

**Community Relations Plan
for the
Hanford Federal Facility
Agreement and Consent Order**



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Department of Ecology**

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Department of Energy**

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INTRODUCTION

This plan is your user's guide for getting involved in the many important decisions being made at the Hanford Site. It outlines the many ways you can help in the Hanford Site cleanup.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) operates the Hanford Site. Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate DOE's activities for compliance with state and Federal environmental laws under the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). The Hanford TPA Community Relations Plan goes beyond the requirements for public involvement required by law because the Parties believe public involvement is very important to cleanup success. Ecology, DOE, and EPA conduct public involvement and information activities cooperatively. The Tri-Parties also conduct the Hanford Site cleanup public information and involvement activities independently.

The Tri-Parties recognize that people from all over the nation are concerned and affected by the Hanford Site because of the potential threat to human health and the environment. Some of the primary reasons for public involvement include the following:

- ▲ Public involvement aids credibility in the cleanup process. When members of the public are involved in decision-making at the Hanford Site, they can help ensure that better long-term decisions are made and cleanup is achieved.
- ▲ Better decisions are made if the public is involved early, frequently, and regularly.
- ▲ Continued public support in the cleanup process will help maintain congressional support for funding needed for cleanup.
- ▲ If people are not informed or involved in the process, they have reasons to doubt, criticize or stop the process.

This is the third version of the Community Relations Plan. The Plan was originally issued in 1990. The primary changes in the 1996 revised Community Relations Plan include updated information and a better explanation of Hanford public involvement plans. In the past, the Community Relations Plan has described only activities relating to the decisions made under the TPA. Ecology, DOE, and EPA found that it is not always clear which decisions are inside or outside the agreement or why that distinction matters. For this reason, the agencies included a separate document in the Community Relations Plan - "Public Involvement Opportunities: A Six Month Look Ahead" - that describes how you can be involved in or informed about other key Hanford decisions. However, the primary focus of this plan is TPA activities which involve decisions by the Tri-Parties.

We recognize that people have different levels of interest. Some people may simply want information about what is going on at the Hanford Site. Others are concerned about one particular issue. Others want to take an active role in numerous Hanford Site decisions. The opportunities exist for you to become involved at each level of interest. This document will tell you how.

SECTION 1

HOW TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES AND GET INVOLVED WITH DECISIONS

It is the Tri-Parties' objective to provide complete, understandable, consistent, and accessible information to people. Here are the various ways you can obtain information about the Hanford Site activities. This section addresses ways you can get information from and to Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This section also presents information about other organizations which closely follow the Hanford Site issues and how the Tri-Parties work with them.

HOW YOU CAN GET INFORMATION TO AND FROM THE TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT AGENCIES

Hanford Cleanup Toll-Free Phone Number

You can call a single, toll-free number to get information about the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) cleanup and compliance activities at the Hanford Site.

1-800-321-2008

Ecology staff monitor the calls and refer questions and requests for information to the appropriate agency; therefore, you no longer have to search for the agency that has the information you need. The 1-800 number will be advertised frequently in a variety of ways.

Mailing Lists

The agencies maintain two Hanford Cleanup mailing lists. The mailing lists are geared to the level of individual interest. The lists distinguish between individuals who would like to be highly involved with cleanup and compliance activities and those who would like to be informed about those issues. If you would like your name to be added to either list, call **1-800-321-2008**. Please specify the mailing list on which you want to be placed.

Hanford Update

The *Hanford Update* is a newsletter that is published bi-monthly to give you general information about TPA cleanup and compliance activities. It contains information on public meetings, workshops, and other opportunities to participate in Hanford decisions. The *Hanford Update* also includes a *Hanford Happenings* calendar of current and upcoming public meetings and comment periods. If you are not already receiving the *Hanford Update*, and would like to receive it, call **1-800-321-2008**.

Hanford Happenings Calendar

The *Hanford Happenings* calendar describes current and future meetings, comment periods and events connected to Hanford cleanup. The calendar is distributed each month. For further information about the calendar, call 1-800-321-2008.

Other Publications

One of the Tri-Parties' continuing goals is to improve the readability of Hanford cleanup publications. These publications include newsletters (the *Hanford Update* described above), Fact and Focus sheets, and summary documents. We recognize that providing you with adequate information is fundamental for you to participate in TPA decisions. If you have comments about the effectiveness of the publications call 1-800-321-2008.

Internet Addresses

Ecology and DOE have established Web sites on the Internet. These Web sites are updated periodically with information and schedules for Hanford Site public comment periods. The Tri-Parties' Internet addresses are:

DOE: <http://www.hanford.gov>

Ecology: <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/nwp/wordpage.html>

Fact and Focus Sheets

Fact and Focus sheets provide information on Hanford Site issues, cleanup activities, and opportunities for public involvement. The Tri-Parties send out fact and focus sheets throughout the year. You may receive copies by calling 1-800-321-2008.

Summary Documents

Summaries of certain public meetings are available upon request and are located in the Public Information Repositories. (See Information Repository listing on page 3.) The Comment and Response documents are placed in the Public Information Repositories and Administrative Record as part of the decision documentation.

Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Public Information Repositories

The purpose of the Public Information Repositories is to give the public access to information on TPA activities and to provide documents that are available for public comment. This information may include work plans, transcripts and summaries of public meetings and workshops, copies of the TPA, and related documents.

The Public Information Repositories also have copies of the Administrative Record index. Table 1 in Appendix B lists the TPA-related documents normally placed in the repositories. A check-out service is not available for documents; however, each library has a copying service.

To review information on Hanford TPA issues and the Administrative Record index, visit the Public Information Repository nearest you:

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications
Mail Stop FM-25
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-4664

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 328-4220 EXT 3844

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
934 SW Harrison
P.O. Box 1151
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 725-3690

DOE Public Reading Room
Washington State University,
Tri-Cities
100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-8583

Public Comment Periods Related to the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

You will be informed of public comment periods by notices in regional newspapers. If you have identified yourself as "highly interested" on the mailing list, you will also be notified through the mail or *Hanford Update*. The Tri-Parties will use mail or the *Hanford Update* as the primary notification when low-interest issues arise.

Public comment periods vary by law for permits or actions related to the TPA. Some are 30 days, some are 45 days.

Documents available for public comment are kept at the Public Information Repositories. You may receive one copy of the document upon request, by contacting one of the public involvement representatives listed on page 3 or by calling the Hanford Cleanup line at **1-800-321-2008**. There may be a fee depending on the size of the document requested. You will be notified if a fee will be charged.

Following a public comment period, the agencies consider all public comments before finalizing the document or decision. A Comments and Responses document is usually prepared and sent to all individuals who request it. The final document, final milestone change or final decision, and Comments and Responses document are distributed to the Public Information Repositories and Administrative Record. DOE makes documents publicly available through the DOE Reading Room and the Public Information Repositories and Administrative Record.

For documents not undergoing public comment, EPA must follow the requirements set forth in the Freedom of Information Act of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2. You can get more information by contacting EPA.

Requests for public records from Ecology concerning the cleanup and compliance of Hanford must be made in accordance with state law. Ecology may fill requests received by telephone or fax. Public review of records requires a signed "Request For Public Record" form. There is no fee for viewing records.

Ecology copy fees are: 1-24 pages, no charge; 25 pages or more, 20 cents per page. Postage charges may be added if the postage exceeds \$4. State sales tax will be added to the total copy charges. Pre-payment is required. For requests of microfilm, diskettes, photos, etc., call the Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at **1-800-321-2008**.

Public Involvement Planning Meetings

The Tri-Parties meet quarterly with the Hanford Advisory Board, the state of Oregon, local government and others interested in public involvement to discuss current and future activities on the public involvement calendar. Recommendations are made in the following areas:

- ▲ Current and upcoming Hanford issues
- ▲ Amount of public involvement needed for issues

- ▲ Outreach activities for issues
- ▲ Coordination of multiple public involvement activities
- ▲ Enhancement of communication
- ▲ Cost efficiencies in public involvement.

The agencies will be responsible for setting up these planning meetings. In addition, twice each year, the Tri-Parties will revise the "Six Month Look Ahead" to provide an overview of anticipated public involvement opportunities for the coming months. The revised document will identify which issues the Tri-Parties believe are most important to the public and how they intend to involve the public in the decision-making process for those issues. Those citizens who have copies of the Community Relations Plan will receive revisions of the "Look Ahead." Others may request a copy by calling 1-800-321-2008.

Public Involvement Evaluation Process

Improving progress in the area of involving the public in Hanford decisions is an ongoing activity. The three agencies are developing a process to evaluate the success of involving stakeholders and others in both specific events and on a larger scale. Efforts are directed at assuring:

- ▲ Effectiveness of advertisements and meeting notices
- ▲ Sufficient advance meeting notice
- ▲ Sufficient available material written at a lay level to allow public understanding
- ▲ Speakers who are knowledgeable and sensitive to different views and opinions
- ▲ Meeting leaders who listen to public comment and apply input to decisions
- ▲ Creative and innovative ways to get meeting information to the public
- ▲ Effective meetings
- ▲ Stakeholder access to the design of public involvement activities
- ▲ Convenience and accessibility of meetings.

The evaluation will include input from members of the public, stakeholders and the Tri-Parties. The results of the evaluation will be provided to those who take part in the evaluation and to the public.

Hanford Public Meetings

In an effort to provide broad and timely perspectives to the public on the Hanford cleanup priorities and budget decisions, the Tri-Parties will conduct public information meetings. At least one public meeting(s) will be held in the spring to carry out the commitment to involve the public and stakeholders in the DOE budget formulation as reflected in TPA paragraphs 148 and 149. An optional meeting in the fall may be conducted to further discuss and evaluate budget issues. At these meetings, the Tri-Parties will discuss the impact of budget decisions and take public comment and questions on cleanup priorities, as well as outline any changes to cleanup objectives and decisions at Hanford. One of the meetings may be conducted in conjunction with the Hanford Advisory Board. Other meetings will be

conducted at public meeting facilities (when available) in key cities in Washington and Oregon. To improve effectiveness and efficiency, these public meetings are encouraged to use innovative techniques to encourage public participation.

Public Notice and Invitation to Hanford Public Involvement Activities

The public involvement planning meetings, semi-annual meetings, special meetings and workshops are open to the public. In addition, the agencies welcome opportunities for co-sponsorship of meetings by local, state and tribal governments and members of citizen groups. Hanford public meetings or workshops are announced in the *Hanford Update*, *Hanford Happenings*, or other public notices. All members on the Hanford Cleanup mailing list will receive notices on significant public meetings or workshops. In addition, other methods to inform you of the meetings may include:

- ▲ Advertisements in the regional and local newspapers
(The agencies will strive for easily understood advertising methods.)
- ▲ Public service announcements on radio and television stations
- ▲ News releases
- ▲ Trade, civic, or environmental newsletters
- ▲ Direct mail to interested parties
- ▲ Telephone notification
- ▲ Public access television.

The Tri-Parties will strive to conduct public involvement planning activities so that stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in an issue 30 to 45 days before the start of the public comment period.

The Tri-Parties will assess public interest in specific actions on the basis on consultations with the Hanford Advisory Board, Oregon Office of Energy, Hanford Communities, stakeholders and members of the public. A member of the public also may request a public hearing on a permit action or a public meeting on a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) action.

If the agencies determine public interest in an issue to be minimal, they may conduct informal workshops, briefings or meetings instead of formal public meetings. The Tri-Parties will strive to incorporate alternative views in public involvement activities. When feasible, space will be made available for citizens to meet prior before scheduled public involvement activities.

Other Public Outreach Activities

The Tri-Parties conduct other forms of public outreach in Washington and Oregon. The informal public outreach activities are usually conducted on request and include public meetings, workshops, open houses, and meetings with local governments and organizations.

The public outreach activities promote public awareness, education, and involvement with Hanford cleanup and compliance decisions. The agencies also conduct regularly scheduled meetings with public interest group representatives to discuss Hanford issues and concerns.

If you would like to have a presentation made to your group by one of the Tri-Parties, call 1-800-321-2008 or one of the representatives listed in this plan.

Technical Assistance Grants

The EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program can provide funds to citizen groups affected by Superfund sites. These funds can be used by the citizen groups to hire technical advisors to help them interpret and understand the complex technical materials produced as part of the Superfund process. Grants can be up to \$50,000 for the life of the project and require a local share contribution of 20 percent of the total program cost. The local share can be cash or in the form of in-kind services. Since Hanford now has three Superfund sites, three TAGs could be made available. EPA has a Citizen's Guidance Manual and videos that explain the program and illustrate the ways in which such a grant can help the community participate in the Superfund process. For more information, please contact:

TAG Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Ave. HW-117 (CR)
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-0603

Washington State Public Participation Grants

The primary purpose of Washington State grants is to facilitate active participation by persons and citizen groups in the investigation and remedial action required due to releases or threatened releases of a hazardous substance. Grant amounts are limited to \$50,000, but may be renewed annually. You can get more information by contacting:

Solid Waste Financial Assistance Program
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(360) 407-6057

Heart of America Northwest and Columbia River United are among the organizations that have received Hanford Public Participation Grants.

Heart of America Northwest has a grant to promote public involvement and education on Hanford cleanup issues. Specifically, Heart of America will ensure effective public involvement in the "National Equity Dialogue" which pertains to DOE's decisions on treatment, storage and disposal of nuclear, hazardous and mixed wastes and fissile materials. Additionally, Heart of America Northwest will promote public involvement and awareness on the Hanford Strategic Plan, Ten-Year Plan, risk prioritization and budget issues.

Columbia River United focuses its efforts on the Columbia River and preventing additional nuclear and chemical wastes from entering it. Columbia River United will provide understandable information on the Columbia River to the public so members of the public can be informed and involved in Columbia River public involvement activities.

Native American Involvement

The Hanford Site is located entirely on land ceded to the United States under separate treaties with Indian nations. As a result of treaties with the United States, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe have certain rights at Hanford. The policies of both the United States and the state of Washington are to maintain a government-to-government relationship with tribal governments.

The Tri-Parties will take a proactive approach to solicit input from tribal governments on TPA policies and issues. Specifically, the Tri-Parties will conduct periodic briefings for the individual Tribes. The format of each briefing will be determined when briefings are scheduled. Copies of TPA documents and reports will be routinely provided by DOE concurrently with the transmission of the documents to Ecology and EPA.

Organizations Involved with Hanford Cleanup

Several groups closely follow Hanford Site issues. These groups may request representatives from the Tri-Parties to conduct regular briefings or special topic briefings. Many of these organizations conduct their own Hanford public information and involvement activities. These organizations include Heart of America Northwest, Hanford Watch of Oregon, Hanford Education Action League, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington League of Women Voters, and Columbia River United.

Local Organizations and Governments Involved in Hanford Cleanup

Several public and private organizations in the Tri-Cities area work closely with Hanford cleanup issues. They include the Tri-City Industrial Development Council, the Central Washington Building Trades Council, the Hanford Atomic Trades Council, the Hanford Communities, the Benton and Franklin county governments, and the city governments of Richland, Pasco and Kennewick. For more information about local organizations involved in the Hanford Site cleanup, contact the Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008.

Hanford Communities

Formed in 1994, the Hanford Communities is an intergovernmental cooperative organization of Benton County and five cities that are home to a large percentage of Hanford's workforce. By joining forces, independent Hanford Communities' members can concentrate their efforts and provide unified advice and support to the Tri-Parties on important issues. The Tri-Parties commit to working closely with Hanford Communities to determine local public involvement opportunities.

Briefings for Elected and Appointed Officials and Agency Representatives

Many people get their information about Hanford from elected or appointed officials, or from agencies other than Ecology, DOE, or EPA. The Tri-Parties strive to keep these individuals informed through publications, mailings, and periodic briefings. These officials are also on the highly-interested mailing list for timely notification of significant findings or decisions. The Tri-Parties strive to respond to questions from officials and other agency representatives in a timely manner. The parties also welcome requests for information or comments from officials or agency representatives about how the agencies can do a better job of keeping them informed.

News Media Activities

The Tri-Parties organize and conduct a variety of activities to ensure that the media have timely and complete information about Hanford cleanup and compliance activities. Some information is distributed through news releases, public service announcements, editorial boards, Hanford Site tours, and individual contact with reporters.

Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board was created in 1994 by the Tri-Parties, to advise all three agencies on major policy decisions. The Board is an independent body with the ability to contract for independent technical assistance, information and facilitation. The DOE is committed to request sufficient annual funding for Board operations sufficient for it to carry out the responsibilities as defined in its charter. The Board is composed of 32 members and their alternates who represent a broad range of stakeholder interests including: environmental, cultural and socio-economic, Hanford Site employees, public interest, local government, higher education, other Federal and state agencies and the state of Oregon. One of three affected Indian Tribes is represented on the Board. Two other tribes participate on the Board in an ex-officio status. The Board's membership list is outlined in Appendix D.

The Board has researched and adopted advisory positions on topics ranging from detailed counsel on spending and budget priorities to technical recommendations on moving tank waste. The Board also advised the agencies on where to build a new Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, groundwater pump-and-treat programs and on privatizing Hanford's tank waste cleanup.

Included within the Board are three standing committees: Dollars and Sense (DOE budget); Environmental Restoration; and Health, Safety, and Waste Management. Although the Cultural and Socio-Economic Impacts committee and the Public Involvement committee are not standing committees, they can convene when the Board deems it necessary.

The Board's Charter describes the Board as "...an independent, non-partisan, and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected by Hanford cleanup issues." The Board's mission "...is to provide informed recommendations and advice to the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and

the Washington Department of Ecology ...on selected major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site." The Hanford Advisory Board Charter is a separate appendix to this plan (Appendix E). Some of the major policy issues considered by the Board are:

- ▲ Protection of worker and public health and safety
- ▲ Budget access and analysis
- ▲ Treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste
- ▲ Future land use
- ▲ Transportation of hazardous wastes/emergency response
- ▲ Recognition of tribal treaty rights
- ▲ Protection of groundwater and restoration of contaminated groundwater
- ▲ Impacts on the Columbia River
- ▲ Community impact plans
- ▲ Technology development
- ▲ Strategies for effective public involvement.

DOE funds the Board. The Board's Charter states that DOE "commits to provide funding levels adequate to cover" the Board's needs for technical assistance, facilitation, meeting costs and members' travel costs, and administrative support. The Charter states that the Board will determine adequacy of funding and will have independent authority to approve expenditures in its budget.

The Board usually meets at least eight times a year at various locations within the states of Washington and Oregon. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in Board meetings. For a copy of the Hanford Advisory Board Charter, meeting agendas and information, call Hanford Cleanup toll-free at 1-800-321-2008.

For more information and contacts for organizations involved in Hanford Cleanup, see "Who to Talk to About Hanford," published by Ecology. You can obtain a copy by calling Hanford Cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.

Other Agencies Involved in Hanford Cleanup

Washington State Department of Health

The Washington State Department of Health's Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford radioactive air emissions. The Division conducts environmental radiation monitoring to fulfill its public health responsibilities and verifies the results of monitoring performed by DOE and its contractors. The Division also conducts joint investigations with Ecology into practices at Hanford.

For more information, call Department of Health, (206) 753-3934, or in Washington 1-800-525-0127.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife monitors and documents the Hanford Site activities in regard to restoration and mitigation programs to prevent injury to fish, wildlife and their habitats. It also issues state permits for cleanup work involving the disturbance of the Columbia River and its shoreline.

Oregon Office of Energy

The Oregon Office of Energy (OOE) is the lead Oregon agency on Hanford issues. Oregon monitors cleanup and other activities at the Hanford Site and the downstream Columbia River environment. Oregon staff work with DOE and local governments on safe transport of Hanford nuclear wastes in Oregon. Staff also support the Oregon Hanford Waste Board. This group recommends policy and gives advice to the Governor on Hanford issues. Oregon Energy also is the lead for Hanford emergency planning and response and public involvement in Oregon.

For more information, call Oregon Office of Energy, (503) 378-4040 or in Oregon 1-800-221-8035.

SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE HANFORD SITE AND THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON THE SITE

This section is intended to acquaint the public with Hanford, its activities, and its past practices in a general way. It is not a complete listing of all that is known about the Hanford Site, its operations, or its waste management history. More recent data on environmental contamination and groundwater plumes may be found in the annual Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory environmental monitoring reports, the latest of which is PNNL11139, dated August 1996. The reports also are available on the Internet at "http://w3.pnl.gov:2080/env/env_home.html".

Site Description

Hanford consists of 560 square miles of land along the Columbia River in southeastern Washington, situated north and west of the cities of Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco, an area commonly known as the Tri-Cities. Hanford is approximately 140 miles southwest of Spokane, Washington; 200 miles southeast of Seattle, Washington; and 200 miles northeast of Portland, Oregon. (Page 14 presents a Hanford Site map.) The Columbia River runs through the northern portions of the Site, then turns south to form part of the eastern boundary. Hanford's southeast boundary forms the northern border of the city of Richland.

The geologic structure beneath Hanford consists of three distinct formations. The deepest level is a thick series of basalt flows that have been warped and folded, resulting in extensions that crop out as rock ridges in some places. Layers of silt, gravel and sand form the middle level. The uppermost level is known as the Hanford formation and consists of gravel and sands deposited by catastrophic floods. Both confined and unconfined aquifers can be found beneath Hanford. Confined aquifers consist of water-saturated, porous material confined by layers of basalt. Unconfined aquifers consist of water-saturated, porous material located above the first confining basalt layer. The depth of the water table ranges from 60 to 250 feet below ground surface.

Semi-arid land with a sparse covering of cold desert shrubs and drought-resistant grasses dominates the Hanford landscape. Forty percent of the area's annual 6.25 inches of rain occurs between November and January. The land surrounding Hanford is used primarily for agriculture and livestock grazing. The major population center near Hanford is the Tri-Cities, with a combined population of nearly 200,000. The southwest area of Hanford, covering 120 square miles, is designated as the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE) and is used by DOE for ecological research. The Site's Wahluke Slope area, located across the Columbia River, contains the Washington State Department of Wildlife Wahluke Wildlife Recreation Area and the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. The Wahluke Slope and ALE, which comprise 45 percent of the 560-square-mile Site, have been cleaned up and are currently proposed for deletion from the Superfund National Priority List. Non-DOE facilities within Hanford boundaries include three Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) nuclear plants (the operating WNP-2 and the partially complete

WNP-1 and WNP-4) in addition to the Hanford Generating Facility that used N Reactor steam to create power. Also, US Ecology, a private firm that is licensed by the state of Washington, operates a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

DOE facilities are located throughout the Hanford Site and the city of Richland. Hanford is divided into six administrative areas, known as the 100, 200, 300, 400, 600, and 1100 Areas. The first four areas contain most of the nuclear operations at Hanford. The 100 Area includes the N Reactor and eight other deactivated production reactors along the northern stretch of the Columbia River. The 200 East and West Areas, located in the central part of Hanford, contain the principal chemical processing and waste management facilities. The 300 Area, approximately three miles north of the city of Richland, contains research and development laboratories and former reactor fuel manufacturing facilities. The Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) is located in the 400 Area, which lies northwest of the 300 Area. The 600 Area is the administrative designation for Site lands that are not part of any other administrative area. The 1100 Area, located adjacent to the Richland city limits, contains vehicle maintenance and storage facilities.

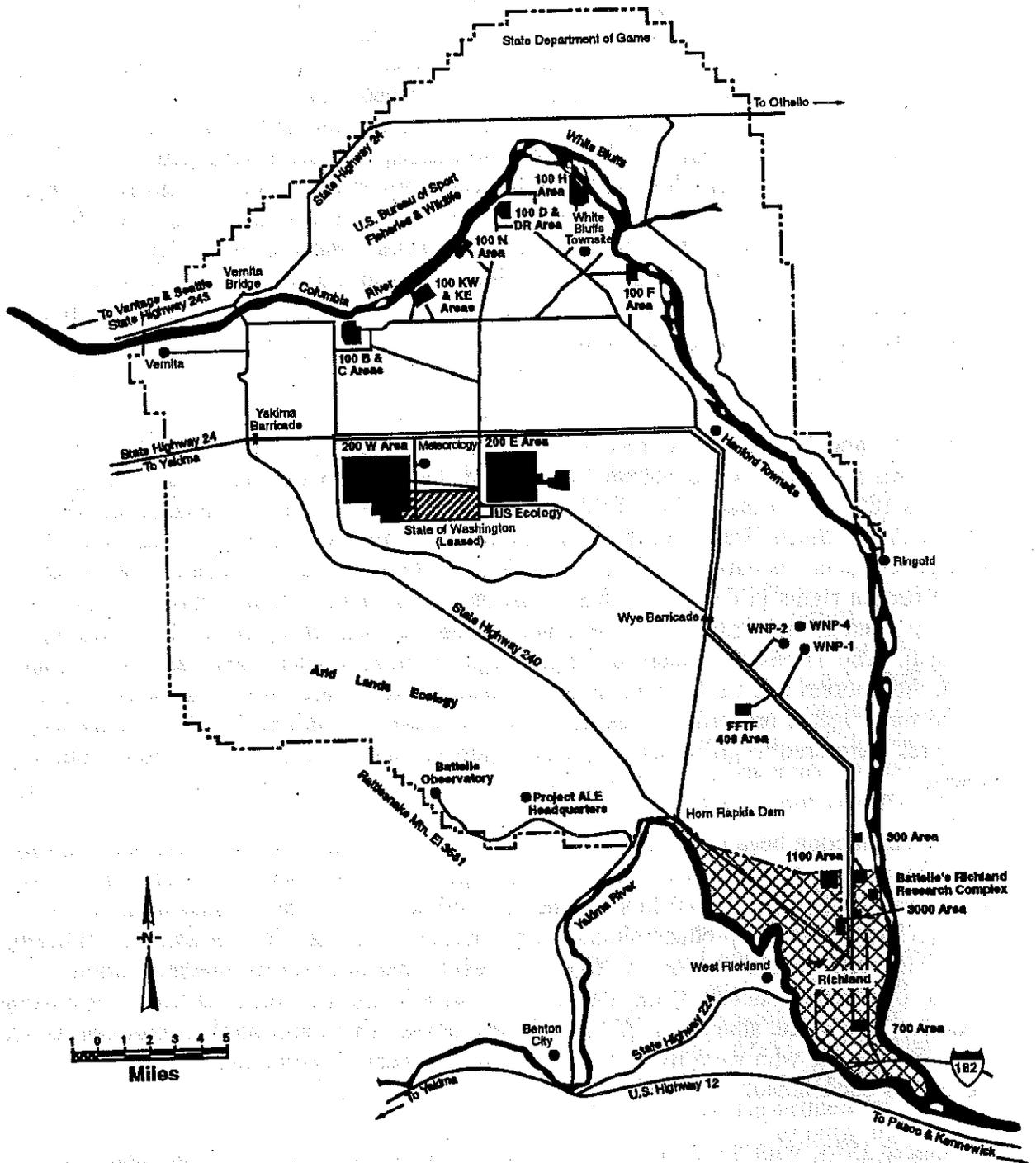
Site History

Hanford Site land was originally inhabited by Native Americans, primarily the Wanapum Band. It was also used by the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse Tribes. In 1855, the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla Tribes signed treaties with the United States under which the majority of their Territory was ceded to the federal government, including the lands on which the Hanford Site is located. The Tribes reserved certain rights in the ceded lands: take fish from all streams within or adjacent to the territory and at their usual and accustomed places and to erect temporary buildings for curing fish. The Tribes also reserved the privileges to hunt, to gather roots and berries, and to graze their horses and cattle on open and unclaimed land. Parts of the Site were settled and used for irrigated orchards, farms, and ranches before World War II. Approximately 6,000 acres were used to grow peaches, pears, grapes, asparagus, and other agricultural products.

Hanford construction began in January 1943 after the Manhattan District of the Army Corps of Engineers chose it as one of the sites for the highly secret Manhattan Project, which was to produce plutonium for the world's first nuclear weapons. Hanford's mission as part of the Manhattan Project was to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Hanford was considered to be an ideal site for the Manhattan Project for several reasons: 1) its remote location; 2) access to railroad systems; 3) the abundance of water from the Columbia River for cooling the reactors; and 4) the abundance of hydroelectric power from dams on the Columbia River. About 1,500 people who were living within the Site boundaries were relocated and their property was condemned.

In September 1944, with the operation of B Reactor in the 100 Area, the Department of Defense (at that time it was known as the War Department) began producing materials to be used in nuclear weapons. Within a few months, B Reactor startup was followed by the startup of the D and F Reactors. These three reactors produced the initial plutonium essential for the creation of nuclear weapons.

Hanford Site



Between 1959 and 1963, N Reactor was constructed. By 1964, nine reactors were producing plutonium at Hanford. In 1966, WPPSS built a power generating facility near the N Reactor. In addition to the reactors, operations at Hanford included other elements of the nuclear fuel cycle: fuel fabrication, chemical processing, waste management, and research and development facilities. Large amounts of radioactive substances were released to the air and water during the early operations of Hanford. The possible consequences of these releases are being studied in programs unrelated to the TPA.

The development of Hanford's plutonium production capacity resulted in the growth of the area surrounding the Site. In the months following initial construction on the Site in 1943, more than 50,000 construction workers moved to the Hanford area. Many of these workers later settled in the Tri-Cities, which became not only the fourth largest metropolitan area in the state of Washington, but also a new economic hub for the region.

Eight of the nine plutonium production reactors were closed between 1964 and 1971 when the nation's plutonium needs diminished due to a shift in national defense policy. The Site gradually changed to emphasize peaceful uses of nuclear power and research, and investigation of the future uses of such energy sources as nuclear, solar, geothermal, fossil fuels, wind, and organic wastes. Hanford was chosen as the site for the FFTF advanced reactor in 1967. In the early 1980s, Hanford activities shifted again to re-emphasize defense production, with about 60 percent of Site funding used for national defense and 40 percent for energy research and related programs. In the 1990s, DOE's mission at Hanford shifted from production to cleanup.

Past and Present Operations at Hanford

DOE activities at Hanford now center around waste management and environmental restoration. Other activities include management of defense-generated radioactive and hazardous waste, environmental research, research and development, and assistance to state and local energy programs. The activities that have been or are presently conducted at Hanford are described in the following sections, and are broken into Hanford's main operating areas.

100 Area

The 100 Area is 26 square miles of land along the Columbia River where nine water-cooled plutonium reactors were constructed starting in 1943 as part of the nation's defense program. All nine reactors were operating at one time in the 1960s, but only N Reactor remained in operation from 1971 through 1987. The other eight reactors operated are: B Reactor, 1944-1968; D Reactor, 1944-1967; F Reactor, 1945-1965; DR Reactor, 1950-1964; H Reactor, 1949-1965; C Reactor 1952-1969; KW Reactor, 1955-1970; and KE Reactor, 1955-1971.

N Reactor was the only dual-purpose reactor used to produce both plutonium and steam. The steam was converted into electrical power at the adjacent Hanford Generating Plant, which was owned and operated by WPPSS. B Reactor is listed on the National Historical Register and is being considered for preservation.

While in operation, wastes and cooling water from the reactors were disposed of in more than 100 trenches, cribs (underground drain fields), ponds, and burial grounds in the 100 Area. Also, leaks in the reactors' waste water transfer systems caused soil and underlying groundwater to be contaminated with chemical and radioactive pollutants.

The primary contaminants are the radioisotopes strontium 90, cobalt 60, cesium 137 and tritium, and the heavy metal chromium. Solid waste burial grounds and other facilities not associated with liquid wastewater may also contain significant amounts of contaminants. These could pose human or environmental threats through exposure to ground and surface water contaminated by these substances. The 100 Area has about 11 square miles of waste disposal locations and contaminated groundwater.

The possible pathways for human exposure to strontium 90 and chromium are through the use of water from the Columbia River for recreation, irrigation, manufacturing, or drinking. The Columbia River is a possible route of exposure since both surface and groundwater from the 100 Area flow toward the river. However, no wells within three miles of the 100 Area presently draw drinking water from the contaminated aquifer.

Current contamination releases are regulated under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and DOE requirements that are comparable to Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules for radioactive releases from commercial reactors to surface waters. Monitoring results show concentrations of radionuclides identified in the river are below drinking water standards set by EPA and the state of Washington.

Responding to public interest in protecting the Columbia River, the Environmental Restoration Refocusing Package was signed as amendment four to the TPA in January 1995. The changes in this amendment responded to public concern about the progress of cleanup along the Columbia River. Changes added emphasis on groundwater cleanup and protection and provided a plan to achieve greater efficiencies and coordination of cleanup activities.

Currently a Record of Decision (ROD) is in place outlining the cleanup of 37 radioactive liquid waste sites in the 100 Area. The plan chosen is to remove the contaminated soils and debris and ship the material to a disposal facility on the 200 Area Plateau. Full-scale cleanup is ongoing in the 100 Area. Pump-and-treat systems are in use to reduce chromium levels in the 100 Area groundwater sites. The chromium cleanup actions will help protect salmon spawning areas in the Hanford Reach.

Another cleanup priority in the 100 Area is the K Basins. More than 2,100 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel, nearly 80 percent of DOE's nationwide inventory, is stored in concrete basins adjacent to the K West and K East reactors. Located a few hundred yards from the Columbia River, the 40-year-old basins do not meet current safety standards, and one has a history of serious leaks. Construction is under way on a facility in the 200 Area to provide dry interim storage for the fuel.

200 Area

Hanford's chemical processing and defense waste management activities took place in the 200 East and West Areas. Since 1944, nuclear fuel irradiated in Hanford's 100 Area production reactors was transported to the 200 Areas and chemically treated to remove and refine plutonium and uranium. This process produced radioactive, hazardous, and mixed (radioactive and hazardous) wastes, all of which have been stored or disposed of in the 200 Areas. The 200 Areas contain 149 single-shell storage tanks and 28 double-shell tanks with a capacity of up to one million gallons each. These tanks store high-level and miscellaneous other liquid radioactive waste.

Low-level radioactive solid wastes are disposed of by burial in trenches, and low-level liquids are treated to reduce levels of radioactivity before being discharged to the soil. Radioactive wastes called transuranic wastes, primarily plutonium-contaminated solid materials, have been stored underground on asphalt pads and in an indoor storage facility. Plans call for this material to be shipped to a deep geologic repository in New Mexico for final disposal.

Groundwater samples taken between 1984 and 1995 in the 200 Area revealed concentrations of tritium (a radioactive isotope of hydrogen), uranium, cyanide, carbon tetrachloride and radioactive isotopes of iodine are present in 200 Area groundwater. Releases of tritium and radioactive isotopes of iodine resulted from chemical processing operations. The wastes containing these contaminants were disposed in ponds, cribs, trenches, and reverse wells.¹ At the same time, uranium (a radioactive element), cyanide (an organic compound used during uranium recovery), and carbon tetrachloride (a solvent used in the plutonium extraction process in the Plutonium Finishing Plant) wastes were disposed into the soil.

Although uranium, cyanide, and carbon tetrachloride generally bind to the soil in the 200 Area, some of those three substances, plus chromium and tritium, can be found in large groundwater plumes, or areas of contamination within the groundwater. The tritium plume is the largest and extends east to the Columbia River. In total, the 200 Area contains 230 known disposal locations that generated 215 square miles of contaminated plumes. Potential pathways for human exposure to the contaminated groundwater are public and private wells and the Columbia River. Existing data suggest there is no immediate threat to the public from those sources.

As the science of chemically separating the needed isotopes from irradiated fuel evolved, several large facilities were used at Hanford for these processes:

B Plant and T Plant

Processing of Hanford's reactor fuel from 1944 through 1956 was conducted at B Plant in the 200 East Area and T Plant in the 200 West Area. Since 1957, T Plant has been used as a decontamination and decommissioning facility for equipment used in the plants.

¹Reverse wells, also called injection wells, were used in the 1940s at Hanford to inject wastes deep into the ground.

From 1967 to 1985 B Plant was used to remove high-heat-producing isotopes of cesium and strontium from the liquid waste in storage tanks. The Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF) was added to the B Plant complex in 1974 to encapsulate and store the cesium and strontium. As part of the B Plant deactivation now in progress, WESF is being modified so that it can continue to store the nearly 2,000 capsules until final disposal decisions are made.

Reduction Oxidation Plant and Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant

In the 1950s, two new processes came into use at Hanford. Chemical processing was conducted at the Reduction Oxidation Plant (REDOX) in 200 West from 1952 through 1967, and at the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant (PUREX) in 200 East. PUREX opened in 1956, went into standby status in 1972, was re-started in 1983 and shut down in 1988. Cleanout work under way will result in the facility only needing to be observed and maintained by July 1997.

Plutonium Finishing Plant and Uranium Oxide Plant

Once plutonium and uranium were separated from irradiated fuel, they were sent to other Hanford facilities for further processing. Liquid material containing uranium went to the Uranium Oxide Plant (UO_3) in the 200 West Area, where it was converted into a solid and sent off-site for recycling into reactor fuel. The UO_3 Plant was deactivated and placed on long-term surveillance and maintenance status in 1995. Liquid plutonium was either converted to plutonium oxide at PUREX or transferred to the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) in the 200 West Area. There it was converted into plutonium oxide or plutonium metal for shipment to other DOE facilities. PFP is currently stabilizing plutonium scrap for long term storage. The Plant also serves as the storage, handling, and shipping facility for plutonium. Other facilities in the 200 Areas that were or are continuing to generate waste products are laboratories, fabrication shops, and coal-powered steam plants.

New Facilities

The 200 Areas also contain several new facilities associated with cleanup operations. The 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility and the 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility completed in 1995 are major elements of a Sitewide effort to end the discharge of untreated liquids to the soil. The Waste Receiving the Processing Facility Module 1 is being constructed to examine and package solid wastes. The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility is the primary repository for low-level contaminated soils from the 100 Area cleanup.

300 Area

Facilities in the 300 Area have been used for fabrication of reactor fuel, research and development, and technical and service support functions. The DOE contractors are involved in the research and development of fossil, solar, nuclear fission, and nuclear fusion energy. Research and development also take place on environmental, biomedical and on the encapsulation of liquid and solid waste in glass.

The 300 Area was developed during World War II and expanded later. Liquid wastes from operations in the 300 Area were at various times disposed of in 14 ponds, trenches, and landfills. Among the 190 buildings in the 300 Area, these are the significant programs and facilities that have housed major process operations and nuclear programs:

- ▲ Nuclear fuel fabrication activities were centered in the 313, 314, and 333 Buildings since 1944, involving the preparation of uranium fuel elements for the nine production reactors.
- ▲ Fuel fabrication and test assembly fabrication activities in support of FFTF were conducted in the 300 Area since the 1970s. Primary activities included preparation of fuels and components in the 308 Building, and nonradioactive FFTF component development in the 306 Building.
- ▲ Radiological chemistry laboratories and technology development in the 321, 324, 325, and 327 Buildings include a variety of activities involved in liquid metal reactor technology programs, as well as other nuclear and waste management studies and scientific research.

Other notable 300 Area facilities include the 337 Building, which includes a high bay formerly used for FFTF component testing. The 331 Building is the Life Sciences Laboratory, which conducts a range of biological, biomedical, and environmental research programs. The 327 Building houses hot cells (heavily shielded rooms) used for research on highly radioactive materials.

The primary contaminants in the 300 Area include uranium, metals and solvents which resulted from fuel fabrication operations. From 1944 to 1975, uranium-contaminated wastes were disposed of in the north and south ponds (pools in which the downward movement of liquid waste is restricted due to soil retention) and several trenches. At one time there were 14 disposal locations in the 300 Area, which currently has about five square miles of radioactive contamination. Potential exposure pathways include wells in the North Richland area, the Columbia River, and an irrigation well used by Battelle Farm Operations. Existing data indicate there is no current danger to the public from those sources. A ROD was issued in the summer of 1996 authorizing DOE to begin removing contamination from the liquid waste disposal sites.

In June 1995, the Tri-Parties approved an agreement to require the removal of the 324 Building High Level Vault tank waste by October 31, 1996, and removal of the building's B-Cell mixed waste and equipment by May 31, 1999.

400 Area

The 400 Area is the location of FFTF, a liquid metal test reactor that began full-power operation in 1982 and shut down in 1993. Initially, FFTF served as a test tool for advanced reactor technology. FFTF expanded into other areas of research and development, such as fusion research, space power systems, medical isotope production, and international research programs.

Adjacent to FFTF is the Fuels and Materials Examination Facility (FMEF). The facility was constructed in 1984 as a nuclear materials processing facility that is also outfitted with an automated fuel fabrication line. It has not yet been used as a nuclear facility. The facility is used by non-nuclear groups such as geophysics and geosciences.

Almost all liquid wastes generated by FFTF have been transported to 200 Area waste management locations. Several spills and nonradioactive liquid waste disposal facilities will be investigated to determine the need for remedial actions. In July 1995, the TPA agencies approved an agreement to complete transition of FFTF from operational standby to a surveillance and maintenance condition by December 2001.

DOE is currently maintaining FFTF in a standby condition while the department evaluates the possible use of the reactor in the production of tritium gas for nuclear weapons. FFTF deactivation had been scheduled to begin in 1997. The Department expects to announce a decision on the future of the reactor in December 1998 when it announces selection of a primary, long-term source of tritium and a second source to be maintained as a backup.

If the DOE determines that FFTF could potentially play a role in tritium production, the Department will consult with the public, complete safety and environmental reviews and take appropriate actions to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other requirements.

1100 Area

The 1100 Area is the location of maintenance and storage operations for Hanford. The maintenance facilities service all vehicles and equipment used throughout Hanford. The 1100 Area covers less than one square mile. It has no disposal locations for radioactive or mixed wastes, but does contain several sites at which hazardous wastes were disposed. The area is adjacent to the Richland city limits and one-quarter mile from the Richland well field. Contaminants in the 1100 Area included liquid battery acid containing lead and sulfuric acid, and ethylene glycol (antifreeze), both of which could potentially contaminate the groundwater beneath the 1100 Area. The lead and sulfuric acid resulted from the disposal of batteries between 1954 and the 1970s. The batteries were brought from the 100 Area and placed in an unlined disposal pit west of the 1171 Building. The ethylene glycol resulted from leaks of antifreeze stored in a 5,000-gallon underground tank beneath the 1171 Building. The tank leaked between 1976 and 1978 and was removed from the ground in 1986.

The cleanup of the 1100 Area was completed in the fall of 1995. This cleanup is the first of the four original Hanford National Priority List sites to be completed.

SECTION 3

TRI-CITIES AREA COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Hanford has played a primary role in determining the Tri-Cities economic makeup. When Hanford's mission changes, repercussions are felt in the Tri-Cities. A brief history of the community reveals the Tri-Cities dependence on Hanford for economic stability and growth. The history also reveals its vulnerabilities and strengths influencing present and future economic conditions.

In December 1942, scientists in Chicago conducted the first controlled nuclear chain reaction. In the race to develop nuclear weapons during World War II, this initial step provided America the knowledge needed to develop the atomic bomb. A site was needed to apply this new technology to weapons production. In January 1943, Hanford, boarding Richland's north side, was chosen by the federal government for the facilities to produce America's nuclear weapons.

To construct the facilities that would create the plutonium required for the world's first nuclear weapons, the federal government acquired 640 square miles of land, including the towns of Richland, Hanford and White Bluffs. The Site became home to the world's first full-scale plutonium production plants. More than 1,500 area residents were evacuated during the spring of 1943 to make way for construction.

Thousands of workers across the nation converged on the area in 1944 and 1945 to build these plants. The population swelled to 51,000 in a few months. The world's first three production plutonium reactors were built about 35 miles north of Richland, although at the time few knew their purpose. About two years after their construction started, Hanford produced for America's first nuclear detonation.

Following World War II, during the Cold War years, the federal government continued to use Hanford as a site for nuclear weapons materials production. From 1943 to 1958, Richland was a government town. Most Hanford workers lived in Richland. As a result, a large proportion of Richland's population consisted of skilled laborers and highly educated professionals in the upper income brackets. This work force provided the Tri-Cities with a stronger economic base.

In 1958, the citizens chose by popular vote to incorporate Richland as an independent city. Although freed from federal oversight of the municipal government, Richland's economic well-being remained dependent from Hanford.

By 1946, three plutonium production reactors were in operation at Hanford. There were also facilities for the entire nuclear production cycle, including fuel fabrication, chemical processing, waste management and research. In the mid-1960s, Hanford entered a period of decline. All eight of the single-purpose plutonium production reactors were closed between 1964 and 1971. Only Hanford's N Reactor, a dual purpose reactor producing plutonium and electricity remained in operation.

In the 1970s, Hanford became a research center for peaceful uses of the atom and alternative energy sources. By 1975, energy research had become Hanford's major mission. Besides nuclear energy, solar, geothermal, fossil, wind and organic energy sources were studied.

The Tri-Cities was one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the nation during the 1970s, with a population increase of 55 percent during that decade.

The growth of the 1970s was reversed in the 1980s. Starting in 1981, Hanford located Supply System plant WNP-4 was terminated, construction on plant WNP-1 was halted and plans for additional power plants were canceled. Only plant WNP-2 was completed and began commercial operation. About 11,000 construction jobs associated with building these plants were lost during that decade. In the late 1980s, the federal N Reactor was placed on cold standby, terminating another major Hanford project; and in 1987, the Basalt Waste Isolation Project was unexpectedly discontinued.

During the decline of the 1980s, the weaknesses of the Tri-Cities' reliance on Hanford were revealed. The severe cutbacks in Hanford jobs forced many highly-skilled nuclear technicians and construction workers to leave the Tri-Cities area. This cost the community a large portion of residents in the upper income brackets. Though many left during downturns in the Tri-Cities economy, others chose to find alternative local employment and remain because of the high quality of life found in the Tri-Cities.

In 1991, DOE announced N Reactor would be permanently shut down. Nearly 50 years of producing nuclear materials at Hanford for America's defense had come to an end. Many Hanford areas were left contaminated by chemical and radioactive waste from the years of weapon production. This resulted in the present Hanford mission of environmental cleanup.

Thousands of jobs were added at Hanford to support new and expanded environmental restoration and waste management activities. In 1994 Hanford employment peaked at approximately 18,000. Since that time, declining budgets restructuring of work have reduced Site employment to about 11,000.

Although the Tri-Cities' economic stability remains tied to Hanford, that dependence is becoming less as area employment not directly related to the Site continues to grow.

SECTION 4

HANFORD DECISION PROCESS

Many decisions are made at Hanford. This section addresses Hanford decisions made within the scope of the TPA. Those decisions include TPA, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), state and federal hazardous waste permit, and CERCLA decisions. However, it should be noted that other decisions are made at Hanford *outside* the scope of the TPA.

Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Decisions

The Hanford TPA provides the legal framework for Hanford cleanup and compliance schedule. Tri-Party Agreement decisions cover a wide range of issues. The RCRA and CERCLA decisions are made under the umbrella of the TPA.

Since 1989, new information has been obtained about the Hanford Site and new technologies are being developed to address Site contamination problems. Therefore, from time to time the decisions made as part of the 1989 Agreement must be revisited in light of new information.

For this reason the three agencies developed a system called the change request process. This process allows changes to the cleanup and compliance schedule by mutual agreement of the three agencies. Any of the three agencies can initiate a proposed change, although as implementor of cleanup, DOE initiates most changes. This process provides a formal mechanism for reaching agreement among all the agencies. If agreement cannot be reached, a formal dispute process is outlined in the TPA.

Some of the changes and decisions must include public involvement and public comment, while others can be made by the Tri-Parties in a routine manner, without public involvement. It should also be noted that all changes to schedules must be for good cause and all changes are documented in the TPA work schedule.

CHANGES IN THE TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT

Change Request Process

Proposed wording or milestone changes in the Hanford TPA can be very modest or they can be significant changes in strategy. The process for making a change gives the agencies some discretion in what kind of public involvement process will take place. A flow diagram of the change request process is on page 27.

Twice in the process, the agencies determine whether the proposed change is significant. Each time, if they conclude the change is significant they will initiate a process for consulting with the public.

The criteria reviewed by the agencies to determine whether a change is significant include the following items:

- ▲ The draft change could have substantial adverse impact on the environment.
- ▲ The draft change involves a major milestone.
- ▲ The draft change could have a significant impact on maintaining and fulfilling important Hanford cleanup objectives and TPA milestones.
- ▲ The draft change could have an impact on interested parties, including Native Americans, labor unions, the Tri-Cities community, and Hanford public interest groups.
- ▲ The draft change is proposed under a law or regulation that stipulates public involvement.

Each of the criteria is evaluated to determine the suitable level of public involvement.

The first opportunity for public involvement allows the interested public to help clarify the issue with DOE and regulators and offer suggestions for alternatives to be considered. The second public involvement opportunity focuses on the proposed change to the TPA.

A significant TPA change requires a 45-day public comment period. Before approving the change, the agencies consider all public comments as well as summarize and respond to the comments. One copy of the final TPA change and a Comments and Responses document is sent to all individuals who request them. Focus groups or individual meetings may be used to clarify comments or responses. Also, the milestone change and Comments and Responses document are distributed to the Public Information Repositories and Administrative Record (see page 3). The agencies may schedule public meetings to discuss the proposed change.

RCRA-Related Decisions

RCRA covers the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste, such as tank waste. In general, Ecology is the regulator for current waste management operations under RCRA. The decision outline for this process is shown on page 28 of the Community Relations Plan. There are several informal points of communication with the public during the RCRA permitting process. As described in the RCRA decision outline, draft permits require a 45-day public comment period. All comments are considered before issuing the final permit. All of the individuals who comment on the draft permit receive a copy of the final permit (without attachments) and the Response Summary, which is a summary of the public's comments, responses by Ecology and EPA, and changes to the permit as a result of public comment.

According to Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations, you may also send a written request for a public hearing to the director of the Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600. Your request must state the nature of the issue to be

raised at the hearing. Decisions on the need for public hearings will be made on an individual basis, at the discretion of Ecology. If a hearing is held, it will be in the community where the interest in the issue is greatest.

CERCLA Decisions

Under CERCLA, a plan is developed for remediation of each waste site. The best technology is selected after a thorough study of the characteristics of that site. In general, EPA is the regulator for decisions about historical waste sites. The process for these decisions is defined under CERCLA. The decision outline for this process is shown on page 29. In the CERCLA process, the proposed cleanup plan must undergo a 30-day public comment period before a decision is made. A public meeting may be requested on the plan during the comment period by contacting Hanford regulatory agencies through the Hanford toll-free hotline at 1-800-321-2008.

Expedited Response Actions

In those cases where the waste could pose a threat to human health or the environment, the agencies may use an Expedited Response Action process, also known as removal actions, to reach a quicker decision. Also, at Hanford, Expedited Response Actions are being used where timely action has resulted in overall cost effectiveness for cleanup of historical waste sites. Section 104 of CERCLA outlines the Expedited Response Action guidelines.

The decision process for an Expedited Response Action is shown on page 30. Step 9 is the one point at which there is a 30-day public comment period on an Expedited Response Action, if the action is not time-critical. In the event of a time-critical Expedited Response Action, no public comment period is provided before an action is taken. There are two reasons for this: 1) concerns about health and safety push toward an expedited action, and 2) time-critical Expedited Response Actions are only stop-gap measures taken to protect health and safety, and provide time to make a longer-term decision in which the public will be consulted more extensively. In some situations, if time is not urgent, the agencies may offer opportunities for involvement beyond those steps shown on page 30.

Air and Water Permits

Ecology and the State of Washington Department of Health (DOH) are responsible for reviewing and issuing air and waste discharge permits at the Hanford Site. The DOH Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford radioactive air emissions and conducts environmental radiation monitoring. Ecology will conduct the public involvement activities for these permits. Waste discharge permits are issued for five years.

For more information, call Ecology, at 509-736-3021 or call Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008.

State Environmental Policy Act

Ecology must review the permitting of several projects at the Hanford Site under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The purpose of SEPA is to ensure that environmental values are considered by state and local government officials when making decisions. Before

taking actions (issuing permits, etc.), agencies must follow specific procedures to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the environment. The severity of the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed project will determine whether an environmental impact statement is required.

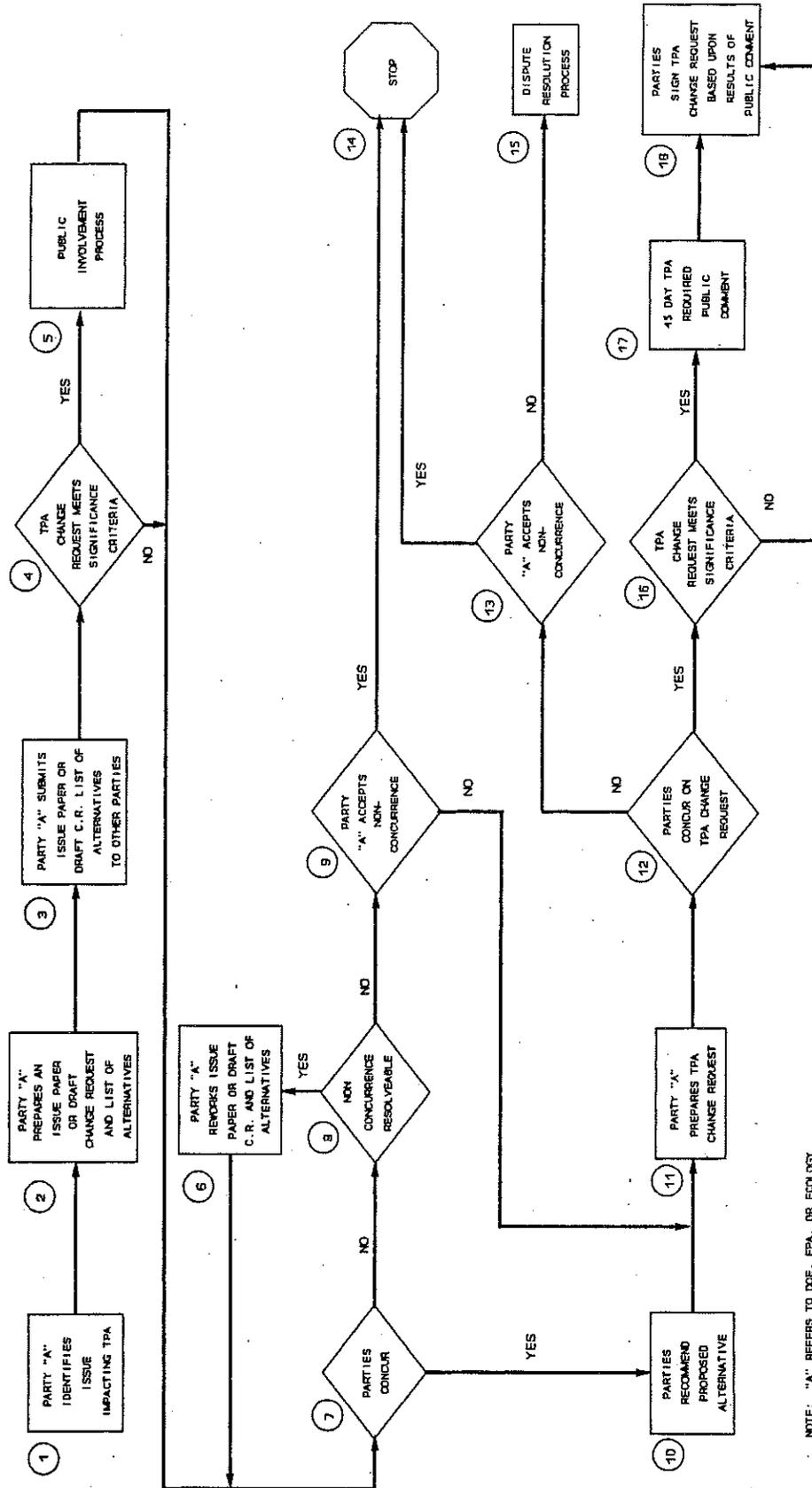
For more information, call Ecology, at 360-407-7112 or call Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008.

Model Toxics Control Act

The Model Toxics Control Act is Washington State's version of CERCLA. Ecology implements the Model Toxics Control Act's public involvement activities, which are similar to CERCLA public involvement requirements.

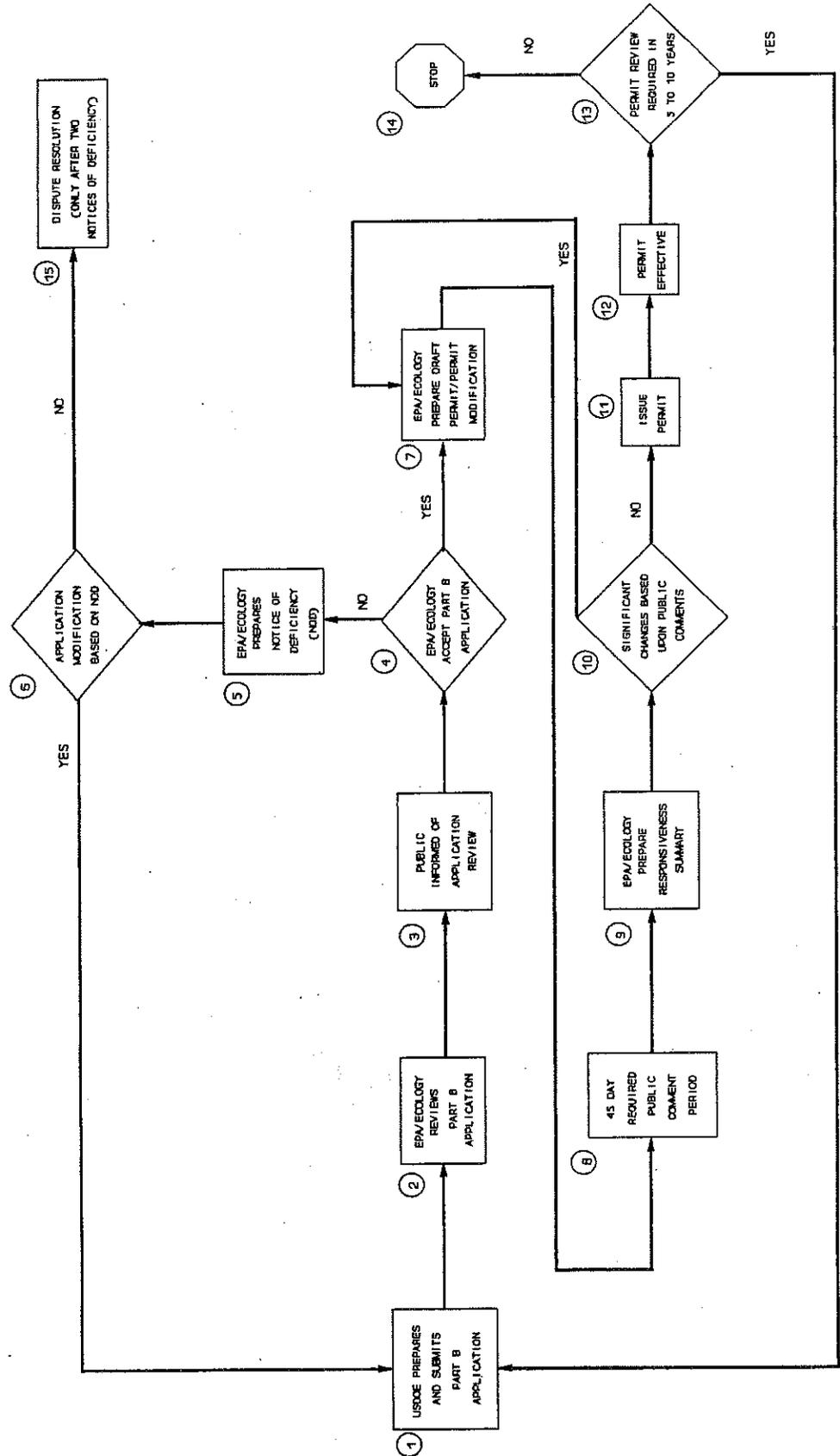
For more information, call Ecology, 360-407-7194 or call Hanford Cleanup toll-free line at 1-800-321-2008.

HANFORD TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT CHANGE REQUEST DECISION PROCESS

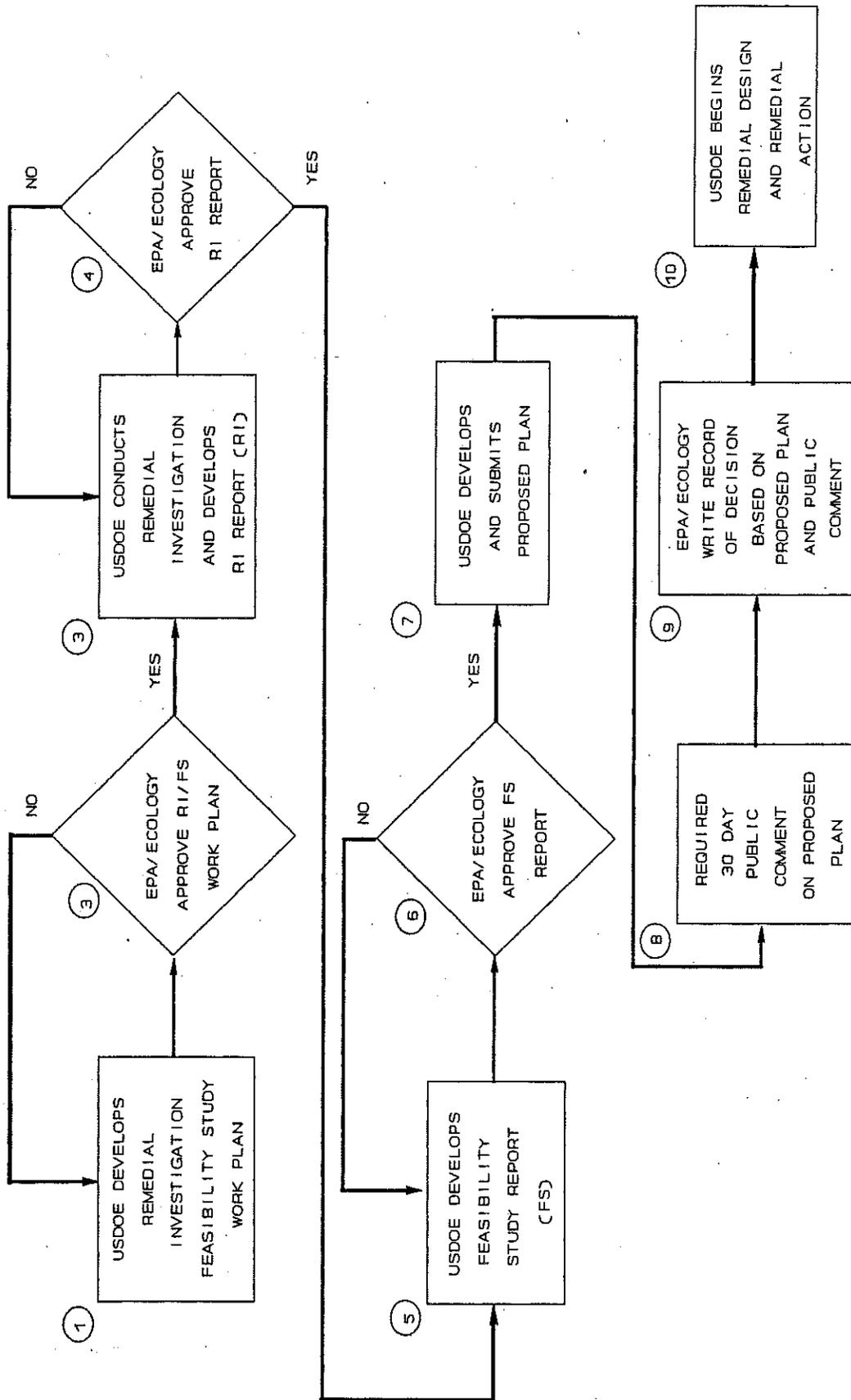


NOTE: "A" REFERS TO DOE, EPA, OR ECOLOGY

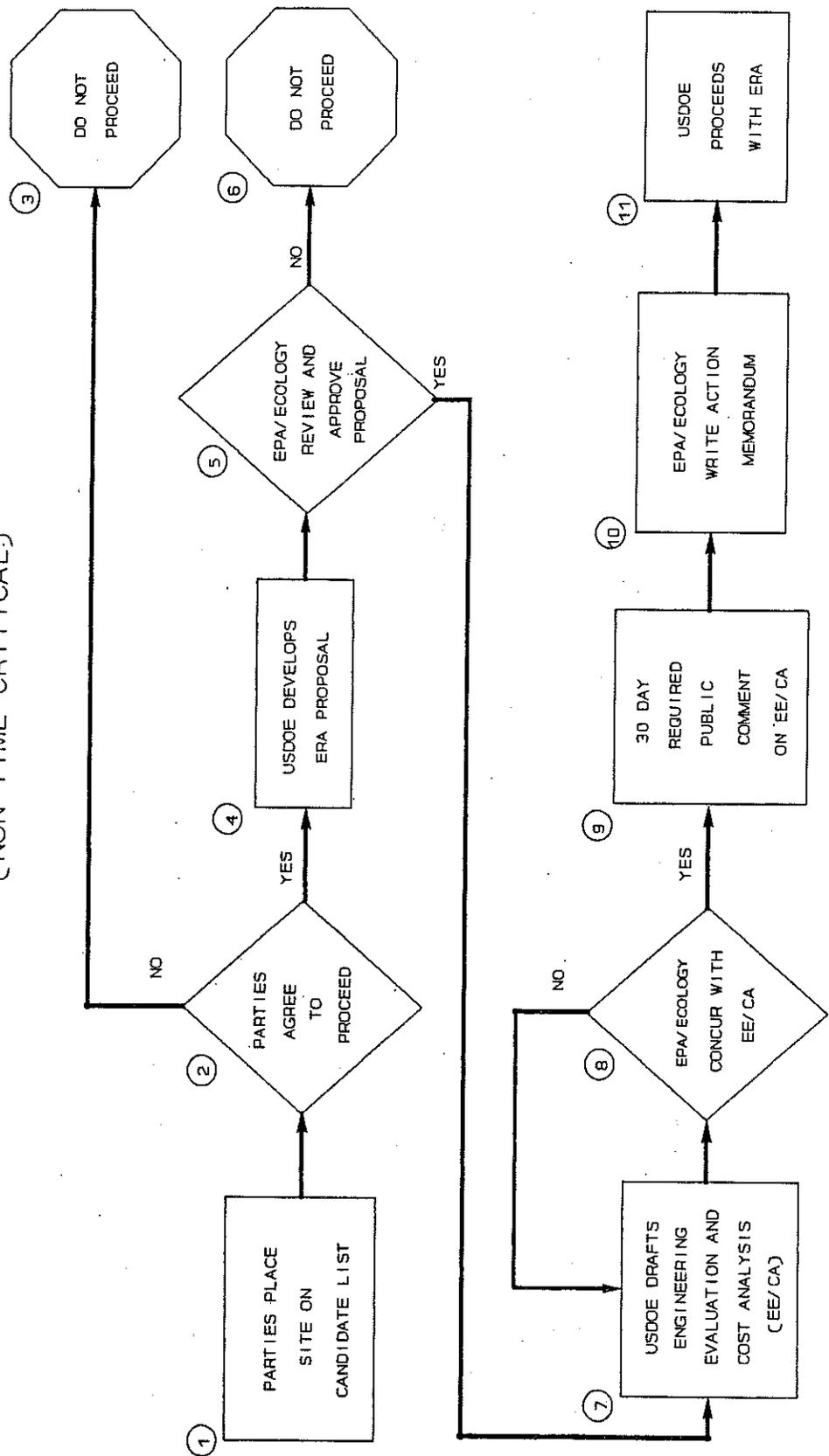
HANFORD TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT
 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT DECISION PROCESS



HANFORD TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT CERCLA RI/FS DECISION PROCESS



HANFORD TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT
 EXPEDITED RESPONSE ACTION
 DECISION PROCESS
 (NON-TIME CRITICAL)



APPENDIX A

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS GOVERNING HANFORD CLEANUP

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

RCRA was enacted by Congress in 1976. It requires "cradle to grave" (from the first point of waste generation until final disposal) management of hazardous wastes by all generators, transporters, and owners/operators of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities handling hazardous waste. A major goal of RCRA is to reduce the generation of hazardous waste.

The EPA delegated authority to Ecology to carry out the base RCRA program (ongoing waste management) in Washington through its own dangerous waste program, the Washington State Hazardous Waste Management Act. Washington regulations for dangerous waste management are substantially similar to, but more restrictive in some cases than, the RCRA regulations. A Hazardous Waste Permit was issued in August 1994 for the entire Hanford Site by the EPA and Ecology. The permit outlined general conditions for the operation and closure of hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal sites at Hanford.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

In 1980, Congress enacted CERCLA, also referred to as Superfund. Its purpose is to provide funding and enforcement authority for cleanup of contaminated waste sites created before 1980. The funding portion of CERCLA does not apply to federal facilities such as Hanford. The EPA has authority for overseeing the provisions of CERCLA.

At Hanford, DOE must fund all the investigation and cleanup activities from its own budget. The EPA receives its oversight funding directly from Congress.

The RCRA and CERCLA contain requirements for public involvement. The public involvement program in this plan is designed to comply with those requirements.

The Clean Water Act

The DOE has met the TPA's Milestone 17 which required all of the Site's major liquid waste discharges to the soil to be treated or halted by June 30, 1995. Completion of the milestone resulted in the elimination of 75 percent of Hanford's liquid waste discharges. Work continues on efforts to stop or treat much of the remaining liquid waste discharges by October 1997.

Ecology oversees Washington State Discharge permits issued for the 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility and the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility. The EPA regulates the 300 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility through a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

Both the state and federal permit processes include requirements for public involvement and comment. State discharge permits for the 200 Area facilities must be renewed in the year 2000 following public comment and review.

The Clean Air Act

The EPA delegated Clean Air Act responsibility to Ecology and the Washington Department of Health (DOH). Ecology and the DOH jointly regulate Clean Air provisions at Hanford. The EPA has regulatory authority over National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants provisions for primary air pollutants. The primary air pollutants are sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen oxides and lead.

APPENDIX B — TABLE 1

DOCUMENTS TO BE PLACED IN INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Action Plan (for implementation of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order)
Closure Plans
Comments and Responses Document
Community Relations Plan
Fact and Focus Sheets (information on Tri-Party Agreement issues, cleanup activities, and opportunities for public involvement)
Feasibility Study and Corrective Measures Study Phase II Reports
Feasibility Study and Corrective Measures Study Phase III Reports
Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Hanford Tri-Party Agreement), amendments and changes
Hanford Site Performance Summary -- EM Funded Programs
Hearing Transcripts (from public hearings related to the Tri-Party Agreement)
Interim Action Record of Decision
Meeting Summaries (from Tri-Party Agreement public meetings)
Newsletters (*Hanford Update*, *Hanford Happenings* and others)
RCRA Permits
RCRA Permit Modifications
Records of Decision
Remedial Action and Corrective Measures Implementation Work Plans
Remedial Design and Corrective Measures Design Reports
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study Work Plans
Remedial Investigation and RCRA Facility Investigation Reports
Site Management System Executive Summary Report

Topics:

Administrative Record Index
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Health Assessments
Current Activity Data Sheets (budget information)
Current Hanford Site Waste Management Unit Reports
Expedited Response Action -- Action Memoranda
Expedited Response Action -- Candidate Waste Sites
Expedited Response Action Closeout Reports
Expedited Response Action Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
Hanford Ground Water Monitoring Reports (1987 - Present)
Preliminary Natural Resource Survey
Public Notices
RCRA Part B modifications to the Hanford Site Wide Permit
Washington State Permit Applications, Draft and Final Permits, and Fact Sheets

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Administrative Record serves the same purpose in the CERCLA, RCRA, and Washington State Dangerous Waste Programs. The Administrative Record is the body of documents and information that is considered or relied on to arrive at a decision for remedial action or hazardous waste management.

An Administrative Record file is established for each group of waste sites with a similar location and waste characteristics and for each grouping of treatment, storage, or disposal units for the purpose of preparing and submitting a permit application and/or closure plan. It will include all the documents considered or relied on in arriving at a decision or to issue a permit or permit modification. When the investigation process begins or when a permit action begins, the Administrative Record file is established. The DOE is responsible for the management of the official Administrative Record file (hard copies). EPA and Ecology (and the public information repositories) have information listings only.

Environmental Data Management Center
2440 Stevens Center Place, H6-08
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-2530

Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive S.E.
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 407-7100

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Park Place Building
1200 6th Avenue, HW-070
Records Center, HW-070
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-0685

OPENNESS INITIATIVE

Besides a commitment to public access of TPA documents, the Tri-Parties fully support the DOE's Openness Initiative to fundamentally change its classification policies and operations. The initiative calls for speeding up document classification reviews. Development of public input mechanisms for the declassification, and improvement in access to DOE document facilities. The U.S. Department of Energy is committed to the Openness Initiative.

APPENDIX C

HANFORD TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

To update the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Community Relations Plan, Ecology, DOE, and EPA conducted the following activities.

Representatives from local Tri-City area governments, state of Oregon, Native Americans, Hanford public interest groups, labor unions, and other individuals and organizations were interviewed by a consultant hired to review TPA public involvement activities and proposed areas to include public involvement in the decision processes.

The comments were assembled into a draft TPA public involvement strategy in late 1994. Among the major recommendations were:

- ▲ the development of a calendar of major upcoming decisions;
- ▲ adoption on a TPA public involvement strategy and annual update process, including an annual assessment of public involvement activities.
- ▲ quarterly meetings with stakeholders to review public involvement calendar and program effectiveness, and to plan upcoming public involvement activities.
- ▲ emphasizing big picture perspective on decisions, consolidated meetings and comment periods, including quarterly or semi-annual "Town Hall" meetings where managers provide a general focus on Hanford cleanup.
- ▲ better development of public involvement materials and programs by geographic areas, business interests and cleanup dates to reach different audiences and stakeholder groups through but not limited to such methods as satellite hookups and state-owned cable television programming.

The Public Involvement Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board submitted recommendations in June 1994 to the Tri-Party Agreement agencies. The committee stated that the agencies needed to be more efficient, cost effective and responsive to the needs of the citizens of the Northwest, and . . . relate to broad key issues onsite. It recommended that the agencies consolidate public involvement activities. It urged the agencies to use innovative methods of public involvement and evaluate the results and to work with the committee on developing innovative methods to inform the public, get input from the public and to evaluate public involvement results and make needed changes.

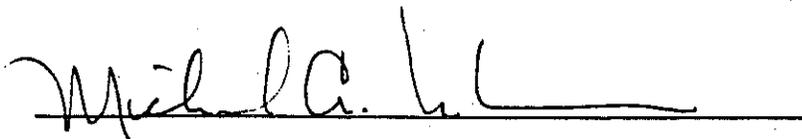
In November 1995, the agencies began work on Community Relations Plan changes with a Hanford Advisory Board ad hoc committee. A revised draft of the Community Relations

Plan was submitted in March 1996 to the committee. In May 1996, a presentation on the draft Community Relations Plan was made to the Hanford Advisory Board and to the Oregon Waste Board in June 1996.

The agencies conducted a 45-day public comment period from June 17 to July 31, 1996. In addition a workshop was held in Seattle on July 9, and a focus group met in Portland on July 10.

Approved for implementation consistent with the
Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order.

FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY



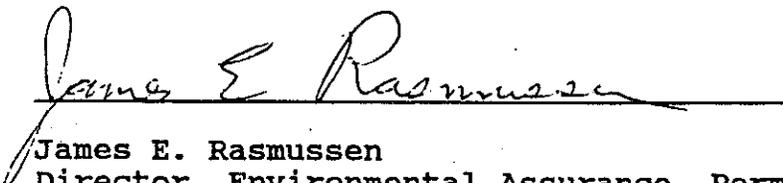
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Program Manager, Nuclear Waste Program
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Director, Environmental Assurance, Permits & Policy Division
U.S. Department of Energy -- Richland Operations