

Hanford Sitewide Permit Renewal

Revision 9A

Why it Matters

Comments accepted June 29 12:00am – Oct. 27, 2026, 11:59pm

- This permit supports our mission of preserving clean land, air, and water for our communities.
- An enforceable and consistent permit is one of our most important tools for ensuring Hanford's cleanup is completed in a safe, efficient, and environmentally protective manner.
- Public input is vital in producing a permit that reflects community values and priorities.



Site history

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.

The U.S. Department of Energy (Energy) is the federal agency responsible for Hanford and its cleanup. Ecology partners with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as regulators, to make sure that Energy's deadlines are met as outlined in the [Tri-Party Agreement](#)¹.



Significant changes

The Hanford Site currently operates under Revision 8C (Rev. 8C) of the Hanford Sitewide Permit. In 2012, the draft Sitewide Permit, Revision 9 (draft Rev. 9), was open for a 174-day public comment period. This draft received more than 5,000 comments from the public, Tribal Nations, and the permittees. This feedback led to extensive revisions to incorporate the comments and address deficiencies. A 120-day public

comment period is now open for the updated draft, Revision 9A (Rev. 9A).

The following are some of the unit groups new to the Rev. 9A Renewal.

- Low-Activity Waste Pretreatment System
- Capsule Interim Storage
- Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility Pool Cells, Hot Cell G, and Truckport
- Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility Hot Cells A through F
- Double Shell Tanks (in the 2012 draft Rev. 9)
- Single-Shell Tank System (in the 2012 draft Rev. 9)
- PUREX Tunnels
- PUREX Tanks TK-P4 and TK-40
- Solid Waste Operations Complex Closure Unit Groups



Cask with cesium capsules in transit to the Capsule Interim Storage area

There were nine unit groups included in the 2012 draft Rev. 9 that have been removed from the current Rev. 8C because the cleanup work was completed.

For more specific details on the updated unit groups see the Rev 9A fact sheet included with the permit renewal documents.

¹ <https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/TriParty>



What the permit covers

The Sitewide Permit encompasses 52 waste sites or facilities, called unit groups. These can be a single facility, a site, or a combination of both and are divided into the following categories:

- **Operating unit groups:** There are 14 Operating unit groups. These are unit groups that are operating to clean up the Hanford site or store waste.
- **Closure unit groups:** The Closure unit groups are made up of 34 different facilities or sites that are in the process of being closed to regulatory standards.
- **Post Closure unit groups:** Post Closure unit groups are facilities or sites that are closed but have monitoring requirements.
- **Corrective Actions unit groups:** Corrective Action unit groups are in two categories - Waste Management and the Groundwater Operable Unit.
 - o The Waste Management unit group applies to any location on the Hanford Site that may require action to mitigate a potential environmental impact under the Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act (RCRA).
 - o The Groundwater Operable units are established where multiple contamination sources from different operable units have contributed to the same contamination plume.



Aerial view of the Integrated Disposal Facility

Reviewing the proposed changes



The Sitewide Permit is Ecology's tool for overseeing Energy storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste at the site.

The permittee for the Sitewide Permit is:
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Ecology invites you to review and comment on this draft permit renewal. See the last page for comment period dates and information on how to submit comments.

Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and supporting documentation will be available during the public comment period online at [Ecology's website](#)². The documents will also be available electronically at the [Hanford Public Information Repositories](#)³.

Ecology will consider and respond to all 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.

Before submitting your comments, you can review or download relevant documents on our website or in-person at any of the Hanford information repositories. For information and tips on submitting comments you can review our brochure "[Tips for effective public comments](#)"⁴.

For information on other comment periods or ways to get involved, visit the public involvement websites for [Ecology](#)² or [Energy](#)⁵.

You can also follow us on social media:



@EcologyWAHanford



@ecologyhanford.bsky.social

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Hanford-involvement>

³ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2505008ML.html>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2305008.html>

⁵ <https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/Outreach/PublicCommentOpportunities>

Public meetings and hearings

Informational meeting – hybrid

July 15, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Tri-Cities Visitor Center
7130 W Grandridge Blvd,
Kennewick, WA 99336

See [Ecology.wa.gov/REV9A](https://ecology.wa.gov/REV9A) for online and phone information.

Online Lunch & Learns

Beginning July 22, 2026, every Wednesday we will host informational sessions 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. PT.

These Lunch and Learn sessions will each have a short presentation focused on a topic within the permit and followed by an informational Q&A time for the rest of the hour.

These sessions will also be recorded and available for later viewing.

7/22 – How is the permit structured?

7/29 – Ponds, ditches, and trenches, oh my!

8/5 – Transforming waste into glass

8/12 – What about the effluents?

8/19 – Solid Waste Operation Complex

8/26 – Processing and research buildings - PUREX and the 324 Building

9/2 – Tanks, a lot!

9/9 – Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility and Capsule Interim Storage

See the Rev 9A webpage for more online and phone information.



Public Hearings

The hearings will include a short informational presentation before the hearing. The formal public hearing will start afterwards to gather oral comments.

In-person (dates and times still to be determined).

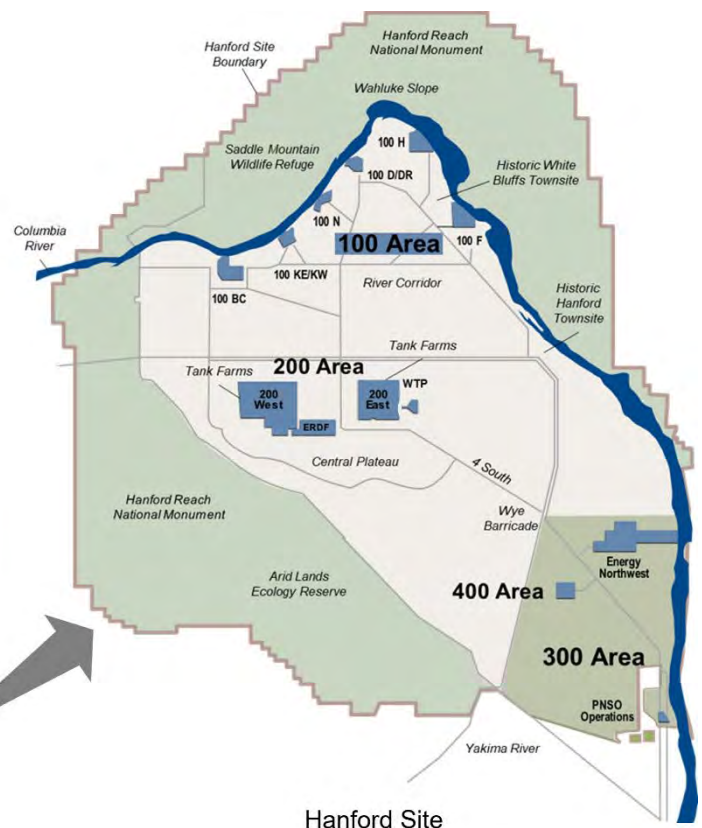
We are planning a series of regional in-person public hearings in late September 2026.

Please see our website [Ecology.wa.gov/REV9A](https://ecology.wa.gov/REV9A) for updates on hearing dates and places.

Online only

Oct. 7, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

See [Ecology.wa.gov/REV9A](https://ecology.wa.gov/REV9A) for online and phone information





Nuclear Waste Program
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland WA 99354

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June 29 – Oct. 27, 2026



Electronic submission (preferred):

<https://nw.ecology.commentinput.com?id=5DsM9EcjB>

Several public meetings and hearings are scheduled. Please see page 3 for more information.

To mail or hand-deliver comments or for more information, contact:

Daina McFadden
509-372-7950
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov



<https://ecology.wa.gov/REV9A>

Plan your trip

Use local transit to come to the meeting
<https://www.bft.org/>

Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology:



509-372-7950



Daina.McFadden@ecy.wa.gov



[Ecology.wa.gov/ADA](https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA)



711 for TTY

Si necesita este material en español
contáctenos Hanford@ecy.wa.gov