating. This modification will add these hot cells as a closing unit to the Hanford Permit, Revision 8C.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

March 14 through  
April 27, 2016

### To Submit Comments

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

Stephanie Schleif  
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA 99354  
[Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov)

### Public Meeting

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

Dieter Bohrmann  
509-372-7950  
[Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov)

### Special Accommodations

If you require special accommodations or need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Nuclear Waste Program at 509-372-7950.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.



3100 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA 99354

**Public Comment Period on  
Hanford's Waste Encapsulation  
and Storage Facility**

March 14 through April 27, 2016

Submit questions or comments to:

[Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov)

(See page 1 for more options.)

## Public Information Repositories

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

Portland State University Library  
1875 Southwest Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201  
Contact: Claudia Weston 503-725-4542

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

University of Washington Suzzallo Library  
4000 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast  
Seattle, WA 98195  
Contact: Emily Keller 206-685-2660

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room  
2770 Crimson Way, CIC Room 101L  
Richland, WA 99354  
Contact: Janice Parthree 509-372-7443

Gonzaga University, Foley Center Library  
502 East Boone Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99258  
Contact: John Spencer 509-313-6110

