

Increases to Ammonia Emission Limits in Hanford's 200 East Area

The Washington Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a change to raise emissions limits for some of Hanford's underground double-shell tanks. The tanks are in groups called farms. The tank farms this notice applies to are 241-AN, 241-AW, and 241 AY/AZ. The tank farms are in Hanford's 200 East Area, which is near the center of the Hanford Site, and several miles from any agricultural land or residence.

These tanks receive waste from noncompliant single-shell tanks. Chemical interactions in the waste can create ammonia when the tanks receive waste and the waste is disturbed.

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is seeking to increase ammonia emission limits because emissions sometimes exceed the current limits. USDOE has found that the emissions vary based on seasons and on waste chemistry. The levels USDOE is requesting are still below regulatory limits.

Impact to the environment

The change is to raise the ammonia emission limit from 0.34 lb/hr to 2.5 lb/hr in the 241 AY/AZ tank farms, from 0.22 lb/hr to 2.9 lb/hr for the 241-AN and from 0.22 lb/hr to 2.8 lb/hr for 241-AW tank farms.

The emissions are not significant enough to require a public comment period. We are holding one because a number of people asked for a comment period for a recent change to Hanford's air emission limits.

Information for public review

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the documents that inform our decision to approve the emissions increase. They are online and at locations listed in the box on page 2.

- The application letter.
- Draft approval order, conditions, and restrictions.
- The Determination of Nonsignificance under the *State Environmental Policy Act*.

WHY IT MATTERS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

January 14 – February 15,
2013

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

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

Albert Chang
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

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
800-321-2008

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.

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

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

Department of Energy Reading Room
2770 Crimson Way, Room 101L
Richland, WA 99354
Contact: Janice Parthree 509-372-7443
Janice.Parthree@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: Hilary Reinert 206-543-4664
Reinerth@uw.edu

Spokane

Gonzaga University Foley Center
502 E Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
Contact: John S. Spencer 509-323-6110
spencer@gonzaga.edu

Air Pollution Regulations

Ecology is following [Washington Administrative Code 173-400](#), *General regulations for air pollution sources*, to process USDOE's request to raise ammonia emissions limits.

The section that covers how we conduct this public comment period is [WAC 173-400-171](#). 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



Construction of the 241-AW Tank Farm.