

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Site

The Washington State Departments of Health (DOH) and Ecology invite you to attend a meeting to learn about changes that could affect US Ecology, Inc., a commercial low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) disposal facility. US Ecology, Inc., is located 23 miles north of Richland near the center of Hanford. A representative from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will explain possible changes to the rules governing operation of the disposal facility. The NRC speaker will also address changes to guidance used to classify waste for disposal.

LLRW Disposal at US Ecology, Inc.

US Ecology, Inc., operates one of only four LLRW disposal sites in the United States. DOH regulates US Ecology, Inc., operations under a program compatible with the NRC's. The regulations for obtaining a license and operating a commercial disposal site for LLRW are in [10 CFR Part 61](#) and [WAC 246-249](#). The last update to these regulations was in the 1980s.

Two Rules May Change

Requirements for site-specific performance assessments for licensed commercial LLRW disposal facilities

The requirements for licensing and operating a commercial LLRW disposal facility are now the same for each site. But conditions at the four disposal sites may differ based on the location and environment at the sites. A site-specific performance assessment would allow a facility to use its unique characteristics when studying the site's ability to contain the waste.

Performance period requirements for licensed commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities

One of the requirements for obtaining a license is to show, through modeling, that the facility can safely contain the LLRW for a defined period after the facility closes. The proposed change will extend the performance requirements to address the disposal of depleted uranium. Unlike most LLRW, depleted uranium becomes more hazardous after long periods of time.

DATE AND LOCATION

Richland, Washington

Thursday, February 21, 2013

1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology

Nuclear Waste Program

3100 Port of Benton Blvd

Richland, WA 99354

[Map and directions](#)

[Ben Franklin Transit](#) Route 26 serves this area during morning and afternoon commute times.

For mid-day service to Ecology's building, contact the Taxi Feeder Service at 509-547-7777 or [online](#).

Contact information

Mike Garner

Department of Ecology

360-407-7102

USEcology@ecy.wa.gov

Earl Fordham

Department of Health

509-946-0234

Earl.Fordham@DOH.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.

The changes are not likely to have much impact at the US Ecology, Inc., site. The site's performance assessment would only need revision if a customer wanted to dispose of depleted uranium there. Neither US Ecology, Inc., nor the DOH foresees disposal of this waste stream.



Waste disposal at US Ecology, Inc.



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



Aerial view of US Ecology, Inc., Richland, WA.
