

# State Waste Discharge Permit Renewal

ST0004511 Miscellaneous Streams



Figure 1. Columbia River looking at the Hanford site

- Public comment period  
Aug. 23 – Sept. 22, 2023
- Consolidates four previous State Waste Discharge Permits

## Public comment invited

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is inviting the public to comment on the draft permit and fact sheet supporting the renewal of State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST0004511 for Hanford Site Miscellaneous Wastewater Discharge Streams.

The permittee is:

U.S. Department of Energy (Energy)  
Hanford Site  
P.O. Box 450  
Richland, WA 99352

## Background

The Hanford Site occupies 580 square miles in southeastern Washington State. The site produced plutonium for the nation's defense program from 1943 to the late 1980s. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the primary missions at Hanford.

Throughout the operating history of the Hanford Site, spills and leaks of hazardous and radioactive materials have contaminated structures and soils across the Site.

## Renewal Overview

This permit consolidates four previous State Waste Discharge Permits into one "categorical permit" which covers all "miscellaneous streams" across the Hanford Site in areas related to the U.S. Department of Energy's (Energy) cleanup mission. It does not cover leased areas or those managed by other agencies.

This permit exists to control the discharge of wastewater streams to land on the Hanford Site and to prohibit practices that could increase, move, or spread existing groundwater contamination.

Permit conditions include discharge limitations, source water limitations, pollution prevention, best management practice requirements and monitoring and reporting requirements.

Miscellaneous streams include wastewaters from the following activities:

- Demolition or construction
- Maintenance
- Cooling
- Fire suppression
- Industrial stormwater
- Hydrotesting
- Water line flushing
- Leaks from raw and sanitary water pipelines

The process to permit a group of discharge streams in one "Categorical permit" is based on an agreement between Ecology and Energy to provide compliance with regulations while providing a practical and efficient permitting approach. This permit is not based on Ecology Water Program Policy and the Implementation Guidance for the Ground Water Quality Standards but does implement them where practical. This is due to the Hanford Site's large size, high complexity and dissimilarity to other industrial operations which discharge to land in Washington State.

## Reviewing the proposed changes

Ecology invites you to review and comment on this proposed State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST0004511 for Hanford Site Miscellaneous Wastewater Discharge Streams permit renewal. See the last page for comment period dates and information on how to submit comments.

Copies of the application for the proposed permit, the draft permit and fact sheet, and supporting documentation will be available online at Ecology's website<sup>1</sup> during the public comment period. The documents will also be available electronically at the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed on the next page.

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



Figure 2. Aerial view of the Hanford site

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

## Hanford’s Information Repositories

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

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

Washington State University Tri-Cities  
Department of Energy Reading Room  
2770 Crimson Way, Room 101L  
Richland WA 99354

University of Washington  
Suzzallo Library  
Box 352900  
Seattle, WA 98195  
206-543-5597

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

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

For information on other comment periods or ways to get involved, go to [ecology.wa.gov/Hanford](https://ecology.wa.gov/Hanford) and click “Public comment periods” on the left bar or visit [Hanford.gov](https://Hanford.gov) “public involvement opportunities”.

You can also follow us on social media.



@EcologyWAHanford



@ecyHanford



Figure 3: Nuclear Waste Program office - Richland



Nuclear Waste Program  
 3100 Port of Benton Blvd  
 Richland WA 99354

**ST0004511 Permit Renewal**

**Aug. 23 – Sept. 22, 2023**



Electronic submission (preferred):

<https://nw.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=3tQre>

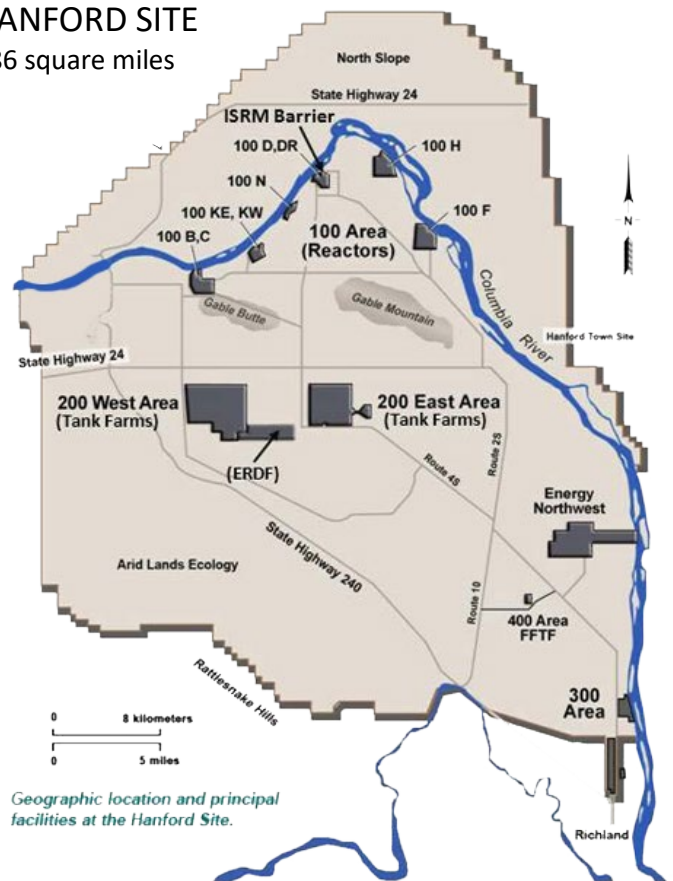
**Mail or hand-delivery**

Daina McFadden  
 3100 Port of Benton Blvd  
 Richland, WA 99354

A public hearing is not scheduled, but if there is enough interest, we will consider holding one. To request a hearing or for more information, contact:

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

**HANFORD SITE**  
 586 square miles



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 509-372-7950 or email at [Daina.McFadden@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Daina.McFadden@ecy.wa.gov), or visit [ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility](http://ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility). For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.