

Department of Ecology

January 2023 - Agency Update

David Bowen, Nuclear Waste Program Manager

Ryan Miller, Nuclear Waste Program Communications Manager

Outline

- Recruitment
- Outreach and Education
- Hanford Site funding
- Tri-Party Negotiations
- Tri-Party Agreement Compliance Activities
- Compliance, Permitting, and Public Involvement Activities
- Hanford Sitewide Permit update

Recruitment

Priorities:

- We have gone from a high of 31 vacancies in July of 2022 down to 15 vacancies
- 2 vacancies are in active recruitment, with others at various stages of the hiring process
 - Offer made, reference checks, interviews, recruitment posted, recruitment in development
- Knowledge transfer and mentoring the next generation of our team continues to be critical for long-term success

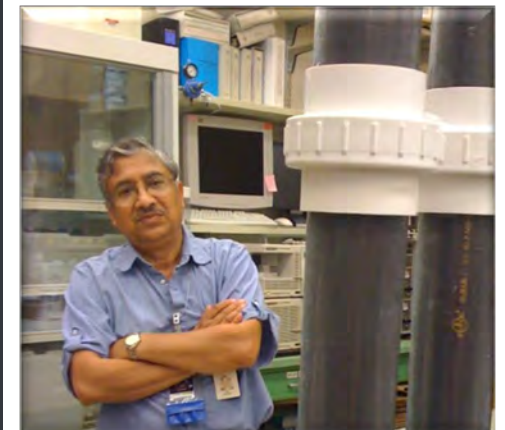
If you know anyone who may be interested in a job with Ecology here is a link to our current openings:

[State of Washington Job Opportunities | Locations: benton county | Departments: Dept. of Ecology | Sorted by Posting Date descending | Work that Matters \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

Goodbye Dib



Thank you, Dib, for more than 32 years of service and dedication to Hanford cleanup! Enjoy a well-earned retirement. Hanford cleanup would not be where it is today without you!



Outreach & Education

- 2023: 33 events reaching more than 1,700 people.
- Four Let's Talk About Hanford events
- Most recent events included:
 - Nov. 1: Let's Talk About Hanford - Insects
 - Nov. 6: Jefferson Elementary Science Night, ~100 students and parents
 - Nov. 8: Roosevelt High School in Seattle, three combined classrooms, ~120 students.
 - Dec. 7: Nez Perce STEM Fair in Idaho, ~120 students
- 2024: A lot on the horizon!
- Contact Hanford@ecy.wa.gov if you'd like us to come talk to your organization in Oregon!

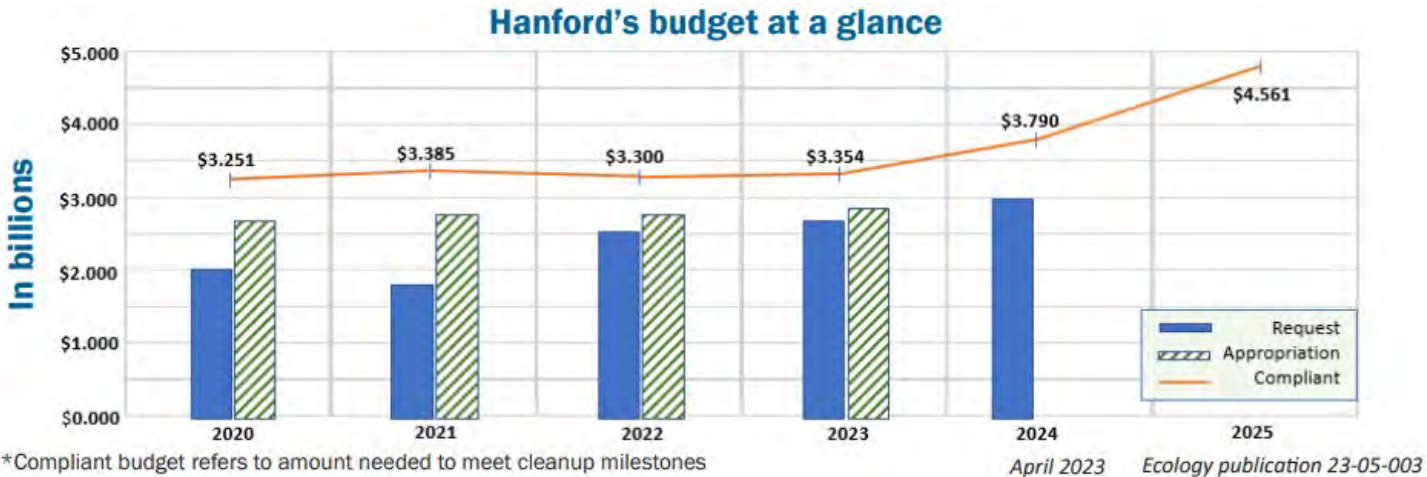


Hanford Site Fiscal Year 2023-24 funding

- President Biden proposed a record FY24 \$3B allocation for the Hanford Site.
- The FY24 Senate and House budgets are also about \$3B.
- If passed, this would be an increase from \$2.84B in FY23 and \$2.7B in FY22.
- This was the result of many voices united calling for adequate funding.
- We are already hard at work advocating for FY25’s budget.
- Ecology has contracted with Van Ness Feldman Solutions in Washington D.C. to boost our federal advocacy work.



Ecology Director Laura Watson, NWP Manager David Bowen at Washington D.C. in 2022.



Tri-Party negotiations

- Holistic Negotiations: the Tri-Parties and the U.S. Department of Justice reached conceptual agreement and are working through agreed changes.
- The Tri-Parties are anticipating negotiations on the M-15, M-16, and M-85 milestone series in the coming Fiscal Year.
- M-35 (Data access): Ecology and EPA reached settlement. We issued a September news release.

Ecology compliance activities

October 2023 to December 2023

Compliance reports issued:

- [Central Waste Complex \(CWC\) Flood Contamination Incident – Oct. 17, 2023](#)
- [216-B-3 Main Pond – Oct. 26, 2023](#)
- [325 Building Hazardous Waste Treatment Units – Nov. 2, 2023](#)
- [242-A Evaporator – Nov. 9, 2023](#)
- [400 Area Waste Management Unit – Nov. 20, 2023](#)
- [T Plant Complex – Nov. 30, 2023](#)
- [Hexone Storage and Treatment Facility – Dec. 18, 2023](#)

Ecology compliance activities

October 2023 to December 2023

Inspections conducted:

- 241-CX Tank System – Oct. 19, 2023
- Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) & 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) – Oct. 24, 2023
- 400 Area Waste Management Unit – Nov. 28, 2023
- Central Waste Complex (CWC) and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility (WRAP) – Dec. 5, 2023
- Low Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31 and 34 – Dec. 5, 2023
- Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System (LAWPS) – Dec. 13, 2023

Opportunities for public involvement

Unit	Public Comment Period
NUCON Research, Development and Demonstration Permit	Early 2024
2,000-Gallon Test Bed Initiative Research, Development and Demonstration Permit	Estimated March to April 2024
Tri-Party Agreement Public Involvement Survey Read more information and access the survey on our Ecology blog .	Open now! Jan. 3 – Feb. 16

Ecology compliance activities

July 2023 to December 2023



Air Operating Permit Discharge Point Inspections Conducted

Inspection Date	Discharge Point Number	Discharge Point Name
7/13/2023	1.4.10	E-225BC 001
	1.4.11	E-225BG 001
	1.4.14	Central Waste Complex
	1.4.20	P-2706T 001
	1.4.22	P-296W004 001
	1.4.24	Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF)
	1.4.75	400 Area Water Treatment System Engines
8/16/2023	1.4.19	P-2025E Effluent Treatment Facility
	1.4.25	Ventilation Systems for 241-AN and 241-AW Tank Farms
	1.4.32	Ventilation Systems for 241-AP, 241-SY, and 241-AY/AZ Tank Farms

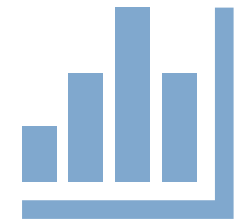
Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal status

- The 120-day public comment period is scheduled for 2024. When we get closer to finalizing all the unit groups, we will provide early notification of the public comment period dates.
 - (Note under WAC 173-303-840(3)(d), a renewal public comment period is 45-days, however, we have scheduled additional days to provide the public enough time to review the draft renewal.)
- The Hanford Sitewide Permit, Rev. 9A Renewal will include 48 unit groups and two Corrective Action unit groups, standard conditions, attachments and supporting documents. It will be approximately 20,000 pages.
- Staff from both Ecology and the permittees are working very hard and are making progress on completing the remaining portions of the draft Renewal, as well as completing responses to public, Tribal Nation and Permittee comments.

PI for the big guy

So far in the planning process for Rev. 9, we are developing:

- “Baseball cards” – 1-page informational sheets on each unit - all 49 of them
- Focus sheet, mailers, and handouts
- Dedicated website page
- Public notices, news release, and earned media
- Social media posts and paid advertising
- Informational meetings – in person, online and hybrid. To help the public understand the scope of the comment period.
- Public hearings – in person and online
- eComments site – where the public can electronically submit their comments.
- HAB/OHCB briefings
 - Meeting feedback from OHCB today



Acronyms legend

HFSW: Hanford Facility Site Wide

LAWPS: Low Activity Waste Pre-Treatment

LERF-ETF: Liquid Effluent Retention Facility-Effluent Treatment Facility

242-A: 242-A Evaporator

WTP: Waste Treatment Plant

IDF: Integrated Disposal Facility

400 Area WMU: 400 Area (Fast Flux Test Facility)

Waste Management Units

CIS: Cesium Interim Storage

WESF: Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility

WTP: Waste Treatment Plant

MHF: Material Handling Facility

SST: Single Shell Tank Farm

PUREX: 221-A Building aka PUREX Plant complex

Attachment 4A: attachment to the permit “Building Emergency Directors/Building Wardens

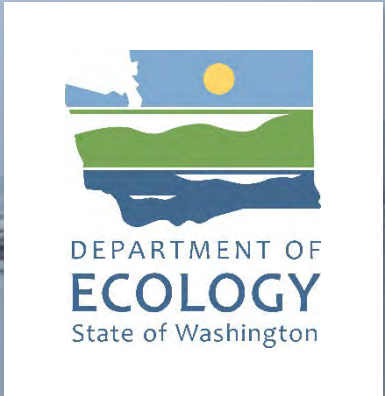
SWOC: Solid Waste Operations Complex includes T Plant, Central Waste Complex, Waste Receiving and Processing facility

SST: Single Shell Tank System

324: 324 Building

325: 325 Building

CWC: Central Waste Complex



Questions?

Follow Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program on Facebook, Twitter and our website

Ecology.wa.gov/Hanford



@EcologyWAHanford



@ecyHanford



Nuclear Waste Program
509-372-7950
Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

Liquid Effluent Retention Facility - LERF

Effluent Treatment Facility – ETF

Operating Unit Group #3

- In Hanford's 200 East Area.
- Began operating in early 1990s.
- LERF stores and ETF treats liquid waste.
- Treated effluents go to a state-permitted discharge site.
- Stores and treats the liquids that the 242-A Evaporator boils off from tank wastes.
- Stores and treats other liquid wastes from other projects at Hanford, such as groundwater from pump-and-treat systems.

What happens to the waste it receives? LERF has four lined basins, each with an operating capacity of 7.8 million gallons. Liquid waste from LERF is pumped to the 200 Area ETF.

ETF removes or destroys dangerous components of the liquid waste using treatments such as filters, reverse osmosis, pH adjustment, and ultraviolet light.

Water is treated then discharged at a permitted area a few miles away. Remaining sludge is solidified and dried in containers then sent to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

What's the risk?

We expect minimal risks from this site. The permit ensures that the operation and closure of this facility does not harm humans or the environment.



LERF

ETF



Geographic location and principal facilities at the Hanford Site.