LERF and 200 Area ETF: Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update Class 2 Permit Modification

March 29 – May 28, 2022

For the **Nuclear Waste Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Richland, Washington

July 2022, Publication 22-05-018

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program's Publication page.[1]

Ecology publishes this document to meet the requirements of Washington Administrative Code 173-303-840 (9).

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Cover photo credit

- Photo by Washington State Dept. of Ecology, July 26, 2020

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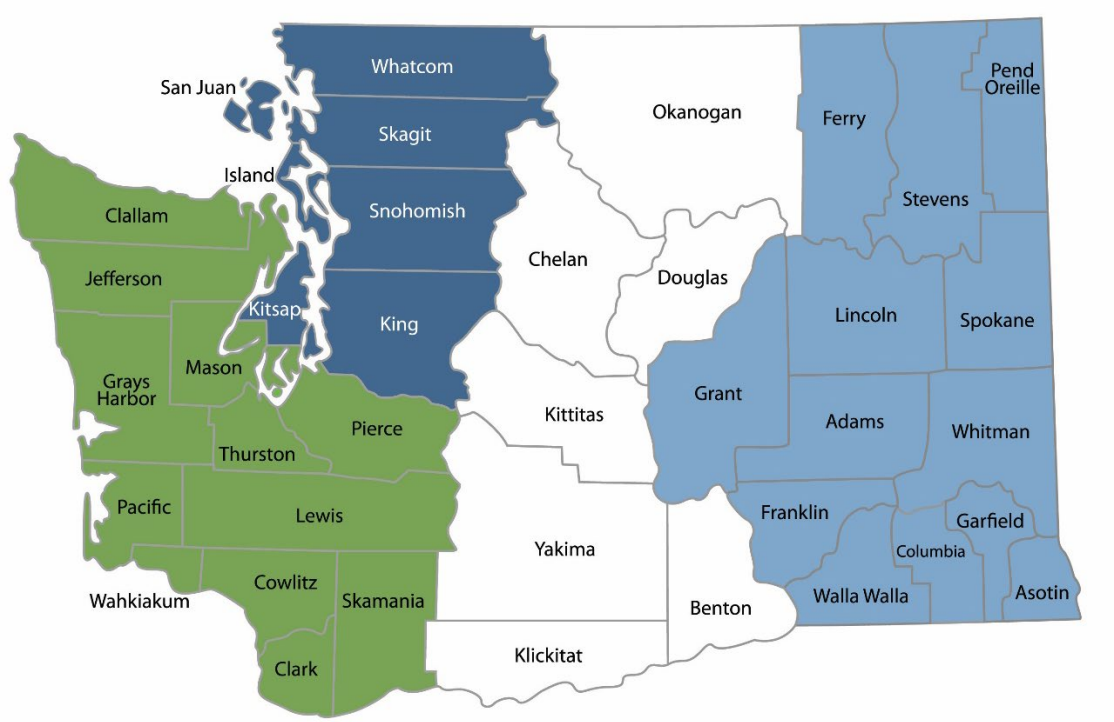
[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2205018.html
[2] www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

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

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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Nuclear Waste Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
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Table of Contents

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 changes, 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	Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF): Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update Class 2 Permit Modification, March 29 – May 28, 2022
Permit	*Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit for the Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Dangerous Waste, LERF and 200 Area ETF*
Permittees	U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE)
Original Issuance date	1/28/1998
Effective date	8/28/2022

To see more information related to the Hanford Site and nuclear waste in Washington, please visit our webpage, Hanford Cleanup[3].

[3] https://www.ecology.wa.gov/Hanford

Reasons for Issuing the Permit

The proposed Class 2 permit modification affects the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) portion of the Permit. The modification will implement an updated Groundwater Monitoring Plan for LERF that will reflect the addition of a new groundwater monitoring well near LERF Basin 41 and a revised monitoring approach to account for the pending new waste streams to be accepted into LERF.

Public Involvement Actions

USDOE encouraged public comment on the LERF and 200 Area ETF: Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update Class 2 Permit Modification during a 60-day public comment period held March 29 through May 28, 2022.

The following actions were taken to notify the public:

- Mailed a public notice announcing the comment period to 1,005 members of the public.
- Placed a public announcement legal classified advertisement in the Tri-City Herald on March 28, 2022.
- Emailed a notice announcing the start of the comment period to the Hanford-Info email list, which has 1,283 recipients.
- Posted the comment period notice on the Washington Department of Ecology – Hanford's Facebook and Twitter pages.

USDOE held a virtual public meeting 5:30 p.m. April 26, 2022. Seven 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:

- Focus sheet
- Transmittal letter
- Draft LERF and 200 Area ETF: Groundwater Monitoring Plan Permit Modification

The following public notices for this comment period are in Appendix A of this document:

- Focus 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 [unit name] Permit modification. The comments and responses are in Attachment 1.

Commenter	Organization
Anonymous	Citizen
Columbia Riverkeeper and Hanford Challenge	Organization

Attachment 1: Comments and Responses

Description of comments:

Ecology accepted comments from March 29 through May 28, 2022. 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: ANONYMOUS

Comment I-1-1

Letter 22-ECD-000389 identifies "pending new waste streams," but the attachment identifies only one, "(DST) condensate effluent (WTP liquid effluent). Can you clarify if there is more than one waste stream? The description is not clear. How are DST condensate and WTP liquid effluent the same thing?

Response to I-1-1

As stated during the public meeting held on April 26, 2022, there is only one new waste stream that consists of liquid effluents going from WTP to LERF. Any inconsistent language regarding this topic has been corrected in the Permit so there is no confusion.

Comment I-1-2

A composition range should be provided for each new waste stream so that groundwater monitoring updates can be compared to the new or increased constituent concentrations. What is changing? For example, WTP will increase acetonitrile concentrations (methyl cyanide) above the amounts previously seen, because WTP is creating a new source of acetonitrile due to reactions of sugar with nitrates in the melters.

Response to I-1-2

This update to the groundwater monitoring plan includes constituents that are expected in the WTP liquid effluent waste stream. The waste constituent screening process is provided in SGW-41072, Rev. 2, Engineering Evaluation Report for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility Groundwater Monitoring.

For the WTP liquid effluent, organics in the waste stream were evaluated based on the expected concentration. Appendix F of SGW-41072, Rev. 2, provides the waste constituents and concentrations from the certified waste profile for WTP liquid effluent. Table F-3 provides the estimated concentration of acetonitrile at 32,100 micrograms/L.

Comment I-1-3

LERF liners have an acceptance criterion for acetonitrile. The LERF Liner Compatibility Limit for the sum of acetonitrile, carbon disulfide, n-nitrosodimethylamine, and tributyl phosphate is 2,000 mg/liter, according to the Liquid Waste Processing Facilities Waste Acceptance Criteria, HNF-3172, Rev 8. Presumably, the liner could suffer deterioration if exposed to higher concentrations. HNF-3172 does not state if this limit was based on new liner material or what the limit becomes as the material ages. Materials often degrade over time. What is the maximum concentration of acetonitrile to be discharged to the LERF basins? How has aging of the liner been taken into account?

Response to I-1-3

The estimated concentration of acetonitrile in the WTP liquid effluent is 32,100 micrograms/L (32.1 mg/L). The nominal concentration of acetonitrile (32.1mg/L) does not approach the liner compatibility limit and is not expected to significantly impact liner condition.

Evaluation of the physical properties of the LERF facility is not within the scope of the groundwater monitoring plan.

Comment I-1-4

Table D-1, "Basin 42 Constituent Characterization Results for Past 242-A Evaporator and Other Minor Source Leachates" (from 2010-2016) has been deleted entirely and has not been replaced as far as I can tell with updated data for basin characterization data or expected characterization that includes the new waste streams. I think this table (and other tables) are valuable and should be retained and updated so that sample data can be compared for trends. The basins used to have 29 micrograms per liter of acetonitrile. What will they have now? Calculation RPP-RPT-62702 says that the feed to ETF will contain 60 milligrams per liter (ppm) acetonitrile, which is about 2000 times more concentrated than previous liner exposure. The GMP should know the ranges to look for from prior experience. This is particularly so given the uncertainty in WTP projected operating results.

Response to I-1-4

The information on waste constituents in the existing LERF basins was removed from the groundwater monitoring plan in this revision and is now provided in the engineering evaluation report (SGW-41072, Rev. 2). The waste constituent information was updated at the time that SGW-41072 was revised.

Appendix E of SGW-41072, Rev. 2, provides the current waste inventory for LERF. Section E2 provides the maximum sample results for the influent waste streams. Table E-1 provides the maximum concentration of acetonitrile at 36.4 micrograms/L.

Appendix F of SGW-41072, Rev. 2 provides the WTP liquid effluent waste constituent information. Table F-3 provides the estimated concentration of acetonitrile at 32,100 micrograms/L (32.1 mg/L).

RPP-RPT-62702 Rev 2, ETF Steam Stripper Hazard and Operability Study (HAZOP) Report, March 2022 is related to the ETF Steam Stripper System. The system was designed with a safety factor/margin so an acetonitrile concentration of 59.9 ppm (approximately 60 milligrams per liter) was used in the design calculations. The nominal feed concentrations of acetonitrile is expected to be 32.1 milligrams per liter.

Comment I-1-5

The GMP seems to have data quality indicators, but no data quality objectives to show what sort of results will be useful. Why the change? There don't seem to be specific objectives for each item to be sampled in the groundwater.

Response to I-1-5

As part of the modification, Ecology requested the permittees to start collecting baseline data on additional constituents which have the potential to indicate a future release from the existing basins. Specifically, Ecology requested baseline monitoring for Ammonia, Bromide and Nitrite because they have been present in abundant concentrations in ETF influent, and may be more amenable to statistical comparison with naturally occurring groundwater constituents. When

combined with the other constituents the permittees have agreed to monitor for ionic charge balancing, stainless steel corrosion products, field measurements, "site specific constituents," and the constituents identified in Appendix 5 of Ecology Publication 97-407. Ecology is confident that the permittees will have a groundwater data set which can be combined with representative sample data to select waste constituents and indicators that can be evaluated with a compliant statistical method. Ecology drafted the following permit condition to ensure an appropriate statistical method is selected once baseline data has been collected.

> *III.3.R.4 After eight samples have been collected for baseline/background of the site specific monitoring constituents in Table D-7 and the indicator constituents in Table D-4 for all wells, the permittees will submit to Ecology for review and approval a permit modification to Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan".*

The permit modification will identify an appropriate statistical method specified under WAC 173-303-645(8)(h).

O-1: COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER AND HANFORD CHALLENGE

Comment O-1-1

One of the most important decisions in the Proposed Permit Modification is identifying contaminants for monitoring in the LERF and ETF area that give TPA agencies the best opportunity to understand and respond to any releases into the environment. The Proposed Permit Modification states that site-specific monitoring constituents "were identified through evaluation of effluents previously received at LERF and the planned WTP aqueous waste." The planned waste from the WTP may vary in composition over time. Will Energy sample the waste and amend groundwater monitoring constituents over time to correspond with the changing concentrations of pollutants?

Response to O-1-1

When DOE is permitted to accept waste in the LERF basins, both generator requirements under WAC 173-303-070 and TSD requirements under the LERF/ETF Waste Analysis Plan will ensure WTP and LERF obtain representative samples of their wastes or obtain equivalent knowledge. Under this version of the permit, a modification is required within 90 days if the requirements of WAC 173-303-645 are no longer met.

Comment O-1-2

Do elevated acetonitrile concentrations pose a risk to the facilities or their protections from leaks? Should acetonitrile be added as a specific chemical to be monitored? More broadly, which compounds are most likely to compromise the liner (if any) or leak from other parts of the DFLAW process, and which contaminants are most likely to reach soils and groundwater first? What would the process be for adapting the constituent list as new waste streams come online, and the agencies gain more information about the process?

Response to O-1-2

Evaluation of the physical properties of the LERF facility is not within the scope of this modification.

In the LERF GWMP, Table D-8 "Appendix 5 of Ecology Publication No. 97-407 Constituents", acetonitrile is identified as a constituent that will be monitored quarterly for two years.

Regarding the concern "which compounds are most likely to compromise the liner (if any) or leak from parts of the DFLAW process..." As part of the acceptance process, the criteria of compatibility with the LERF liner materials are evaluated for each aqueous waste stream using knowledge (as defined by WAC 173-303-040) of constituent concentrations in the aqueous waste stream or using constituent concentrations obtained by analyzing the waste stream for the constituents identified in the Waste Analysis Plan (WAP). Then, the constituent concentrations in the waste stream are compared to the decision criteria. If all constituent concentrations are below the decision criteria, then the waste stream is considered compatible with the LERF liners and may be accepted for treatment.

The strategy for protecting the integrity of a LERF liner is to establish upfront that an aqueous waste is compatible before the waste is accepted into LERF. Characterization data on each new aqueous waste stream are compared to the limits outlined in the WAP to ensure compatibility with the LERF liner materials before acceptance into the LERF. For WTP-EMF waste stream, the generator reviews WTP-EMF analytical data or acceptable process knowledge of the EMF effluent collection tanks to verify that the process condensate waste stream is compatible with the LERF liners.

The contaminants that are most mobile and have a greater potential to migrate through the vadose zone and reach groundwater are identified in Table 8-1 of the Engineering Evaluation Report for the LERF Groundwater Monitoring Rev 2 (SGW-41072).

Prior to management of any new waste streams, it must be determined whether the new waste stream can be accepted into LERF. This may require a modification to the waste analysis plan. In the case of the GWMP, new constituents would need to evaluated to determine if they should be added to the monitoring program.

Comment O-1-3

Energy and Ecology should address whether acetonitrile or other contaminants will impact the operation of ETF or LERF, including the durability of liners in LERF.

Response to O-1-3

Evaluation of the physical properties of the LERF/ETF facility is not within the scope of this modification.

Regarding the LERF liners: As part of the acceptance process, the criteria of compatibility with the LERF liner materials are evaluated for each aqueous waste stream using knowledge (as defined by WAC 173-303-040) of constituent concentrations in the aqueous waste stream or using constituent concentrations obtained by analyzing the waste stream for the constituents identified in the Waste Analysis Plan (WAP). Then, the constituent concentrations in the waste

stream are compared to the decision criteria. If all constituent concentrations are below the decision criteria, then the waste stream is considered compatible with the LERF liners and may be accepted for treatment.

The strategy for protecting the integrity of a LERF liner is to establish upfront that an aqueous waste is compatible before the waste is accepted into LERF. Characterization data on each new aqueous waste stream are compared to the limits outlined in the WAP to ensure compatibility with the LERF liner materials before acceptance into the LERF. For WTP-EMF waste stream, the generator reviews WTP-EMF analytical data or acceptable process knowledge of the EMF effluent collection tanks to verify that the process condensate waste stream is compatible with the LERF liners.

The estimated concentration of acetonitrile in the WTP liquid effluent is 32,100 micrograms/L (32.1 mg/L). The nominal concentration of acetonitrile (32.1mg/L) does not approach the liner compatibility limit and is not expected to significantly impact liner condition.

Comment O-1-4

Energy is altering its Groundwater Monitoring Plan to exclude monitoring for regional plumes affecting the area, which seems counterproductive for efforts to address pollution across the whole of the site.2 The Proposed Permit provides as a justification for removing upgradient constituents, “Regional upgradient constituents and groundwater quality parameters are not included in the plan.” Notably, the previous plan included regional upgradient constituents nitrate and sulfate. While removing nitrate as a regional groundwater contaminant, Energy now proposes to monitor nitrite as an indicator constituent. The permit clarifies that indicator constituents are included at the discretion of Ecology. Are regional upgradient constituents also monitored at the discretion of Ecology, and if so, what is the justification for removing nitrate and sulfate from the Groundwater Monitoring Plan? The agencies should provide a more detailed justification for eliminating monitoring for regional upgradient plumes in the area, data that could be valuable for assessing the trajectory and severity of future groundwater issues.

Response to O-1-4

Although the terms "Regional upgradient constituents and groundwater quality parameters" no longer appear in Appendix A, nitrate and sulfate are still being sampled in both upgradient and downgradient wells. Table D-3 shows that ionic charge balancing constituents include nitrate and sulfate. Table D-6 indicates ionic charge balancing constituents will continue to be monitored for all wells quarterly for two years, and semiannually thereafter.

Appendix A. Copies of All Public Notices

Public notices for this comment period:

- Focus 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

THE HANFORD SITE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

Fact Sheet

GET INVOLVED

Comment Period
Mar 29 – May 28, 2022

Virtual Public Meeting
April 26, 5:30 p.m. PT
(see page 3 for details)

Send comments by May 28 to
https://nw.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=ruPTb

Administrative Record:
https://pdw.hanford.gov/document/AR-18483

Contact Information
Jennifer Colborn, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions
(509) 528-6687
jennifer_m_colborn@rl.gov

Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology
(509) 372-7950
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 Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit, "Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility" chapter. This proposed permit modification will update Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan."

Background

The Hanford Site is located in southeastern Washington state along the Columbia River. The 580-square-mile site was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at Hanford.

The DOE and contractor Washington River Protection Solutions are requesting a Class 2 modification to the LERF and 200 Area ETF operating unit group of the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit. The LERF and 200 Area ETF are mixed-waste treatment and storage units for treating liquid effluents from Hanford cleanup facilities. Sources of effluent include the 242-A Evaporator and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Effluent Management Facility (when it becomes operational) to support treating tank waste through the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program (see map).

THE HANFORD SITE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

Overview

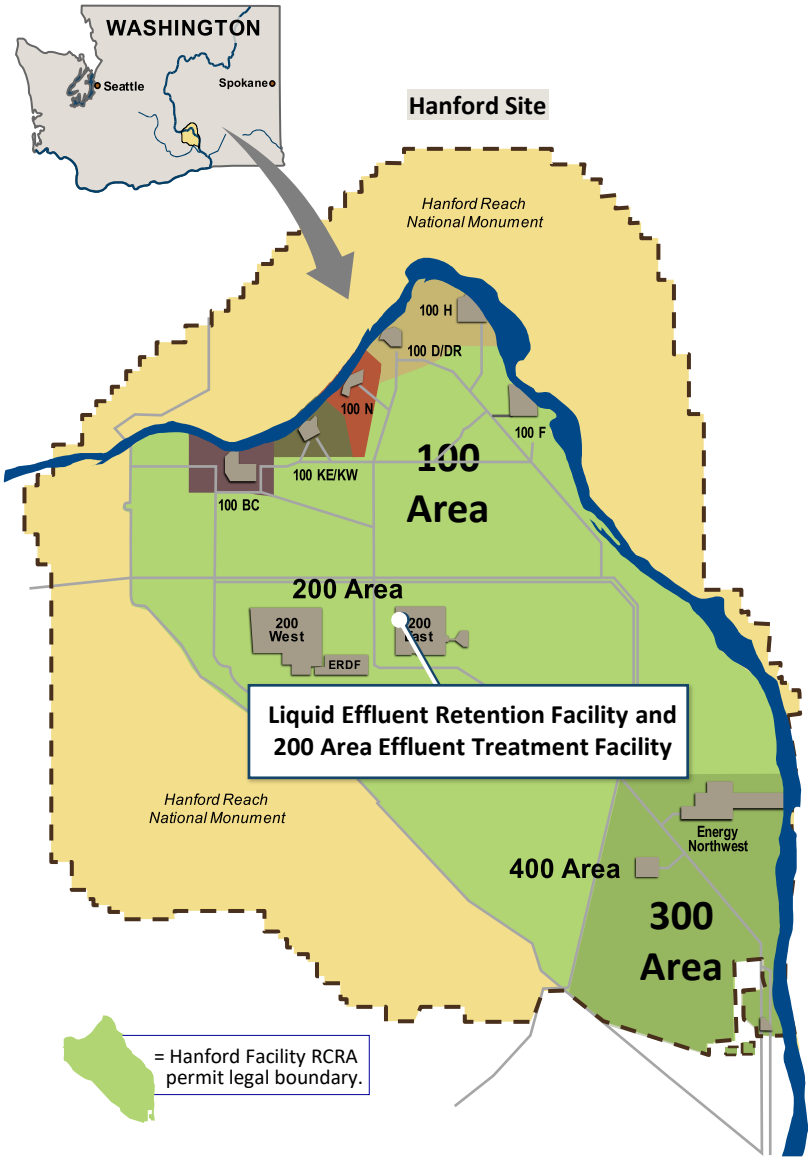
The Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit establishes requirements to ensure that waste management activities protect human health and the environment. DOE is proposing a Class 2 permit modification pursuant to WAC 173-303-830, which requires a 60-day comment period, a public meeting, a newspaper notice, and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

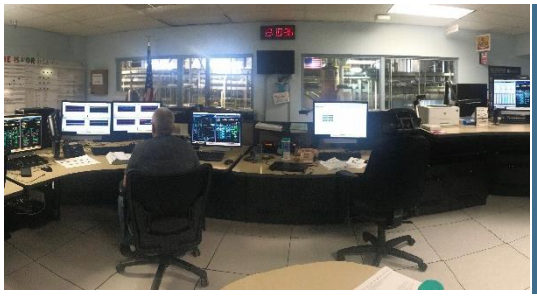
Summary of Changes

If approved, the modification would allow DOE to implement an updated Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility.

Permit Chapters Affected by this Modification

- Unit-Specific Permit Conditions
- Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan"





The Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility are monitored closely by the operations staff in the control room.

Outside the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility.

THE HANFORD SITE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

Public Involvement

A 60-day public comment period will begin March 29 and continue through May 28. A virtual public meeting will be held April 26 at 5:30 p.m. PT and will include a presentation introducing the updates and modifications to Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan." During the virtual meeting, you can view the presentation, hear the speakers and ask questions. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

Join on your computer or Teams mobile app
Click here to join the meeting
https://bit.ly/3CsT3PH

Join with a video conferencing device
197920091@teams.bjn.vc
Video Conference ID: 118 536 987 4

Or call in (audio only)
(509) 931-1284 United States
(833) 633-0875 United States (Toll-free)
Phone Conference ID: 787 558 061#

All comments must be submitted by May 29, 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=ruPTb

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

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://pdw.hanford.gov/document/AR-18483, 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.

Please contact Jennifer Colborn, at 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
P.O. Box 450, H6-60
Richland, WA 99352

Daina McFadden, Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, WA 99354

THE HANFORD SITE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit

Public Involvement Opportunity

We want to hear from you!

ONE HANFORD

Comment Period:

March 29 – May 28, 2022

Public Meeting: April 26, 5:30 p.m. PT (see page 3 for details)

Class 2 Permit Modification Fact Sheet
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450, H6-60
Richland, WA 99352

Kennewick man faces prison for accusing FBI agent of bribery

BY ERIC ROSANE
erosane@tricityherald.com

KENNEWICK, WA

A 54-year-old Kennewick man admitted last week to falsely accusing a FBI agent of trying to take a $22,000 bribe to make his case go away.

He was one of 23 suspects recently charged in a scheme to defraud insurance companies by staging 14 vehicle accidents over a three-year span. The group amassed nearly $1 million in fraudulent payouts, say federal prosecutors.

They were charged by indictment in December.

Mohammed Naji Al-Jibory was one of six accused of attempting to obstruct law enforcement officials and the investigation.

The FBI began investigating Al-Jibory and his accomplices in February 2019, after allegations surfaced that they were involved in a scheme to defraud multiple companies of money and property by "staging automobile accidents, and filing false and fraudulent claims with insurance companies, in violation of federal criminal laws," said a release from Vanessa R. Waldref, U.S. Attorney for Eastern Washington.

The investigation was quickly expanded to look at other suspicious insurance claims the Eastern Washington.

In May 2020, the FBI served search warrants at several homes in Washington and California looking for evidence of federal crimes.

Al-Jibory was interviewed by the FBI in September 2020. During the interview he falsely accused the agent, as well as someone he suspected of being an informant, of soliciting a bribe from a third party to dismiss the case.

"In doing so, Al-Jibory engaged in misleading conduct toward the FBI agents with the intention of hindering, delaying, and preventing communication to these officers and a judge of the United States, of information relating to the commission and possible commission of federal offenses," said the release.

He also tried to obstruct and impede official proceedings of the federal grand jury in front of a federal judge.

Al-Jibory is set to be sentenced July 21 at the U.S. Courthouse in Richland.

He faces up to 20 years in prison, a fine up to $250,000 and three years probation. It wasn't immediately known what sentence will be recommended by Assistant U.S. Attorneys George J.C. Jacobs and Dominique J. Park.

This case was investigated by the FBI and the Office of Inspector General for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, along with help from the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

BOB BRAWDY Tri-City Herald

Desert Sky Elementary, on Sunshine Avenue in West Richland and completed in 2019, housed Tapteal and Badger Mountain elementaries during their rebuilds.

Richland School Board picks name for new elementary

BY ERIC ROSANE
erosane@tricityherald.com

WEST RICHLAND, WA

If there's two things the Tri-Cities has a whole lot of, it's expansive blue skies and brushy desert landscapes.

In a nod to the region's arid landscape, the Richland School Board voted unanimously this week to name the district's 11th elementary school "Desert Sky Elementary."

The name was among five presented to the board.

The name "embodies the desert climate of the area and the vast sunny blue sky seen most of the year," said district documents.

Located off Sunshine Avenue in West Richland, Desert Sky was completed in 2019.

For it's first two years the school had two different names while it served as a temporary home for students and staff while other schools were being rebuilt — Tapteal Elementary and Badger Mountain Elementary.

Once Desert Sky opens next fall, the school will serve kindergarten through 5th grade students living in the southwest portion of the district.

A community survey conducted last month initially generated more than 250 possible names. That list was later narrowed to 72 that held geographic and historical significance.

Retired U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis, a Richland native, had his name thrown into that initial list, said district spokesperson Ty Beaver.

But district policy says school buildings cannot be name for people who are still living.

From there, 18 names were selected by staff and sent out in a community survey March 9-16.

The top-five names were then presented to the board.

The choices included:

- Belmont Elementary, named after the nearby street, which means "beautiful mountain" in old French.
- Mountain View Elementary, after the four mountains — Badger, Candy, Red and Rattlesnake — that can be seen from the school.
- Red Mountain Elementary, after the nearby mountain.
- River Rock Elementary, for the "diverse group of rocks that have been worn and rounded" by the Lake Missoula Ice Age floods.

The school's staff is still working to choose the school colors, as well as the mascot, which students will have a say in after it opens for the 2022-23 school year.

The $17 million building was the first paid one paid for from a $99 million bond passed by voters in February 2017, and it shares the same design as Jefferson Elementary.

They both are 65,000 square feet, with 24 classrooms, four classrooms for special education and designated places for music and art.

After February levy failures, Tri-Cities schools are trying again

BY ERIC ROSANE
erosane@tricityherald.com

KENNEWICK, WA

Tri-Cities school districts are hoping to do a better job getting the word out after recent levy failures, but they only have a month before the next vote.

Three Benton County school districts plan on hosting events to inform voters about levy propositions that will appear on the April 26 ballot. Ballots are expected to be mailed on April 8.

Kennewick, Prosser and Finley school districts are all trying again after each failed to gain majority support on their replacement levy measures that ran on the February special election.

Kennewick's four-year replacement levy, which will be scaled back to a two-year measure on the April ballot, failed last month with 51% disapproval.

Finley's failed by a slim margin — just 12 votes — while Prosser's failed overwhelmingly with 54% disapproval.

District staff and campaigners are still working to figure out what went wrong. Kennewick and Finley sent out levy surveys.

Both districts were told there were some communications problems. In Kennewick, some voters said campaign materials arrived late and some Finley voters said there was a lack of information.

"We understand that some residents did not get the information they needed to make an informed decision prior to the Feb. 8 election," reads information on the Finley district's website.

Levy dollars help bridge the gap between what's paid for by the state in terms of staffing and funding, and what a school district needs in order to operate successfully, say school officials.

The funds pay for things such as nurses, athletics, technology upgrades and special education, among other things.

Funding cuts in those districts are likely if the voters aren't willing to replace the property assessments that expire this year.

Here's how you can learn more:

- Kennewick School District will host hour-long open houses at its administrative office, at 1000 W. 4th Ave. Those dates include: 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 31; 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12; and 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 14.
- Prosser School District plans an hour-long open house at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, at the Prosser High School auditorium.
- Finley School District plans an open house within the next two weeks, said Superintendent Lance Hahn, though nothing has been scheduled yet. Information will be posted on the district website as it becomes available.

Senators seek probe into Medicaid's low vaccination rates

BY PHIL GALEWITZ
Kaiser Health News

Two prominent Democratic senators have requested a Government Accountability Office study of why COVID-19 vaccination rates remain far lower among Medicaid enrollees than the general population and what barriers are impeding state efforts to increase immunizations among program beneficiaries, low-income people who have been disproportionately affected by the virus.

Sens. Robert Casey Jr. of Pennsylvania and Ron Wyden of Oregon asked for the inquiry, citing recent media stories that have highlighted the problem and states' ongoing struggle to raise vaccination rates, according to a letter to the GAO that was provided to Kaiser Health Network. A KHN article published in February reported data from several states – Utah, Washington, Virginia and California – that showed vaccination rates of the Medicaid population were well below overall state rates. For example, in California, 54% of Medicaid enrollees 5 and older had been at least partly vaccinated, compared with 81% of state residents in that age group.

State and Medicaid health plan officials said part of the problem was that plans don't have current addresses or phone numbers for many members, which has made contacting them difficult. In a KHN story published in August, state officials said they were also hampered by a lack of access to data about which members are immunized.

The problems reflect the decentralized nature of Medicaid, which gets the majority of its funding from the federal government but is managed by the states.

"Barriers to vaccinating Medicaid enrollees are particularly troubling given the program's importance for persons of color and low-wage workers," the senators wrote in the letter to the GAO.

"We are concerned that these data barriers may be impeding efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates and address persistent health inequities exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly among communities of color and people with limited incomes who have been disproportionately affected by this disease."

Casey chairs the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Wyden chairs the Senate Committee on Finance, which oversees Medicare and Medicaid spending.

From: Washington Department of Ecology
To: McFadden, Daina (ECY)
Subject: Upcoming Public Comment Period on the LERF ETF Groundwater Monitoring Plan
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:41:34 AM

THE HANFORD SITE

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 Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit, "Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility" chapter. This proposed permit modification will update Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan."

The Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility are mixed-waste treatment and storage units for treating liquid effluents from operating Hanford cleanup facilities. These facilities include the 242-A Evaporator and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Effluent Management Facility (when it becomes operational) to support treating tank waste using the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste approach.

The comment period is expected to begin in March, with a public meeting in April.

The proposed 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, or Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology, at Hanford@ecy.wa.gov.

From:	Washington Department of Ecology
To:	McFadden, Daina (ECY)
Subject:	Public Comment Period Begins Today on Class 2 Permit Modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit, Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan."
Date:	Tuesday, March 29, 2022 7:05:08 AM

THE HANFORDSITE

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 Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit, "Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility" chapter. This proposed permit modification will update Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan."

The Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility are mixed-waste treatment and storage units for treating liquid effluents from operating Hanford cleanup facilities. These facilities include the 242-A Evaporator and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Effluent Management Facility (when it becomes operational) to support treating tank waste using the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste approach.

The comment period runs from March 29 through May 28. A virtual public meeting will be held April 26 at 5:30 p.m. PT. To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

Join on your computer or Teams mobile app
Click here to join the meeting
https://bit.ly/3CsT3PH

Join with a video conferencing device
197920091@teams.bjn.vc
Video Conference ID: 118 536 987 4

Or call in (audio only)
(509) 931-1284 United States
(833) 633-0875 United States (Toll-free)
Phone Conference ID: 787 558 061#

Please submit any comments by **May 28**, electronically (preferred) or by mail to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, WA 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, or Daina McFadden, Washington State Department of Ecology, at Hanford@ecy.wa.gov.

To request disability accommodation, please contact Jennifer Colborn, 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.

- Fact Sheet_LERF GWMP_FINAL.pdf

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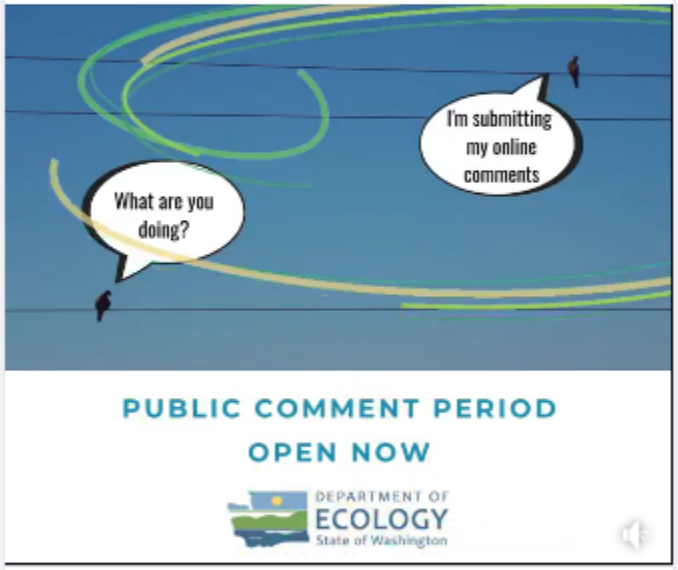
Washington Department of Ecology - Hanford
Published by Ecology Ryan · Just now ·

A new U.S. Department of Energy public comment period began today, involving the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility at #Hanford.

Check it out and provide your input by May 28:
https://ecology.wa.gov/.../Nuclear.../Public-comment-periods

Hanford Site Washington Department of Ecology U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection U.S. EPA, Region 10



See Insights Boost post

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Ecology - Hanford @ecyHanford · 1m

A new @HanfordSite/@RiverProtection public comment period began today, involving the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility at #Hanford. Check it out and provide your input by May 28: ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/N... @EcologyWA @EPAnorthwest

Class 2 Permit Modification for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility Groundwater Monitoring Plan

March 29 through May 28, 2022

The U.S. Department of Energy is holding a 60-day public comment period on a proposed Class 2 permit modification to the Hanford Dangerous Waste Permit, "Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility" chapter. This proposed permit modification updates Addendum D, "Groundwater Monitoring Plan."

Proposed changes

If approved, the modification would allow Energy to implement an updated Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF).

Facility background

The LERF and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility are mixed-waste treatment and storage units for treating liquid effluents from Hanford cleanup facilities. Sources of effluent include the 242-A Evaporator and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Effluent Management Facility (when it becomes operational) to support treating tank waste through the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program.

Review and comment

For more information on the public comment period and supporting documents, visit Energy's website.

Please submit any comments by **May 28, 2022,** 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, April 26, 2022.** To participate via Microsoft Teams, please follow the instructions below:

Join on your computer or Teams mobile app

- Use this link to join the meeting or https://bit.ly/3IP3TSF

Join with a video conferencing device

- 197920091@teams.bjn.vc
- Video Conference ID: 118 130 662 1

Or call in (audio only)

- (509) 931-1284 United States
- (833) 633-0875 United States (Toll-free)
- Phone Conference ID: 372 184 149#

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Colborn, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions, or Daina McFadden, Ecology.