

Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Permit



The Waste Treatment Plant is the permit's largest unit.

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites you to comment on the draft permit for the treatment, storage, and disposal of dangerous wastes at the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site. The site is north of Richland, Washington. The permit's formal name is the *Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Permit for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste*. **The public comment period is from May 1 to October 22, 2012.**

Why it matters

The permit is Ecology's tool for regulating dangerous waste at Hanford. The *Hazardous Waste Management Act* is the state's version of the federal *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*. It sets out regulations the Department of Energy and its contractors must meet to protect our environment and health of the people of Washington. Ecology's job is to protect, preserve and restore Washington's environment. At Hanford that means making sure cleanup activities follow state rules for protecting our air, land and water. The permit is an important part of how we do it.



Will there be public hearings?

Yes (see reverse for locations, dates, and times). Meetings will start with an overview of the draft permit and an informal question and answer session. After that, the formal hearing will begin.

Where can I review the draft permit?

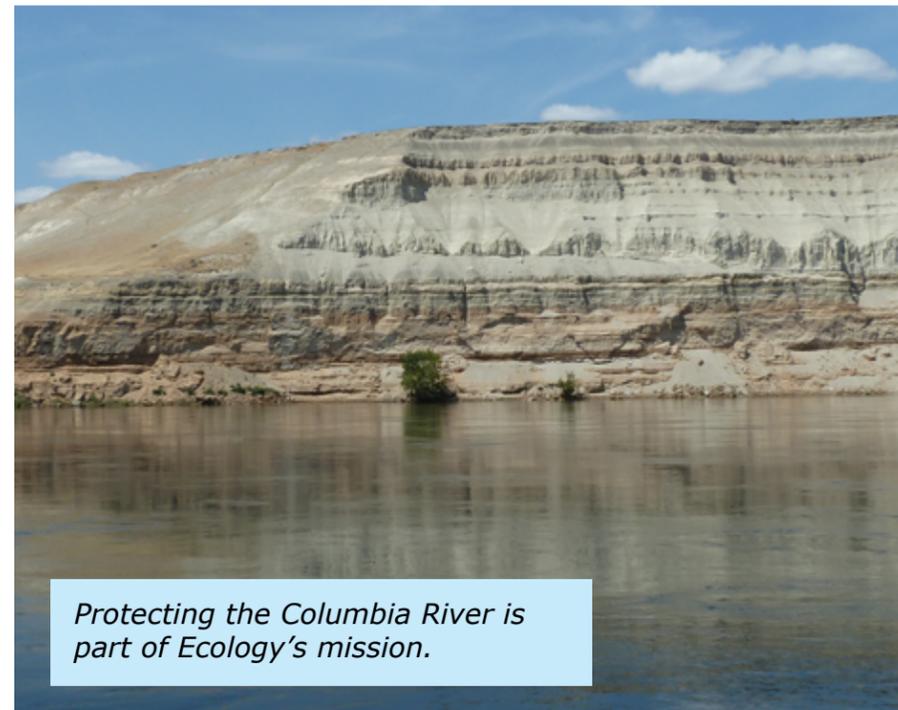
Visit our website to review the draft permit, the fact sheet, educational presentations, fast-facts cards explaining the parts of Hanford that are in the permit, and more:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/permitting/hdwp/

Or visit Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Resource Center or a public information repository (*locations on reverse*).

What happens after October 22?

- The comment period closes.
- We review the comments and revise the permit if needed.
- We issue the final permit and a response to public comments.
- Permit becomes effective 30 days after we issue the final version (if the permit is not appealed).



Protecting the Columbia River is part of Ecology's mission.

What does the permit cover?

The treatment, storage, and disposal of chemically hazardous and mixed waste across the 586-square-mile Hanford Site.

We have defined 39 separate parts of Hanford (called *units*) that have specific requirements (called *conditions*) for them. Most of the units are either operating or closing.

Operating units actively treat, store, or dispose of waste.

Closing units no longer receive waste and have begun actions that reduce threats to human health and the environment.

The permit has four post-closure units that are closed landfills with continued monitoring.

And the permit has two units for soil and groundwater. These parts of Hanford are being cleaned up under the rules of the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act*: epa.gov/superfund/policy/cercla.htm

If we don't think the cleanup is protective, we reserve the right to require more work for those areas.

Which regulations apply?

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RCRA is a federal law controlling hazardous waste from creation to disposal:
epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/rcra.html

Washington Administrative Code
Chapter 173-303 covers Washington State's dangerous waste regulations:
apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-303

State Environmental Policy Act
Ecology will be issuing a SEPA determination with the draft permit, and the draft determination will be available for comment during the same period as the draft permit (May 1 to October 22). You can find it with the draft permit, and additional information is at Ecology's SEPA register:
apps.ecy.wa.gov/sepa/

How can I comment on the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit?

In person at a public hearing

Seattle

May 15 & September 19 – 7:00 pm
University Heights Center (5/15)
Seattle Center, Olympic Room (9/19)

Portland

May 16 & September 13 – 7:00 pm
Red Lion Hotel on the River (5/16)
Ambridge Event Center (9/13)

Spokane

June 5 – 6:30 pm
Spokane City Council Chambers

Richland

June 6 – 6:30 pm
Richland Public Library

In writing

The most effective comments:

- Provide specific information referencing which permit condition you are commenting on.
- Provide factual and regulatory support for the comment.
- Suggest changes to fix the problem.
- Include supporting material, unless we already have the material. (For example, if the comment references a regulation on managing dangerous waste, we have it already. If the comment references a report or letter that is not part of the application or is not a commonly available reference, then we likely do not have it.)

How do I submit written comments?

You can email, mail, or hand-deliver comments to **Ron Skinnarland**.

MAIL

3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

EMAIL (preferred)
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
October 22

Who does the permit regulate?

The permittees are Hanford's owners and operators. The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is Hanford's owner and manages the site supervision out of two offices:

USDOE Richland Operations Office
PO Box 550, Richland, WA 99352

USDOE Office of River Protection
PO Box 450, Richland, WA 99352

The operators (those performing actual cleanup work) at Hanford are USDOE and its contractors. The contractors are listed in the permit and the permit's fact sheet.



Nuclear Waste Program
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, WA 99354

 Please pass along or recycle

Tell us what you think!
Public Comment Period May 1 to October 22 on the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

View the draft Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

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

PSU Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97207
Contact: Liz Paulus (503) 725-4542

Dept. of Energy Administrative Record
2440 Stevens Drive, Room 1101
Richland, WA 99354
Contact: Heather Childers (509) 376-2530

University of WA Suzzallo Library
PO Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195
Contact: David Maack (206) 543-4664

Department of Energy Reading Room
2770 Crimson Way - CIC, Room 101L
Richland, WA 99354
Contact: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443

Gonzaga University Foley Center
502 E Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
Contact: Linda Pierce (509) 323-6110

Special accommodations: If you need this publication in an alternative format, call the Nuclear Waste Program at (509) 372-7950. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341.