



# **Response to Comments WTP Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification**

**Oct. 5 to Dec. 17, 2021**

For the **Nuclear Waste Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Richland, Washington

January 2022, Publication 22-05-001



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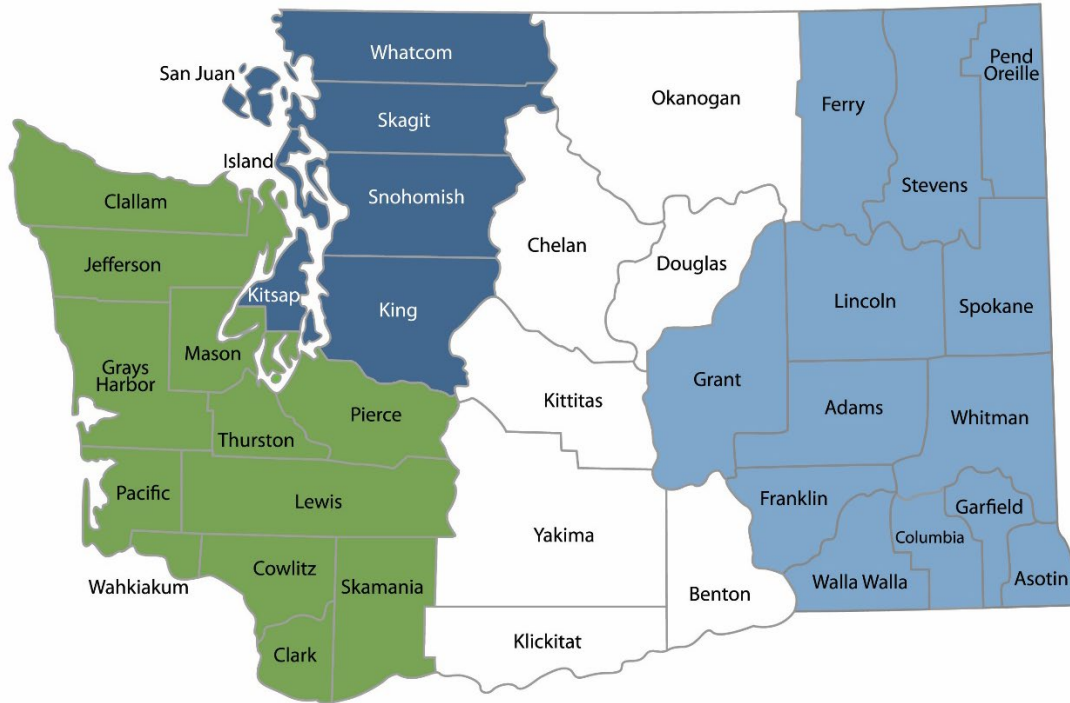
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# Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

## Map of Counties Served



<b>Southwest Region</b> 360-407-6300	<b>Northwest Region</b> 206-594-0000	<b>Central Region</b> 509-575-2490	<b>Eastern Region</b> 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
<b>Southwest</b>	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
<b>Northwest</b>	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
<b>Central</b>	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
<b>Eastern</b>	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
<b>Headquarters</b>	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

# **Response to Comments WTP Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification**

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Nuclear Waste Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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## Introduction

The Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program (Ecology) manages dangerous waste within the state by writing permits to regulate its treatment, storage, and disposal. When a new permit or a significant modification to an existing permit is proposed, Ecology holds a public comment period to allow the public to review the change and provide formal feedback. (See [Washington Administrative Code \[WAC\] 173-303-830](#) for types of permit changes.)

The Response to Comments is the last step before issuing the final permit, and its purpose is to:

- Specify which provisions, if any, of a permit will become effective upon issuance of the final permit, providing reasons for those changes.
- Describe and document public involvement actions.
- List and respond to all significant comments received during the public comment period and any related public hearings.

This Response to Comments is prepared for:

Comment period	WTP Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification, Oct. 5 to Dec. 17, 2021
Permit	<i>Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste, Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant</i>
Permittees	U.S. Department of Energy and Bechtel National Inc.
Original Issuance date	September 27, 1994
Effective date	February 13, 2022

To see more information related to the Hanford Site and nuclear waste in Washington, please visit our webpage, [Hanford Cleanup](#)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ecology.wa.gov/Hanford>

## Reasons for Issuing the Permit

The purpose of this Class 2 permit modification is to provide updates to the Chapter 6A, *Inspection Plan*, to align with the as-built facility configuration and accessibility of relevant systems, structures and components during operations. The Chapter 6A, *Inspection Plan* describes the facility's approach to preventing and detecting indications of malfunction, deterioration and discharges. The inspection plan identifies the systems, structures and components subject to inspection and assessment, including the inspection criteria, frequency, method and required recordkeeping. The permit modification provides alignment with plant operations inspection area capabilities and accessibility to ensure safe and effective inspections during plant operations. The permit modification also clarifies those structures, systems and components that will not be routinely physically accessible during operations to ensure personnel health and safety, and identifies allowable alternative methods for inspecting these areas. This permit modification is limited to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization (WTP) Lab, Low-Activity Waste (LAW) facility, and Effluent Management Facility (EMF) in support of Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) operations and does not include the Pretreatment Facility or High-Level Waste Facility. The changes to Chapter 6A include updates to Tables 6A-2b through 6A-4b as follows:

- Added the Melter Pour Cave and Container Buffer Storage and Rework Area to the routinely non-accessible category.
- Revised closed-circuit tv inspection method where not available.
- Specified the use of control panel and control room system monitoring for inspection where necessary.
- Specified the use of physical inspection method where acceptable.
- Revised physical inspections for routinely non-accessible areas.

## Public Involvement Actions

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) invited public comment on the proposed Class 2 permit modification during a 60-day public comment period held Oct. 5 through Dec. 17, 2021.

The following actions were taken to notify the public:

- Mailed a public notice announcing the comment period to 1,068 members of the public.
- Placed a public announcement legal classified advertisement in the Tri-City Herald on Oct. 4, 2021.
- Emailed a notice announcing the start of the comment period to the Hanford-Info email list, which has 1,260 recipients.
- Posted the comment period notice on the Washington Department of Ecology – Hanford's Facebook and Twitter pages.

USDOE held a virtual public meeting on Nov. 9, 2021, at 5:30 pm on Microsoft Teams. Four members of the public attended, and zero comments were collected.

The Hanford information repositories located in Richland, Spokane, and Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, received the following documents for public review:

- Fact sheet
- Transmittal letter
- Proposed WTP Chapter 6A, Inspection Plan Permit Modification

The following public notices for this comment period are in [Appendix A](#) of this document:

- Fact sheet
- Classified advertisement in the Tri-City Herald
- Notices sent to the Hanford-Info email list
- Notices posted on the Washington Department of Ecology – Hanford’s Facebook and Twitter pages



## List of Commenters

The table below lists the names of organizations or individuals who submitted a comment on the WTP Chapter 6A, Inspection Plan Permit modification. The comments and responses are in [Attachment 1](#).

Commenter	Organization
Gene Presler	Citizen
Nancy Arbuckle	Citizen
Jean Poirier	Citizen
Steven Gary	Citizen
Beth Sanders	Citizen
Susan Crampton	Citizen
Shannon Cram	Citizen
Hanford Challenge	Organization

# Attachment 1: Comments and Responses

## **Description of comments:**

Ecology accepted comments from Oct. 5 through Dec. 17, 2021. This section provides a summary of comments that we received during the public comment period and our responses, as required by RCW 34.05.325(6)(a)(iii). Comments are grouped by individual and each comment is addressed separately.

## **I-1: GENE PRESLER**

### **Comment I-1-1**

I just turned 70 years old in November 2021. Hanford Nuclear cleanup has always been, and always will be a toxic failure. As long as you keep barging Navy nuclear waste up the Columbia River to Hanford WA, and to the problem plagued nuclear waste treatment plant in eastern Idaho, every time another nuclear craft expires in Puget Sound. Coating Hanford with concrete is bad idea too. It hides the stuff for a while, but is already aged, and failing at other nuclear sites. No one wants borehole. Good luck attempting to turn it into safe glass.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFmSk5ly0Ww>

### ***Response to I-1-1***

*Thank you for your comment, however the activities described in the provided comment are not within the scope of the permit modification. Ecology agrees that a safe disposal pathway is of extreme importance and we continue to work to ensure that long-term storage, treatment, and disposal of the waste is protective of human health and the environment.*

## **I-2: NANCY ARBUCKLE**

### **Comment I-2-1**

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Permit Modification for the WTP Inspection Plan. A transparent, accountable, and safe cleanup is important to me.

Please explain plans in place to ensure inspectors have access and training related to issues that have already been flagged related to the Low Activity Waste Facility and other areas they will be inspecting.

Please take the time to deal with issues before startup.

Please explain why there was such a big shift from physical to remote inspections and how limitations posed by remote inspections are being overcome.

Please explain how worker access is enforced so there are no inadvertent entries to hazardous areas.

Thank you.

### ***Response to I-2-1***

*In the context of the subject permit modification and scope of the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan, the inspection activities must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified as prescribed by WAC 173-303-330, the DWP and the relevant system design, equipment, function and performance criteria.*

*DOE and BNI have developed and are performing necessary startup, commissioning, testing and readiness assurance activities for a safe and compliant start of operations.*

*In the original 2002 WTP fact sheet, remote inspections were always considered a part of WTP operations which is why camera capacity and continuous leak detection capabilities were designed and installed within the facility. LAW container handling areas and tank system areas were identified in 2002 and it was anticipated there could be other areas in which remote inspections were considered as design progressed. With completion of the final evaluations of the radiological and contamination classifications, associated with the relevant inspection areas during operations, refinement of the inspection methods was required to remain consistent with As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principles. These principles assure worker safety, particularly within the context of maintaining required inspection frequencies that are consistent with the original criteria used in making the 2002 determination. In addition to remote inspection methods, the subject modification also explicitly includes performance of physical inspections in routinely non-accessible areas during other maintenance activities to supplement the remote inspection methods identified.*

*Individuals entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.*

### **I-3: JEANNE POIRIER**

#### **Comment I-3-1**

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Permit Modification for the WTP Inspection Plan. A transparent, accountable, and safe cleanup is important to me.

Please ensure inspectors have access and training related to issues that have already been flagged related to the Low Activity Waste Facility and other areas they will be inspecting.

Please take the time to deal with issues before startup.

Worker access needs to be enforced so there are no inadvertent entries into hazardous areas.

Hanford clean-up is a huge challenge and needs to be dealt with in a manner which may cost more at this time, but makes it safe for the future. Thank you for your work!

#### ***Response to I-3-1***

*Thank you for your comment. Inspection activities in the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements identified in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified on the Dangerous Waste Permit, relevant system design, equipment, functions and performance criteria, as prescribed by WAC 173-303-330.*

*DOE and BNI have developed and are performing necessary startup, commissioning, testing and readiness assurance activities for a safe and compliant start of operations.*

*Individuals entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.*

## **I-4: STEVEN D GARY**

### **Comment I-4-1**

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Permit Modification for the WTP Inspection Plan. A transparent, accountable, and safe cleanup is important to me. Please explain plans in place to ensure inspectors have access and training related to issues that have already been flagged related to the Low Activity Waste Facility and other areas they will be inspecting. Please take the time to deal with issues before startup. Please explain why there was such a big shift from physical to remote inspections and how limitations posed by remote inspections are being overcome. Please explain how worker access is enforced so there are no inadvertent entries to hazardous areas.

### ***Response to I-4-1***

*In the context of the subject permit modification and scope of the Chapter 6A, Inspection Plan, the inspection activities must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified as prescribed by WAC 173-303-330, the DWP and the relevant system design, equipment, function and performance criteria.*

*DOE and BNI have developed and are performing necessary startup, commissioning, testing and readiness assurance activities for a safe and compliant start of operations.*

*In the original 2002 WTP fact sheet remote inspections were always considered a part of WTP operations which is why camera capacity and continuous leak detection capabilities were designed and installed within the facility. LAW container handling areas and tank system areas were identified in 2002 and it was anticipated there could be other areas in which remote inspections were considered as design progressed. With completion of the final evaluations of the radiological and contamination classifications, associated with the relevant inspection areas during operations, refinement of the inspection methods was required to remain consistent with As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principles. These principles assure worker safety, particularly within the context of maintaining required inspection frequencies that are consistent with the original criteria used in making the 2002 determination. In addition to remote inspection methods, the subject modification also explicitly includes performance of physical inspections in routinely non-accessible areas during other maintenance activities to supplement the remote inspection methods identified.*

*Individuals entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.*

## **I-5: BETH SANDERS**

### **Comment I-5-1**

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Permit Modification for the WTP Inspection Plan. I have several concerns: Please explain plans to ensure inspectors have access and training related to issues that have been flagged related to the Low Activity Waste Facility and other

areas they will be inspecting. Please deal with issues before startup. Please explain how limitations posed by remote inspections are being overcome. Please explain how worker access is enforced so there are no inadvertent entries to hazardous areas. As a Washington resident, I value a transparent, accountable, and safe cleanup to protect future generations. Thank you.

***Response to I-5-1***

*Inspection activities in the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements identified in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified on the Dangerous Waste Permit, relevant system design, equipment, functions and performance criteria, as prescribed by WAC 173-303-330.*

*DOE and BNI have developed and are performing necessary startup, commissioning, testing and readiness assurance activities for a safe and compliant start of operations.*

*Current remote inspection capabilities will perform compliant monitoring of system function and containment. In addition to remote inspection methods, the subject modification also explicitly includes performance of physical inspections in routinely non-accessible areas during other maintenance activities to supplement the remote inspection methods identified.*

*Individuals entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.*

**I-6: SUSAN CRAMPTON**

**Comment I-6-1**

I have paid attention to Hanford issues for several years but have become increasingly aware of details and complications by way of Hanford Challenge. I support their comment suggestions below. Please give attention to these issues to protect public and environmental health. Thank you.

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Please explain plans in place to ensure inspectors have access and training related to issues that have already been flagged related to the Low Activity Waste Facility and other areas they will be inspecting. Please take the time to deal with issues before startup. Please explain why there was such a big shift from physical to remote inspections and how limitations posed by remote inspections are being overcome.

Please explain how worker access is enforced so there are no inadvertent entries to hazardous areas.

***Response to I-6-1***

*In the context of the subject permit modification and scope of the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan, the inspection activities must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified as prescribed by WAC*

*173-303-330, the DWP and the relevant system design, equipment, function and performance criteria.*

*DOE and BNI have developed and are performing necessary startup, commissioning, testing and readiness assurance activities for a safe and compliant start of operations.*

*In the original 2002 WTP fact sheet remote inspections were always considered a part of WTP operations which is why camera capacity and continuous leak detection capabilities were designed and installed within the facility. LAW container handling areas and tank system areas were identified in 2002 and it was anticipated there could be other areas in which remote inspections were considered as design progressed. With completion of the final evaluations of the radiological and contamination classifications, associated with the relevant inspection areas during operations, refinement of the inspection methods was required to remain consistent with As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principles. These principles assure worker safety, particularly within the context of maintaining required inspection frequencies that are consistent with the original criteria used in making the 2002 determination. In addition to remote inspection methods, the subject modification also explicitly includes performance of physical inspections in routinely non-accessible areas during other maintenance activities to supplement the remote inspection methods identified.*

*Individuals entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.*

## **I-7: SHANNON CRAM**

### **Comment I-7-1**

To Whom it May Concern, Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Permit Modification for the WTP Inspection Plan. A transparent, accountable, and safe cleanup is important to me. In response to the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification, I request the following:

1. Please explain plans in place to ensure inspectors have access and training related to issues that have already been flagged related to the Low Activity Waste Facility and other areas they will be inspecting.
2. Please take the time to deal with issues before startup.
3. Please explain why there was such a big shift from physical to remote inspections and how limitations posed by remote inspections are being overcome.
4. Please explain how worker access is enforced so there are no inadvertent entries to hazardous areas.

### ***Response to I-7-1***

*In the context of the subject permit modification and scope of the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan, the inspection activities must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified as prescribed by WAC*

173-303-330, the DWP and the relevant system design, equipment, function and performance criteria.

DOE and BNI have developed and are performing necessary startup, commissioning, testing and readiness assurance activities for a safe and compliant start of operations.

In the original 2002 WTP fact sheet remote inspections were always considered a part of WTP operations which is why camera capacity and continuous leak detection capabilities were designed and installed within the facility. LAW container handling areas and tank system areas were identified in 2002 and it was anticipated there could be other areas in which remote inspections were considered as design progressed. With completion of the final evaluations of the radiological and contamination classifications, associated with the relevant inspection areas during operations, refinement of the inspection methods was required to remain consistent with As Low As Reasonable Achievable (ALARA) principles. These principles assure worker safety, particularly within the context of maintaining required inspection frequencies that are consistent with the original criteria used in making the 2002 determination. In addition to remote inspection methods, the subject modification also explicitly includes performance of physical inspections in routinely non-accessible areas during other maintenance activities to supplement the remote inspection methods identified.

Individuals entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.

## **O-1: HANFORD CHALLENGE**

### **Comment O-1-1**

**Overcoming Limitations of Remote Inspections:** The second concern is a question about the increase in remote inspections. We understand and appreciate measures to protect worker health and safety, and we would also like a better understanding of what issues might not be found in the absence of physical inspection. What are the high radiation areas in the Low Activity Waste facility? What are the limitations to remote inspection and how will these be overcome?

### ***Response to O-1-1***

*The original 2002 WTP Permit fact sheet and permit application included remote inspections. The inspections were always considered a part of WTP operations which is why camera capacity and continuous leak detection capabilities were designed and installed within the facility. Routinely Non-Accessible areas requiring remote inspection methods are identified in Chapter 6A, Table 6A-3d. With completion of the final evaluation of the radiological and contamination classifications associated with the relevant inspection areas during operations, refinement of the inspection methods was required to remain consistent with As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principles. These principles assure worker safety, particularly within the context of maintaining required inspection frequencies. Current remote inspection capabilities will perform compliant monitoring of system function and containment. In addition to remote inspection methods, the subject modification also explicitly includes performance of physical*



*inspections in routinely non-accessible areas during other maintenance activities to supplement the remote inspection methods identified.*

### **Comment O-1-2**

**Restricting Access to Inspection Areas:** How will access be restricted to the different inspection areas? It must be obvious to workers what areas are off-limits and hazardous for entry and what areas are safe to enter. In order to protect workers, how is access enforced so there are no inadvertent entries?

### ***Response to O-1-2***

*Worker safety and health is fundamental and the basis for many of the revisions to the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. Everyone entering the plant are required to be appropriately trained to prevent inadvertent entries. Areas are also clearly marked to identify hazards as required by the WTP Permit.*

### **Comment O-1-3**

**Leveraging Opportunities for Public Education and Engagement in Public Meetings:** We appreciated that a public meeting was held on Tues, November 9th, but were disappointed that more context was not included in the presentation. This could have been a great opportunity to leverage a meeting about an aspect of tank waste treatment and the Waste Treatment Plant and cover more ground to give more context about progress on the Waste Treatment Plant. By so strictly sticking to the inspection plan, and not providing more context, we feel that the opportunity for public engagement and education was lost.

### ***Response to O-1-3***

*We appreciate your suggestions as public involvement and participation plays a significant role in the decision making process for draft permit modifications. The purpose of the public meeting was to give the public an overview of the proposed permit modification and to invite public comment on the changes. However, we will consider your recommendation to provide more information for future presentations to ensure members of the public have a good understanding of the proposed changes.*

### **Comment O-1-4**

**Communicating Low Activity Waste Facility Pre-Flagged Issues:** A draft review of the LAW Facility in 2014, and the 2014 LAW Facility Design and Operability Review and Recommendations, Appendix B, flagged some major issues with the Low Activity Waste Facility, which were downgraded in the final report, which was issued in 2015. The plan as far as we have been able to track down, is to wait until startup to deal with problems as they come up. We,Äôre concerned that this approach may put inspectors and other workers at unnecessary risk. We,Äôd like more information about why this approach is being taken and to what data inspectors will have access, to ensure they have the information needed to be on the lookout for these pre-flagged issues. The point of the inspections is to keep people safe and the facility in safe working order. Please share more information about what could be done before operations begin in order to resolve the issues flagged in the 2014 draft and final LAW reports.

### ***Response to O-1-4***

*Ecology remains apprised of resolution of issues related to the LAW Design and Operability report, on the WTP Project. Ecology continues to communicate with Energy to ensure that the items noted in the LAW Design and Operability Report, Table B-1, "Crosswalk of System Vulnerabilities to Vulnerability Category", are appropriately managed. In the context of the subject permit modification and scope of the Chapter 6A Inspection Plan, the inspection activities must, at a minimum, meet the inspection requirements in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-320 and the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit. Personnel performing these inspections will be appropriately trained and qualified as prescribed by WAC 173-303-330, the DWP and the relevant system design, equipment, functions and performance criteria.*

## Appendix A. Copies of All Public Notices

Public notices for this comment period:

- Fact sheet
- Classified advertisement in the Tri-City Herald
- Notices sent to the Hanford-Info email list
- Notices posted on Washington Department of Ecology – Hanford’s Facebook and Twitter pages



**Comment Period**

Oct. 5 – ~~Dec. 4~~ Dec. 17, 2021

**Virtual Public Meeting**

Nov. 9, 5:30 p.m. PT  
(see details on page 3)

**Send comments by**

~~Dec. 4~~ Dec. 17 to

<https://nw.ecology.commentingut.com/?id=E9HVk>



**Administrative Record:**

<https://go.usa.gov/xMZgU>

**Contact Information**

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Jennifer\_M\_Colborn@rl.gov

Daina McFadden, Ecology  
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Hanford@ecy.wa.gov



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. This proposed permit modification would revise the inspection methods to align with current planned plant operations and inspection area accessibility.

**Background**

The 580-square-mile Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation’s defense program. Today, treating tank waste and reducing risks through cleanup are Hanford’s primary missions.

The WTP is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site. In support of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) Program, the plant will vitrify (immobilize in glass) liquid waste from Hanford’s large underground tanks that has been treated to remove cesium and radioactive solids. During DFLAW operations, WTP will run the Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility, Analytical Laboratory (lab) and Effluent Management Facility (EMF). The WTP Chapter 6A Inspection Plan describes the facility’s approach to preventing and detecting indications of malfunction, deterioration and discharges. The inspection plan identifies the systems, structures and components subject to inspection and assessment, including the inspection criteria, frequency, method and required recordkeeping.



# PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

## Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

### Overview

DOE and contractor Bechtel National, Inc., are requesting a Class 2 modification to the WTP Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan.

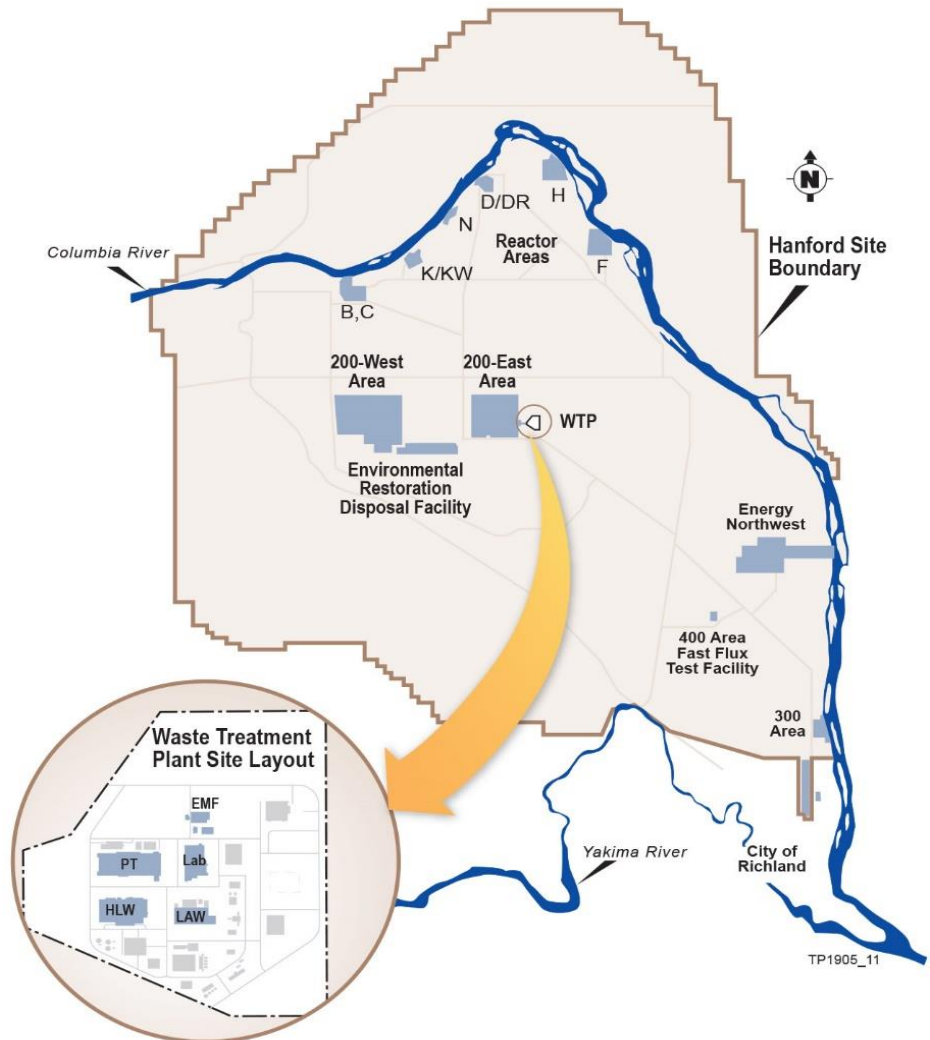
The Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit establishes requirements to ensure that waste management activities protect human health and the environment. DOE is proposing a Class 2 permit modification pursuant to [WAC 173-303-830](#), which requires a 60-day comment period, public meeting, newspaper notice and mailing list notice. This fact sheet constitutes the mailing notice.

### Summary of Changes

If approved, the permit modification will provide alignment with plant operations inspection area capabilities and accessibility to ensure safe and effective inspections during plant operations. The permit modification also clarifies those structures, systems and components that will not be routinely physically accessible during operations to ensure personnel health and safety, and identifies allowable alternative methods for inspecting these areas. This permit modification is limited to the WTP lab, LAW and EMF facilities in support of DFLAW operations and does not include the Pretreatment Facility or High-Level Waste Facility.

### Permit Chapters Affected by this Modification

Chapter 6A, Inspection Plan



### Public Involvement

A 60-day public comment period will begin Oct. 5 and continue through ~~Dec. 4~~ Dec. 17, 2021. A virtual public meeting will be held Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m. PT, and will include a presentation introducing the Chapter 6A, Inspection Plan permit modification.

During the virtual meeting, you can view the presentation, hear the speakers and ask your questions. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or

<https://bit.ly/3A2RUfS>

**Join with a video conferencing device**

197920091@teams.bjn.vc

Video Conference ID: 115 764 650 8

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 509-931-1284](tel:+15099311284), [941976390#](tel:+1941976390) United States, Spokane

[+1 \(833\) 633-0875](tel:+18336330875), [941976390#](tel:+1941976390) United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 941 976 390#

[Find a local number](#)

All comments must be submitted by ~~Dec. 4~~ Dec. 17, in writing, by mail or electronically (preferred) to:

Washington State Department of Ecology

3100 Port of Benton Boulevard

Richland, WA 99354

<https://nw.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=E9HVk> (preferred)

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Washington State Department of Ecology will address public comments and issue a final permit decision.

Copies of the proposed plan and supporting documentation will be available online during the public comment period on the Hanford public involvement website at <https://go.usa.gov/xVmew>, in the Administrative Record at <https://go.usa.gov/xMZgU>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTS>.

The permittee's compliance history, during the life of the permit being modified, is available from the Washington State Department of Ecology contact person, Daina McFadden at (509) 372-7950..

*Please contact Jennifer Colborn, at [Jennifer\\_M\\_Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov) or (509) 528-6687, at least 10 working days prior to the event to request disability accommodation. DOE makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests.*



Jennifer Colborn, HMIS  
P.O. Box 450, H6-60  
Richland, WA 99352

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3100 Port of Benton Boulevard  
Richland, WA 99354



## Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from you.

### Comment Period:

Oct. 5 – ~~Dec. 4~~ Dec. 17, 2021

Public Meeting: Nov. 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. PT



# Questions remain on state's new long-term care insurance

BY JACQUELINE ALLISON  
Skagit Valley Herald,  
Mount Vernon

A new state-run insurance program designed to help residents pay for long-term care as they age has been met with questions and concerns.

In January, workers will face a new payroll tax to fund the state's new program, called the WA Cares Fund.

Workers will pay a premium of 0.58% of their wages — 58 cents per \$100. A worker earning \$50,000 a year would pay \$290 in annual payroll deductions.

Those who are self-employed can opt in to the program.

Starting in 2025, eligible workers will be able access program funds to pay for long-term care services such as in-home care, nursing home stays, equipment, home modifications, rides to the doctor, and to pay family caregivers.

The maximum benefit a person can access over their lifetime is \$36,500.

When the Legislature established the program in 2019, the state was the first in the nation to create a public long-term care insurance program.

Seven in 10 people will need long-term care as they age, and most can't afford private long-term care insurance, according to a fact sheet from the state Department of Social & Health Services. The department notes that the program will help reduce the state's Medicaid spending.

The program includes

an option for people to opt out of paying the payroll tax if they purchase a qualifying long-term care insurance plan on the private market. Those who choose to opt out will be permanently ineligible for state benefits.

The deadline to purchase a private plan is Nov. 1. On Friday, the state opened the application period for people to apply for an exemption, and will accept applications through Dec. 31, 2022.

The website to apply for an exemption crashed on Friday, but was working again on Saturday.

Some have raised concerns that the state's deadline does not give people enough time to secure a private plan, and that plans are no longer available because of an increase in demand.

There are also questions about who is eligible to receive benefits. One issue is that workers who pay the payroll premium will lose access to benefits if they move to or retire in another state.

With the new payroll tax looming and many questions remaining about the program, a group of 23 state senators — 20 Republicans and three Democrats — asked Gov. Jay Inslee last week to pause implementation of the program.

"Your intervention to suspend the tax and insurance purchase deadline would provide temporary relief to employees who face a major new tax and give time for the Legislature to work on a solution," the senators' Sept. 22 letter states.

State Sen. Keith Wagoner, R-Sedro-Woolley, who signed the letter, said he has heard from many constituents about the program. He said many have been unable to find a private plan that meets the state's guidelines in time for the Nov. 1 deadline.

"When the bill went into effect, I don't think very many people knew about it," he said. "It started getting attention, and we got lots of feedback. I don't know how many hundreds of emails have come in on long-term care."

In a Sept. 9 letter to Inslee, the Association of Washington Business (AWB) raised similar concerns, arguing that the state's private-plan purchase deadline resulted in a "collapse" in the private insurance market and resulted in companies no longer selling coverage.

Dozens of businesses, chambers of commerce, and labor unions signed onto the AWB letter.

The letter also brings up eligibility issues, such as if "near-term retirees" or those who work in Washington but live in border states are eligible for benefits.

Wagoner, who did not support the 2019 legislation, said he believes the private insurance market is better suited to meet residents' long-term care needs.

His concern now is that people will pay into the state's system without ever seeing a benefit.

He said Inslee should use his emergency powers to suspend the program to allow more time to address these concerns.

"It's nothing more than a pause to give people relief during the (pandemic) and find more ways to opt out of this," he said. "There are so many details that we haven't figured out."

Democrats agree that policy tweaks are needed, but have no interest in pausing the program.

State Rep. Alex Ramel, D-Bellingham, said the state's program is needed to provide long-term care insurance as the population ages.

He said without the program, people would have to spend everything they have in order to qualify for Medicaid, and that the private long-term care market is insufficient.

Ramel said pausing the program would not only delay the collection of payroll premiums, but delay when residents can access benefits.

Ramel, who was not a state representative when the legislation passed in 2019, said he understands the concerns about paying into the system and not receiving any benefits.

"When the system first starts up, it needs to collect revenue for a couple of years before they are able to provide benefits to people," he said. "That's unfortunately just how finances work to make the system financially solvent."

Ramel said he would like to see a national system of long-term care insurance so those who work here and move away wouldn't lose benefits.

The state's Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Commission is working on ways to improve the new program.

State Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, a commission member, said the group plans to make proposals to the Legislature during the session that begins in January.

The goals are to address issues such as allowing workers who live in border

states but work in Washington — and those who work in Washington and move away — to access benefits.

"We are working on solutions to those oversights," Keiser said. "They are really technical fixes."

Some have raised the question of whether the \$36,500 maximum benefit is enough to cover a person's long-term care needs.

Keiser said the benefit is designed to cover at-home care, "aging in place," rather than to pay for more costly nursing home care.

She called private long-term insurance a "failed market" that has had large rate increases in recent years.

Rate increases have been known to fluctuate between 20% to 79% in a year, according to the state Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

There are other differences between the state's program and what you can get on the private market.

Keiser said an advantage of the state's program is that you can use benefits to pay a family caregiver.

In addition, those with private plans have to continue paying premiums in order to receive care.

Under the state's program, those who retire and no longer contribute to the WA Cares Fund can access benefits anytime, as long as they meet eligibility requirements.

To qualify, workers must work and contribute to the fund for at least 10 years, with a break of no more than five years in that time period; or have worked at least 500 hours a year during three of the past six years at the time they apply for the benefit.

As for concerns about the opt-out process, Keiser said when the 2019 legislation passed, the idea was to allow those who already had private insurance to opt-out so they wouldn't

be "double billed."

During the 2021 legislative session, a Republican-sponsored amendment passed to extend the deadline to purchase a private plan from the bill's effective date to Nov. 1.

"The opt-in/opt-out amendment created this incredible 'feeding frenzy' and real concerted effort by the insurance industry to sell plans," Keiser said.

State Sen. Curtis King, R-Yakima, also a member of the long-term care commission, said he proposed further extending the deadline to buy a private insurance plan.

He agreed with other Republicans that the program should be paused so legislators can make adjustments.

Without a pause, workers will pay the payroll tax starting in January, even if changes are implemented later.


"Right now they would not get that money returned to them, and I don't think that's right," King said.

Mike Faulk, spokesperson for Inslee's office, said the governor supported and signed the legislation in 2019. He said the governor's office is aware of concerns about the program and monitoring the progress of the long-term care trust group.

"The governor has said he does not intend to delay the implementation date as set out by the Legislature and we don't believe he has that authority," Faulk said.

There may be larger questions about the long-term funding of the program.

At the planned 0.58% payroll tax rate, the program is set to run out of money to pay scheduled benefits by 2075, according to a December 2020 study commissioned by the state.



Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

## THE HANFORD SITE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: October 5 – December 4, 2021

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. This proposed permit modification would revise the inspection methods to align with current planned plant operations and inspection area accessibility.

The WTP is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site and will process liquid waste from Hanford's large underground tanks in support of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program.

The comment period runs October 5 through December 4. A virtual public meeting will be held November 9 at 5:30 p.m. PT. Please follow the instructions below to participate via Microsoft Teams:

- Join on your computer or mobile app <https://bit.ly/3A2RUfS>
- Join with a video conferencing device  
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[Alternate VTC instructions](#)
- Or call in (audio only)  
+1 509-931-1284, 941976390# United States, Spokane  
(833) 633-0875, 941976390# United States (Toll-free)  
Phone Conference ID: 941 976 390#  
[Find a local number](#)

Please submit any comments by Dec. 4 to:  
<https://nw.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=E9HVk>

Copies of the proposed permit modification and supporting documentation will be available online during the public comment period on the Hanford public involvement website at <https://go.usa.gov/xVmew>, in the Administrative Record at <https://go.usa.gov/xMZgU>, and in the Hanford Public Information Repositories at <https://go.usa.gov/xVDTS>.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn at [jennifer\\_m\\_colborn@rl.gov](mailto:jennifer_m_colborn@rl.gov), or Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology, at [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov).

The permittee's compliance history during the application of the relevant permit, is available from the Washington State Department of Ecology contact person.

To request disability accommodation, contact Jennifer Colborn, [jennifer\\_m\\_colborn@rl.gov](mailto:jennifer_m_colborn@rl.gov), 509-528-6687 at least 10 working days prior to the event.



Questions? Contact Jennifer Colborn at [Jennifer\\_M\\_Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov)

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**From:** [^TPA](#)  
**To:** [HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.ECOLOGY.WA.GOV](mailto:HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.ECOLOGY.WA.GOV)  
**Subject:** Notice of Upcoming Public Comment Period on Proposed Changes to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 12:58:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## THE HANFORD SITE

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*This is a message from the U.S. Department of Energy*

### **Notice of Upcoming Public Comment Period on Proposed Changes to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit**

The U.S. Department of Energy is planning a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. This proposed permit modification would revise the inspection methods to align with current planned plant operations and inspection area accessibility.

WTP is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site and will process liquid waste from the Tank Farms via the Tank-Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) System in support of the Direct Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) program to treat tank waste. During DFLAW operations, WTP will run the laboratory, Effluent Management Facility, Low-Activity Waste Facility and supporting facilities (known as Balance of Facilities).

**The comment period is expected to begin in October 2021, with a public meeting in November.**

The proposed permit modification and supporting documentation will be available online during the public comment period on the Hanford [events calendar](#), the Hanford [Administrative Record](#), and at the Hanford [Public Information Repositories](#).

A summary fact sheet and details of the public meeting will be provided when the comment period begins.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions, at [Jennifer\\_M\\_colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_colborn@rl.gov), or Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology, at [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov).

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**From:** [^TPA](#)  
**To:** [HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.ECOLOGY.WA.GOV](mailto:HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.ECOLOGY.WA.GOV)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Period Begins Today on Proposed Changes to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:18:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Fact Sheet Chapter 6A Inspection Plan FINAL.pdf](#)

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## THE HANFORD SITE

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*This is a message from the U.S. Department of Energy*

### **Public Comment Period on Proposed Changes to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit**

The U.S. Department of Energy is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. This proposed permit modification would revise the inspection methods to align with current planned plant operations and inspection area accessibility.

The WTP is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site and will process liquid waste from Hanford's Tank Farms via the Tank-Side Cesium Removal System in support of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program to treat tank waste. During program operations, the WTP will run the laboratory, and Hanford's Effluent Management Facility, Low-Activity Waste Facility and supporting facilities.

**The comment period runs from Oct. 5 through Dec. 4, 2021.** A virtual public meeting will be held Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m. PT. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

#### **Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#) or  
<https://bit.ly/3A2RUfS>

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[+1 \(833\) 633-0875](tel:+18336330875) United States (Toll-free)  
Phone Conference ID: 941 976 390#  
[Find a local number](#)

Please submit any comments by **Dec. 4**, [electronically](#) (preferred) or by mail to:

Washington State Department of Ecology  
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard  
Richland, Washington 99354

The proposed permit modification and supporting documentation is available online during the public comment period on the Hanford [events calendar](#), the Hanford [Administrative Record](#), and at the Hanford [Public Information Repositories](#). Please see the attached summary fact sheet.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions, at [Jennifer.M.Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer.M.Colborn@rl.gov), or Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology, at [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov).

*To request disability accommodation, please contact Jennifer Colborn, [Jennifer M Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer.M.Colborn@rl.gov) or (509) 376-5840 at least 10 working days prior to the event. DOE makes every effort to honor disability accommodation requests.*

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**Subject:** Public Comment Period End Date Extended  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 12:22:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Fact Sheet Chapter 6A Inspection Plan FINAL Extended.pdf](#)

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## THE HANFORD SITE

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*This is a message from the U.S. Department of Energy*

**The public comment period end date has been extended to Dec. 17, 2021.**

### **Public Comment Period on Proposed Changes to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit**

The U.S. Department of Energy is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. This proposed permit modification would revise the inspection methods to align with current planned plant operations and inspection area accessibility.

The WTP is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site and will process liquid waste from Hanford's Tank Farms via the Tank-Side Cesium Removal System in support of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program to treat tank waste. During program operations, the WTP will run the laboratory, and Hanford's Effluent Management Facility, Low-Activity Waste Facility and supporting facilities.

**The comment period runs from Oct. 5 through ~~Dec. 4~~ Dec. 17, 2021.** A virtual public meeting will be held Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m. PT. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

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Phone Conference ID: 941 976 390#  
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Please submit any comments by ~~Dec. 4~~ **Dec. 17**, [electronically](#) (preferred) or by mail to:

Washington State Department of Ecology  
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard  
Richland, Washington 99354

The proposed permit modification and supporting documentation is available online during the public comment period on the Hanford [events calendar](#), the Hanford [Administrative Record](#), and at the Hanford [Public Information Repositories](#). Please see the attached summary fact sheet.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions, at [Jennifer\\_M\\_Colborn@rl.gov](mailto:Jennifer_M_Colborn@rl.gov), or Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology, at [Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov).

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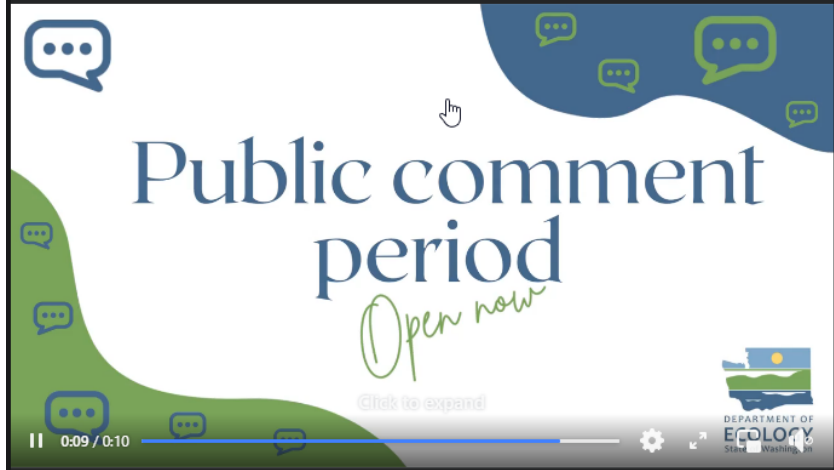


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**Washington Department of Ecology - Hanford**  
Published by Ecology Ryan · Yesterday at 9:14 AM · 🌐

A new #Hanford Waste Treatment Plant comment period began today, held by the U.S. Department of Energy. Check it out and get comments in by Dec. 4:  
<https://ecology.wa.gov/.../Nuclear.../Public-comment-periods>  
Hanford Site U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection U.S. EPA, Region 10



 Ecology - Hanford 🗨️ @ecyHanford · Oct 5

A new #Hanford Waste Treatment Plant comment period began today, held by @HanfordSite and @RiverProtection. Check it out and get comments in by Dec. 4: [ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/N...](https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/N...) @EcologyWA @EPAnorthwest



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## Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

Oct. 5, 2021 – Dec. 4, 2021

The U.S. Department of Energy is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Dangerous Waste Permit, Chapter 6A Inspection Plan. This proposed permit modification would revise the inspection methods to align with current planned plant operations and inspection area accessibility.

### Background

WTP is located in the 200 East Area of the Hanford Site and will process liquid waste from Hanford's tank farms via the Tank-Side Cesium Removal System in support of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program to treat tank waste. During program operations, WTP will run the laboratory, Hanford's Effluent Management Facility, the Low-Activity Waste Facility, and supporting facilities.

### Review and comment

For more information on the public comment period and supporting documents, visit [Energy's website](#).

Please submit any comments by **Dec. 4**, [electronically](#) (preferred), or by mail to:

Washington State Department of Ecology  
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard  
Richland, Washington 99354

### Public meeting

Energy is holding a virtual public meeting **5:30 p.m. PT, Nov. 9**. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

#### Join on your computer or mobile app

- [Use this link to join the meeting](#) or <https://bit.ly/3A2RUfS>

#### Join with a video conferencing device

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- Video Conference ID: 115 764 650 8
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- [\(833\) 633-0875,,941976390#](#) United States (Toll-free)
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Questions? Please contact [Jennifer Colborn](#), Hanford Mission Integration Solutions, or [Daina McFadden](#), Ecology.