

242-A Evaporator permit modification

Basin 41 Tie-in to LERF

- Public comment period Feb. 22 – Apr. 8, 2021.
- Modification proposal will allow the facility's existing transfer line to connect with the proposed Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) Basin 41.
- Reclassified from a Class 2 to a Class 3 permit modification to require changes to the leak detection system for the transfer line.

Public comment invited

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing a change to the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, Revision 8C.

This change affects the Dangerous Waste Portion for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste for the 242-A Evaporator.

This permit modification would allow connection of the 242-A Evaporator PC-5000 transfer line to the proposed LERF Basin 41.

The permittees are:

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

Washington River Protection Solutions
P.O. Box 850
Richland, WA 99352

LERF and 200 Area ETF also have a Class 3 permit modification to propose permit application material in support of constructing the LERF Basin 41.

Background

The Hanford Site occupies 560 square miles in southeastern Washington State. Beginning in 1943, the site produced plutonium for the nation's defense program. Plutonium production ceased in the late 1980s. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the primary missions at Hanford.

Reclassifying to a Class 3 permit modification

Originally proposed as a Class 2 permit modification, the permittees held a 60-day comment period from July 10 through Sept. 8, 2020, with a virtual public meeting on August 18, 2020. Ecology received comments from 12 members of the public during the public comment period. Thirty-two members of the public attended the public meeting and no formal comments were made during the virtual meeting.

Multiple public comments expressed concern with the adequacy of the leak detection system. Ecology shares similar concerns, and reclassified the permit modification to a Class 3 to address those concerns and require changes to the leak detection system.

Overview of changes

Currently, the line PC-5000 exits the 242-A building and transfers waste to LERF Basin 43. A second condensate line from Effluent Management Facility (EMF) connects to the PC-5000 at a caisson about halfway to LERF Basin 43. Use of the PC-5000 is administratively controlled by the 242-A Evaporator.

The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) EMF transfer line, 3"-WTP-002-M17, connects to the PC-5000 line at caisson

MH-WTP-01. This proposed permit modification would allow connection of the PC-5000 line to the proposed LERF Basin 41, and require upgrades to the leak detection system for both the PC-5000 line and the EMF line.

Required upgrades

Ecology has concerns on the adequacy of the leak detection system for the PC-5000 and 3"-WTP-002-

M17 transfer lines. In order for the leak detection systems to meet regulatory requirements, this proposed permit modification includes draft permit conditions requiring upgrades to these systems.

Since the leak detection systems do not meet the WAC 173-303-640(4)(c)(vi), Ecology is proposing permit condition III.4.C.1 with conditions requiring upgrades of the leak detection systems prior to waste transfers.



Figure 1 242-A Evaporator Photo courtesy USDOE

Reviewing the proposed changes

Ecology invites to you to review and comment on this proposed 242-A Evaporator permit modification. See the back page 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 website¹. The documents will also be available at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed on the next page.

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.

¹ [Ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Nuclear-waste/Public-comment-periods](https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Nuclear-waste/Public-comment-periods)

Hanford's Information Repositories

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

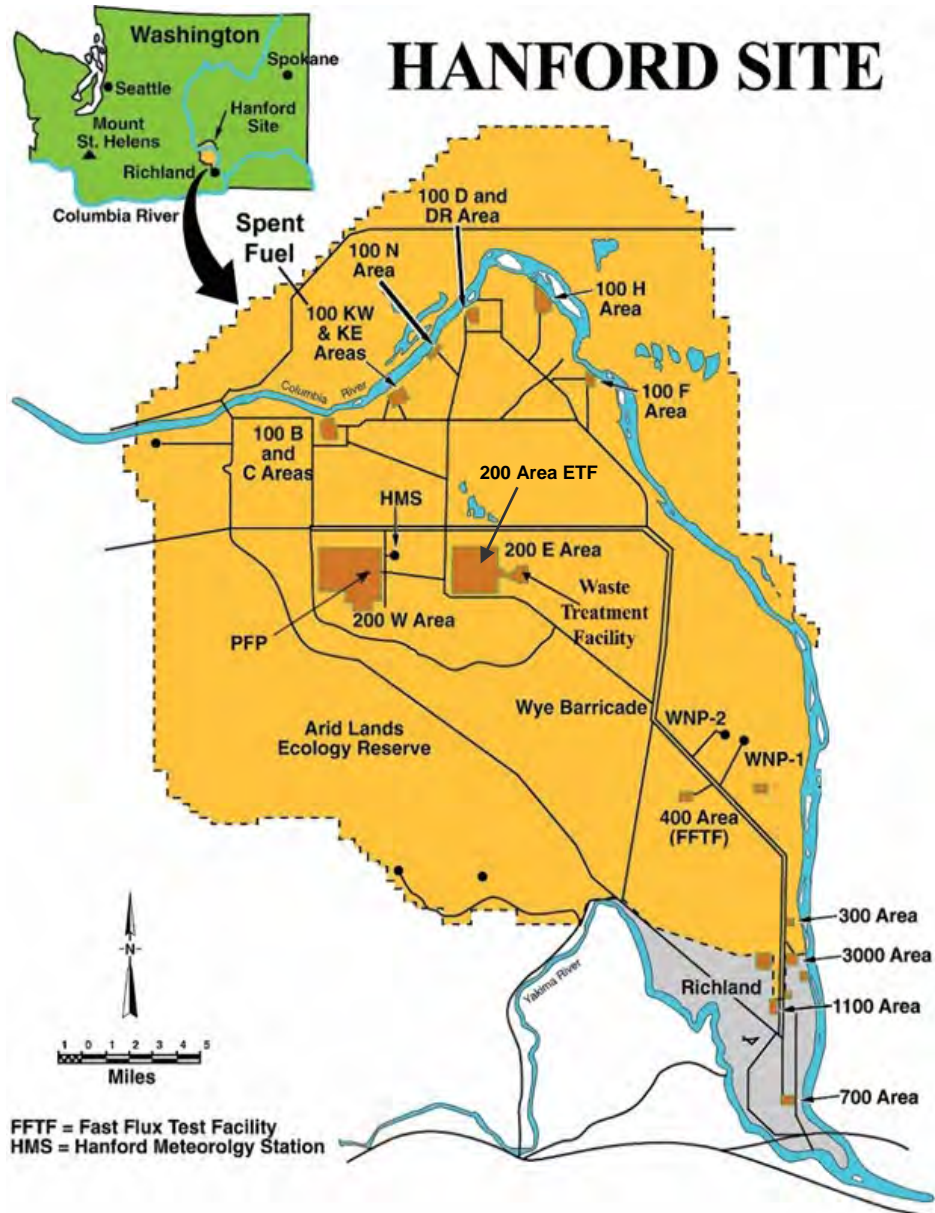
U.S. Department of Energy
 Administrative Record
 2440 Stevens Drive, Room 1101
 Richland, WA 99354
 509-376-2530

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

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Public comment period Feb. 22 – Apr. 8, 2021

Electronic submission (preferred):
<http://nw.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=7SCZm>

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, 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.