

WTP permit modification

Revising Chapter 11, Closure Plan

Public comment invited

We're inviting the public to comment on an Agency-Initiated Permit Modification to the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, Revision 8C.

The proposed changes affect the Dangerous Waste Portion for the Treatment, Storage and Disposal of Dangerous Waste for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, located in Part III, Operating Unit Group 10.

The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) is located on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington. The plant will immobilize in glass (vitrify) 56-million gallons of dangerous radioactive and chemical waste currently stored in 177 underground storage tanks at Hanford.

The permittees are:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450
Richland, WA 99352

Bechtel National, Inc.
2435 Stevens Center Place
Richland, Washington 99354

We invite you to comment on this WTP Closure Plan Modification, Feb. 1 to Mar. 17, 2021.

The proposed modification is specific to Chapter 11, Closure Plan. This Closure Plan details the actions necessary to close permitted Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs) at WTP.

Background

WTP includes multiple facilities:

- Analytical Laboratory (Lab)
- Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility
- High-Level Waste (HLW) Facility
- Pretreatment Facility (PTF)
- Effluent Management Facility (EMF)
- Balance of Facilities (BOF)

WTP will be operated in two processing configurations. For near-term operations, WTP will be operated in the Direct Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) configuration requiring the Lab, LAW, and EMF to become operational first to process the low-activity waste from tank farms.

In the DFLAW configuration, the waste is pretreated to remove cesium and solids before the waste is sent to the LAW facility.

In this configuration, the pretreated waste will bypass the PTF and be fed directly from the tank farms to the LAW facility. The LAW facility is where the low-activity fraction of the waste will be solidified by vitrification. The liquid effluents generated in the LAW facility and the Lab are transferred and treated at EMF, which will reduce the effluent volume by evaporation.

When the PTF and the High-Level Waste Facility become operational, WTP will be operated in the baseline configuration.

The design life of WTP is 40 years after the initiation of waste treatment operations. When the WTP DWMUs are no longer in operation, they will need to be properly closed. This proposed closure plan will regulate those closure activities.

The closure plan will be revised and submitted for approval under Washington Administrative Code 173-303-830 (Permit Changes) prior to the initiation of closure on any of the WTP permitted DWMUs.

Proposed changes

This permit modification will update Chapter 11, Closure Plan. This Closure Plan identifies the actions necessary to close WTP permitted DWMUs. This includes the removal of dangerous and mixed waste and the decontamination of the permitted DWMU, ancillary equipment, and the associated secondary containment systems, if necessary.

The modification proposes changes to the following:

- Chapter 11, Closure Plan
- Appendix 1.3, WTP Interim Compliance Schedule, WTP Low-Activity Waste Facility
- Appendix 1.4, WTP Interim Compliance Schedule, WTP Effluent Management Facility

The revision and submittal of Chapter 11, Closure Plan satisfies portions of Unit-Specific Permit Conditions III.10.C.8, Closure and Interim compliance schedule items LAW-8 and EMF-8, located in Appendices 1.3 and 1.4 of the WTP Permit.

Chapter 11, Closure Plan has been revised to address technical comments provided by Ecology during the DFLAW Operating Permit Modification and to accurately describe the DFLAW Operating Configuration of the WTP.

Changes consist of:

- Minor editorial changes.
- A listing of permitted DWMUs in the WTP Permit.
- Added required regulatory details and clarified existing language necessary to support compliant closure.



Figure 1 Aerial view of WTP

Reviewing the proposed changes

We invite you to review and comment on this proposed Agency-Initiated Permit Modification, WTP Closure Plan, Feb. 1 to Mar. 17, 2021. See Page 4 for comment period dates and information on how to submit comments.

Copies of the application for the proposed permit and supporting documentation will be available during the public comment period online at Ecology's website at [Ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Nuclear-waste/Public-comment-periods](https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Nuclear-waste/Public-comment-periods). The documents will also be available at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below.

Ecology will consider and respond to all significant comments received during the public comment period. We will document our responses and issue a response to comments document when we make our final permitting decision.

Hanford's Information Repositories

Ecology Nuclear Waste Program

Resource Center
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354
509-372-7950

U.S. Department of Energy

Administrative Record
2440 Stevens Drive, Room 1101
Richland, WA 99354
509-376-2530

Washington State University Tri-Cities

Department of Energy Reading Room
2770 Crimson Way, Room 101L
Richland, WA 99354

University of Washington

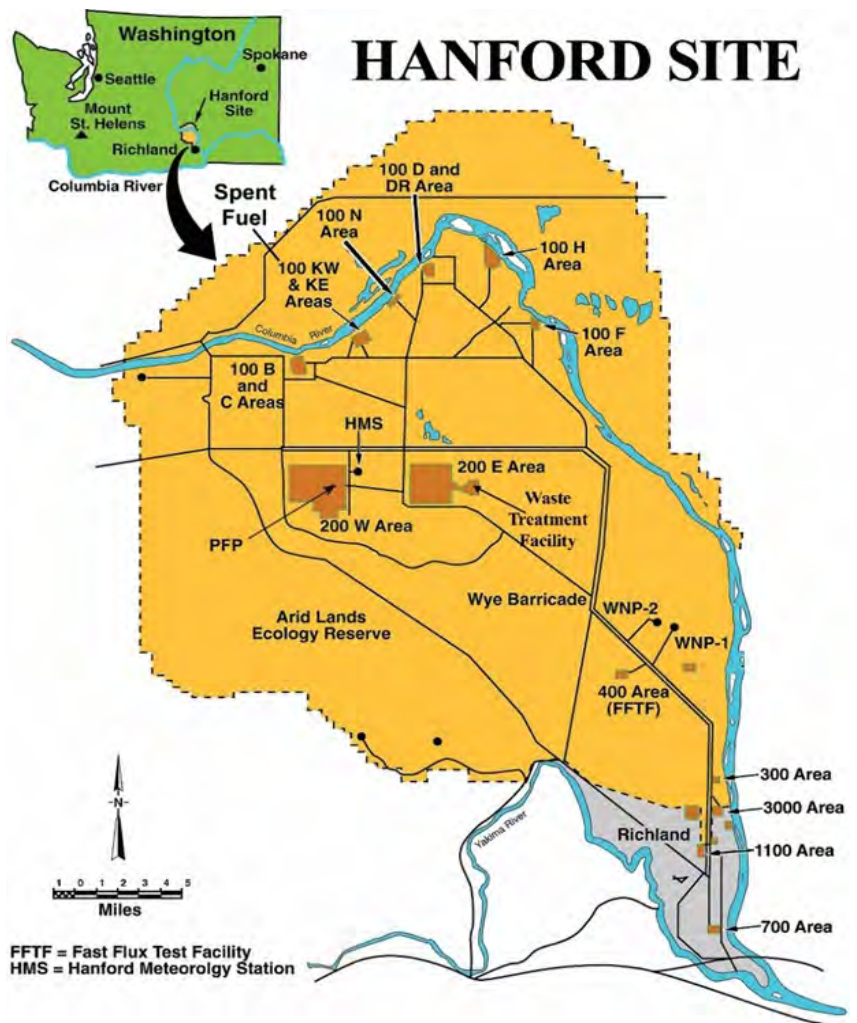
Suzzallo Library
P.O. Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195
206-543-5597

Gonzaga University

Foley Center
502 E Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99258
509-313-6110

Portland State University

Millar Library
1875 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97207
503-725-4542





3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland WA 99354

WTP permit modification

Public comment period Feb. 1 to Mar. 17 2021

Electronic submission (preferred):
<http://nw.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=tRJF7>

Mail or hand delivery

Daina McFadden
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354

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:

Daina McFadden
509 372 7950
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 509 372 7950 or email at Daina.McFadden@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877 833 6341.