



Response to Comments Southern Area Fire Station Emergency Generator Notice of Construction

April 4 – May 6, 2022

For the **Nuclear Waste Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Richland, Washington

June 2022, Publication 22-05-013



Publication Information

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Ecology publishes this document to meet the requirements of [Washington Administrative Code 173-400-171\(7\)](#).

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Cover photo credit

Photo by Washington State Dept. of Ecology, Aug. 9, 2020

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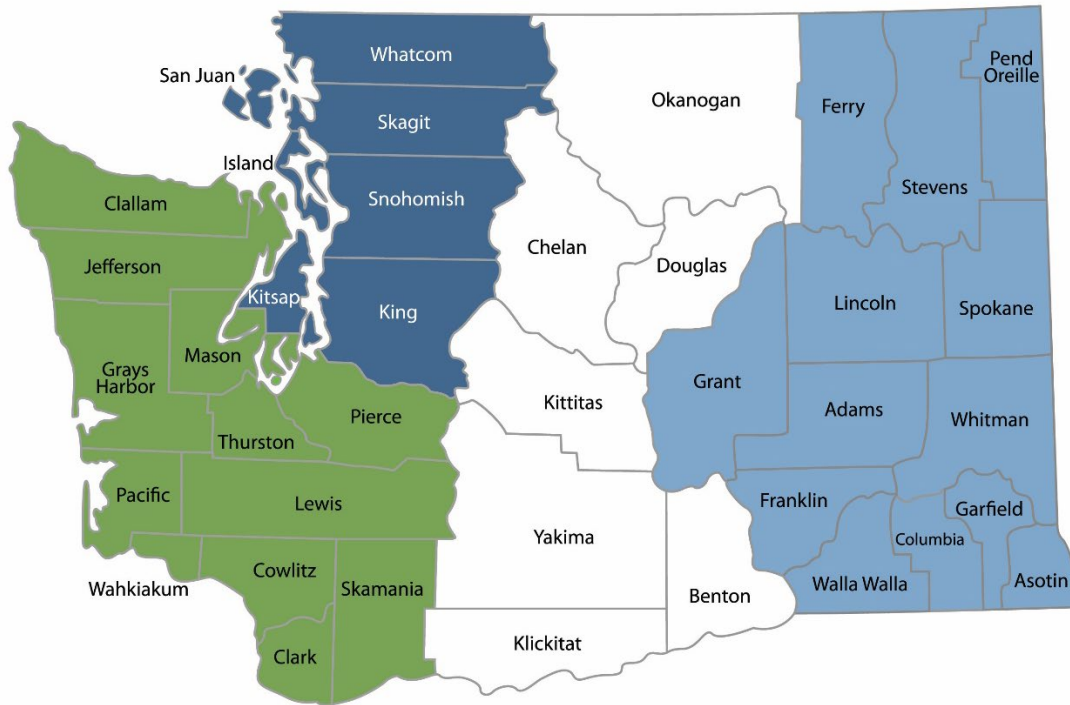
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¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2205013.html>

² www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



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

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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) regulates air pollution sources at the Hanford Site. In particular, Ecology is the permitting authority for new or modified sources requiring new source review under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-400-110 at Hanford.

When a new order or a modification to an existing order is proposed, Ecology may hold a public comment period to allow the public to review the proposed order and provide formal feedback. (See WAC 173-400-171 for Public Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment requirements for approval of a notice of construction application.)

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	Southern Area Fire Station Emergency Generator Notice of Construction, April 4 – May 6, 2022
Approval Order Number	DE21NWP-001
Permittees	U.S. Department of Energy
Effective date	06/06/2022

To see more information related to the Hanford Site and nuclear waste in Washington, please visit our webpage, [Hanford Cleanup](https://www.ecology.wa.gov/Hanford)³.

³ <https://www.ecology.wa.gov/Hanford>

Reasons for Issuing the Permit

The permittee is planning to construct a new fire station adjacent to the 400 area on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington. The fire station needs to have emergency power available in order to remain operational during power outages and emergencies. The 750 kW emergency generator is to be powered by a diesel fuel powered engine.

Public Involvement Actions

Ecology encouraged public comment on the DE21NWP-001 draft Approval Order during a 30-day public comment period held April 4- May 6, 2022.

The following actions were taken to notify the public:

- Emailed a notice announcing the start of the comment period to the Hanford-Info email list, which has 1,282 recipients.
- Posted the comment period notice on the Washington Department of Ecology – Hanford’s Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Posted the draft Approval Order and Technical Support Document on Ecology’s Nuclear Waste Program public comment period website.

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

- 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 Southern Area Fire Station Emergency Generator Permit modification. The comments and responses are in [Attachment 1](#).

Commenter	Organization
Mimi Latta	<i>Citizen</i>
Carl Holder	<i>Citizen</i>

Attachment 1: Comments and Responses

Description of comments:

Ecology accepted comments from April 4 through May 6, 2022. This section provides a summary of comments that we received during the public comment period and our responses, as required by WAC 173-400-171(7)(c). Comments are grouped by individual and each comment is addressed separately.

I-1: MIMI LATTA

Comment I-1-1

In order to keep the Hanford area and Energy Northwest independently able to contain themselves despite extreme weather events, out-of-control wildfires or foreign or domestic sabotage, I support the installation of proposed generator and new fire station at the 400 area.

Response to I-1-1

Thank you for your comment. Ecology agrees that the new fire station requires emergency power in order to remain operational during power outages and emergencies.

I-2: CARL HOLDER

Comment I-2-1

As the emergency generator for FFTF (400 Area) was removed during deactivation, it would be prudent planning for DOE to provide a hardened electrical connection to FFTF for future reactivation requirements. The Department of Energy wrote a letter, 2/24/2020 stating: "To support the Department's decision making process, and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ... This EIS will consider alternatives, such as FFTF refurbishment and restart for a versatile reactor-based fast-neutron source facility and associated facilities for the preparation, irradiation and post irradiation examination of test/experimental fuels and materials... "

Response to I-2-1

Thank you for your comment. Providing a connection to the Fast Flux Test Facility for possible future reactivation requirements is beyond the scope of this Notice of Construction,

Appendix A. Copies of All Public Notices

Public notices for this comment period:

- Notices sent to the Hanford-Info email list
- Notices posted on Washington Department of Ecology – Hanford’s Facebook and Twitter pages

From: [Washington Department of Ecology](#)
To: [McFadden, Daina \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Notice of Construction public comment period starts today!
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:46:09 PM



Southern Area Fire Station Emergency Generator Notice of Construction public comment period

Notice of Construction DE21NWP-001

Ecology is holding a 30-day public comment period addressing the installation of a new 750 kW emergency generator for the proposed Southern Area Fire Station. The permittee is the United States Department of Energy (Energy). The emergency generator is located on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington.

The proposed approval order is now available for public review:

Starting: April 4, 2022

Ends: May 6, 2022

Proposed changes

Energy is planning on constructing a new fire station adjacent to the 400 area on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington. The fire station needs to have emergency power available in order to remain operational during power outages and emergencies. The emergency generator is to be powered by a diesel fuel powered engine.

How to comment

The proposed approval order is available for review online at the Nuclear Waste Program's [public comment page](#).

Electronic copies of the proposed approval order are also located at the [Administrative Record](#).

Please submit comments by **May 6, 2022**. Electronic submission is preferred.

[Comment](#)

Mail or hand-deliver to:

Daina McFadden, 3100 Port of Benton Blvd, Richland WA 99354

Public hearing

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

Permit Communications Specialist

✉ Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

☎ 509-372-7950

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We began two new #Hanford public comment periods today! One involves the High-Level Waste Vitrification Facility and the other the Southern Area Fire Station Emergency Generator.

Check them out and get comments in: ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/N...
[@EcologyWA](#) [@HanfordSite](#) [@EPAnorthwest](#)



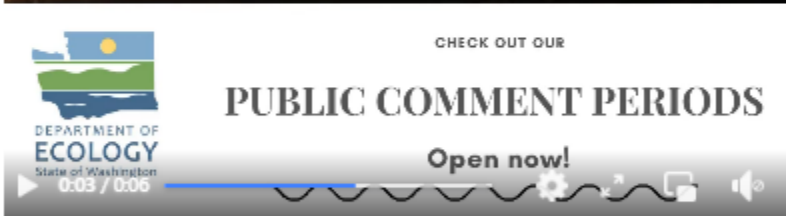
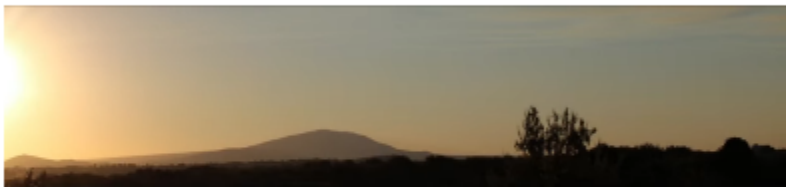
Washington Department of Ecology - Hanford



Published by Ecology Ryan · 10m ·

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Check them out and get your comments in:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/.../Nuclear.../Public-comment-periods>



See Insights

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Review and comment

Copies of the proposed permit renewal and supporting documents are available below, at the Hanford Information Repositories listed at the bottom of this page, and at the [Hanford Administrative Record](#).

Please submit comments by **May 6, 2022**, [electronically](#) (preferred), or deliver to:

Daina McFadden
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland WA 99354

A public hearing is not scheduled, but if there's enough interest, we will consider holding one. To request a hearing, contact Daina McFadden by [email](#) or call 509-372-7950.

Documents

- [Notice of Construction Approval Order](#)
- [Technical Support Document](#)
- [Health Impact Assessment Recommendation for Southern Area Fire Station Emergency Generator](#)
- [Attachment 2](#)