



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTER

Dear Concerned Citizen:

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On Wednesday, June 11, 1986, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) will sponsor a workshop in Seattle. It is one of seven scheduled throughout the Pacific Northwest to provide local residents with an opportunity to discuss the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Disposal of Hanford Defense High-Level, Transuranic and Tank Wastes. It will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Pigott Auditorium at Seattle University in Seattle.

A DOE moderator will open each workshop session, which will be followed by a 10 minute slide show on the Draft EIS. It will summarize the alternatives analyzed, the waste types present, and impacts. A representative from Washington State will then announce dates they have set for their own independent workshops. The general workshop session will then be divided into the following discussion groups: environmental impacts, transportation and socioeconomic impacts, the Hanford environment, and the alternatives and their costs. The DOE will provide a facilitator for each working group, who will briefly describe what is being discussed in their special working group and introduce the participants. Questions will be answered for about 1 1/2 hours. At the end of the working group sessions, attendees will reconvene briefly and the workshop will be concluded by DOE.

The workshops are a part of the Draft EIS public information program which was developed by DOE to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, and to provide additional opportunity for residents of the Northwest to become actively involved in the decision making process concerning final disposition of defense wastes stored at Hanford. The public information program began with a series of open houses held throughout the area in February and March to provide general information on the Hanford Waste Management Program and the public participation process.

To encourage a more open exchange, questions and comments heard at the workshops will not be recorded as part of the official record. Anyone interested in officially commenting on the Draft EIS can either mail their comments to DOE (prior to August 9, 1986, which is the end of the 120-day public comment period), or provide oral testimony during public hearings scheduled in July. Oral and written comments received will be considered by DOE in preparation of the Final EIS scheduled for release in the fall of 1987. The Final EIS will include response to all substantive oral and written comments of record.

Again, I invite you to participate in the Seattle workshop, ask questions, and give DOE your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Lawrence
Michael J. Lawrence
Manager

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## INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS: How You Can Participate

Important decisions on disposal of Hanford's radioactive wastes from defense activities are scheduled to be made in 1987. For certain types of defense wastes, final decisions will be made on disposal. For other types of defense wastes, decisions will be made on what additional research should be performed before a final determination is made. These vital judgements require careful study, thought and input from you and other Pacific Northwest residents. Open Houses were held in seven Northwest cities earlier this year to help you better understand current waste management practices and disposal alternatives at the Hanford site, and inform you about the public participation process. Additional opportunities still remain for you to participate in the decision-making process.

### Informational Workshops

Following issuance of the Hanford Defense Waste Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in April, informational workshops are planned in seven Northwest cities to provide answers to your questions and enable you to learn more about the draft EIS and the National Environmental Policy Act comment process. You are invited to attend one or all of these defense waste workshops to learn more about these important issues.

#### Informational Workshop Schedule

City	Date	Location
Tri-Cities	May 20	Richland High School
Yakima	May 21	Davis High School
Portland	May 27	Wilsonville Holiday Inn
Pendleton	May 28	Blue Mountain Community College
Spokane	June 3	Gonzaga University
Olympia	June 10	St. Placid Priory
Seattle	June 11	Seattle University

Workshops scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

### Defense Waste Draft EIS Hearings

In July, the United States Department of Energy will hold formal public hearings to accept comments for consideration in developing the final EIS. Sites for the formal public hearings are the Tri-Cities, Portland, Seattle and Spokane. Oral and written comments will be taken at each of the hearings. In addition, your written comments can be given at any time during the 120-day public comment period by writing to the Department of Energy address that follows. The comment period ends August 9, 1986.



#### Hearings Schedule

City	Date	Location
Tri-Cities	July 8	Federal Building Auditorium, Richland, Wa.
Portland	July 10	Bonneville Power Administration Building
Seattle	July 15	Federal Building Auditorium
Spokane	July 17	Spokane City Council Chambers

All Hearings scheduled from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### How You Can Get Involved

There are a number of ways you can be involved in the decision-making process.

#### Study the Issues

- Review the information contained in the informational publications available at the informational workshops and public hearings. Copies also are available by writing to the U.S. Department of Energy at the address that follows.

- Read the executive summary and general summary (Chapter 1) of the Hanford Defense Waste Draft Environmental Impact Statement or, for more detail, the complete EIS document. Major public libraries throughout the Northwest will have copies available for review at the library, or you can request a copy by writing to:

**S.H. Leroy/EIS**  
**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Richland Operations Office**  
**P.O. Box 550**  
**Richland, Washington 99352**

- The U.S. Department of Energy's Reading Room at the Hanford Science Center, Federal Building, Richland, Washington, has detailed information on the Hanford Defense Waste Management Program.



### Attend the Public Meetings

- Knowledgeable representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy will be available to answer your questions and discuss your concerns.

- Informational exhibits and an audiovisual presentation will help you learn more about the Hanford defense wastes and the public participation process.



### Make Your Beliefs and Feelings Known

- Give testimony at a public hearing.
- If you are unable to attend, please mail your written comments to:

**R.A. Holten/EIS**  
**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Richland Operations Office**  
**P.O. Box 550**  
**Richland, Washington 99352**

- The comment period lasts for 120 days after notice of publication appeared in the Federal Register on April 11, 1986. The comment period for public participation ends August 9, 1986.

To help you understand the issues and information involved in the Hanford Defense Waste Environmental Impact Statement, refer to these publications:

**INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS:**

- How Radioactive Defense Waste is Stored at Hanford
- Putting Radiation in Perspective
- Advanced Waste Management Technology
- Types of Nuclear Waste

- Differences Between Hanford Defense High-Level Waste and Commercial High-Level Waste
- How You Can Participate

**PROGRAM BACKGROUNDER:**

- Radioactive Waste Management at Hanford

For further information contact:

**S.H. Leroy/EIS**  
**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Richland Operations Office**  
**P.O. Box 550**  
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