



Response to Comments State Waste Discharge Permit Renewal – ST0004511 Miscellaneous Streams

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22, 2023

For the **Nuclear Waste Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Richland, Washington

December 2023, Publication 23-05-010



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

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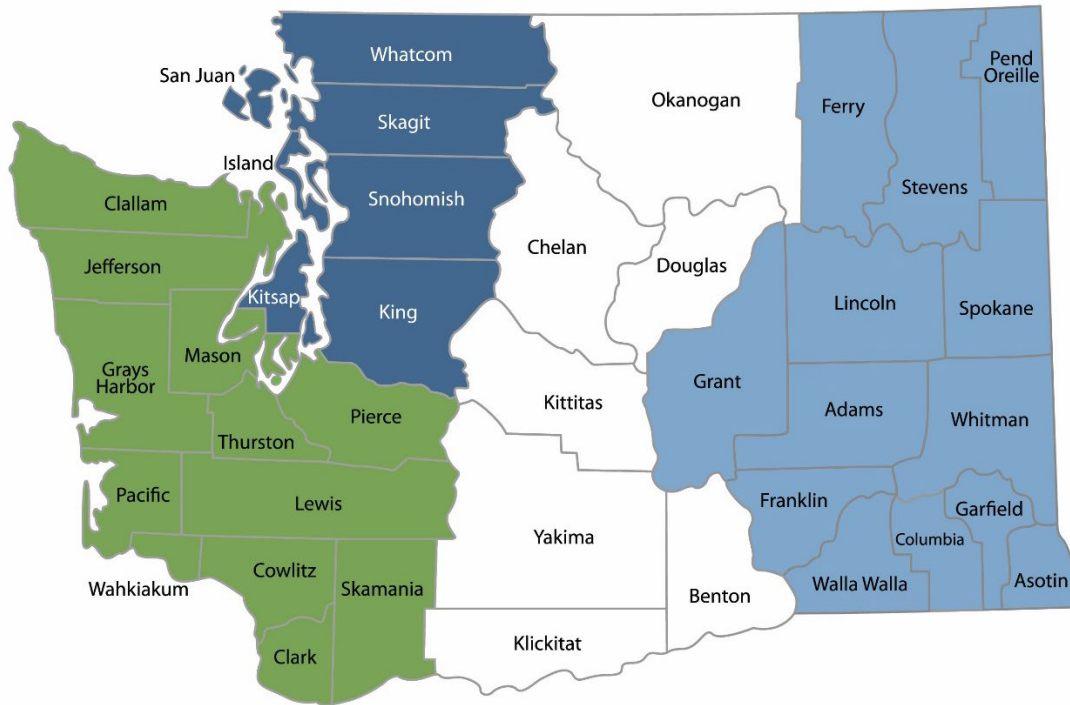
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¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2305010.html>

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) manages State Waste Discharge Permits within the Hanford Site by writing permits to regulate discharge of wastewater to the waters of the state. 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 \[WAC\] 173-216-090](#) for public notice requirements.)

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	<i>State Waste Discharge Permit Renewal – ST0004511 Miscellaneous Streams, Aug. 23 – Sept. 22, 2023</i>
Permit	<i>Categorical State Waste Discharge Permit ST0004511 for Hanford Site Miscellaneous Streams</i>
Permittees	U.S. Department of Energy
Original Issuance date	Dec. 1, 2023
Effective date	Jan. 1, 2024

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

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.

Public Involvement Actions

We encouraged public comment on the permit and fact sheet during a 30-day, public comment period held Aug. 23 – Sept. 22, 2023.

We took the following actions to notify the public:

- Mailed a public notice announcing the comment period to 935 members of the public.
- Placed a public announcement legal classified notice in the Tri-City Herald on Aug. 22, 2023.
- Emailed a notice announcing the start of the comment period to the Hanford-Info email list, which has 1,577 recipients.

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
- Fact Sheet for the proposed Categorical SWDP ST0004511 Renewal for Hanford Miscellaneous Streams
- Draft Categorical SWDP ST0004511 Renewal for Hanford Miscellaneous Streams

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

- Focus sheet
- Classified notice in the Tri-City Herald
- Notices sent to the Hanford-Info email list

List of Commenters

The table below lists the names of organizations or individuals who submitted a comment on the ST0004511 Miscellaneous Streams Permit renewal.

We received no comments for this comment period.

Appendix A. Copies of All Public Notices

Public notices for this comment period:

- Focus sheet
- Classified notice in the Tri-City Herald
- Notices sent to the Hanford-Info email list

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 website¹ 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

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

Hanford’s Information Repositories

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

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

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

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
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 and click “Public comment periods” on the left bar or visit 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>

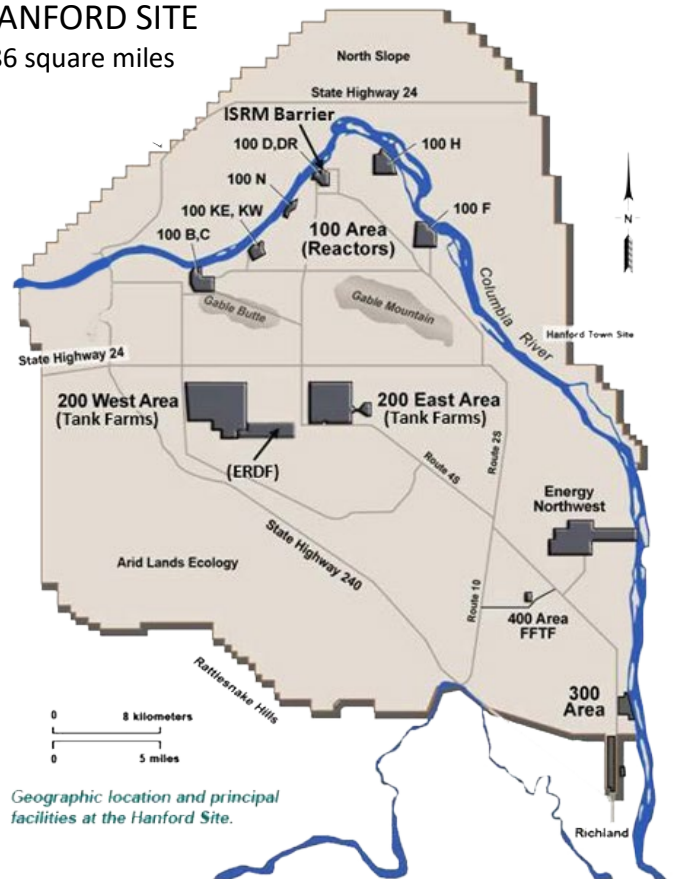
Mail or hand-delivery

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



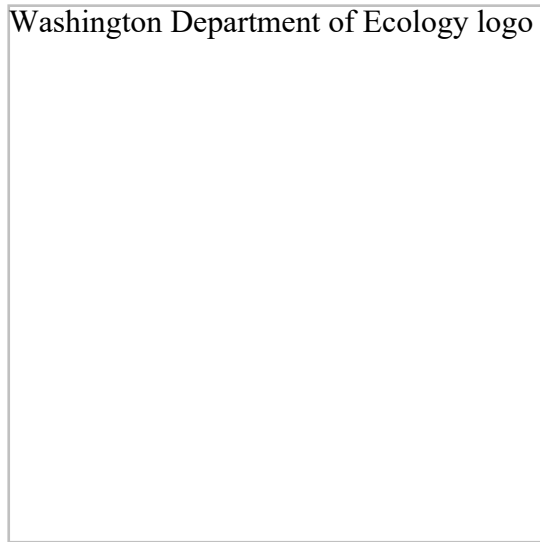
Geographic location and principal facilities at the Hanford Site.

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

From: [Washington Department of Ecology](#)
To: [McFadden, Daina \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: State Waste Discharge Permit renewal for ST0004511 starting soon
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 1:36:12 PM



Washington Department of Ecology logo



State Waste Discharge Permit ST0004511 - Miscellaneous Streams

Notice of upcoming comment period

Ecology will be holding a 30-day public comment period addressing a proposed permit renewal for the State Waste Discharge Permit ST0004511 starting in mid-August 2023. The permittee is the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy).

What changes are being proposed?

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 Energy's cleanup mission. It does not cover leased areas or those managed by other agencies.

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

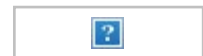
Permit Communication Specialist

Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

509-372-7950

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From: [Washington Department of Ecology](#)
To: [McFadden, Daina \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: State Waste Discharge Permit Renewal public comment period
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:03:09 AM



Washington Department of Ecology logo

The Columbia River looking towards a nuclear reactor in the distance



State Waste Discharge Permit Renewal

ST0004511 Miscellaneous Streams

We are inviting the public to comment on the draft permit and fact sheet supporting the renewal of Categorical State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST0004511 for Hanford Site Miscellaneous Wastewater Discharge Streams. The permittee is the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy). The Hanford Site is located in southeastern Washington.

The permit renewal is now available for public review:

Begins: **Aug. 23, 2023**

Ends: **Sept. 22, 2023**

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 Energy's cleanup mission. It does not cover leased areas or those managed by other agencies.

How to comment

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

Electronic copies of the proposed modification are also located at the [Administrative Record](#) and [Information Repositories](#).

Please submit comments by **Sept. 22, 2023**. [Electronically](#) (preferred), mail or deliver to:

Daina McFadden
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland WA 99354

[Comment](#)

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

fHanford@ecy.wa.gov

509-372-7950