

Amended Record of Decision

Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington

Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

This Amended Record of Decision (AROD) and the associated Supplement Analysis (SA) are available at: <https://energy.gov/nepa> and <https://www.hanford.gov/index.cfm?page=1117&>

For further information on this project, the AROD, or SA, please contact:

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its decision to amend the DOE 2013

Record of Decision (AROD) for the *Final Tank Closure and Waste Management*

Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (DOE/EIS-

0391, December 2012) (TC&WM EIS).

DOE has decided to implement the proposal, described in the *Supplement Analysis of the Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington 200 West Area Tank Waste Treatment* (DOE/EIS-0391-SA-05, 2025) to implement alternative treatment of 200W tank wastes from 22 to 24 single-shell waste storage tanks (SSTs) from the S, SX, and U tank farms.

Approximately 32 million gallons of pretreated tank waste from 200W would be treated (on or off site) and disposed of at appropriately licensed and permitted commercial treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities by 2040. The proposal includes potential construction and operation of an onsite treatment facility to allow shipment of a solidified (or grouted) waste form in lieu of shipping liquid, pretreated waste. See Chapters 1 and 2 of the SA for more details of the proposal. Implementation of the proposal would facilitate compliance with the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (Tri-Party Agreement or TPA).

In the TC&WM EIS, DOE analyzed 11 alternatives for the retrieval, treatment, storage, and disposal of tank wastes, followed by the closure of the SSTs at the Hanford Site and three alternatives for waste management.¹ In the 2013 TC&WM EIS ROD, DOE selected Tank Closure Alternative 2B, which would, among other things: (1) retrieve 99 percent of the waste from the SSTs; (2) treat tank waste, including pretreatment of tank waste with separation into low-activity waste (LAW) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW); and

¹ The three other alternatives analyzed in the TC&WM EIS concerned Fast Flux Test Facility decommissioning, which is not the subject of this ROD.

(3) dispose of the vitrified LAW and secondary waste and construct immobilized HLW (IHLW) interim storage modules to store the IHLW prior to disposal.²

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 *et seq.*) (NEPA) and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, DOE prepared the *Supplement Analysis of the Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington, 200 West Area Tank Waste Treatment* (DOE/EIS-0391-SA-05, 2025), which evaluated DOE's proposal.

The 200W onsite facilities would be similar to the facilities implemented in the DOE Hanford Site 200 East Area (200E) evaluated under the *Supplement Analysis of the Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington* (DOE/EIS-0391-SA-02, January 2019), but would also include an onsite treatment facility as analyzed in Alternative 3B of the TC&WM EIS. The offsite transport, treatment, and disposal of tank waste would be similar to, albeit at a larger scale than, the actions evaluated under the *Supplement Analysis of the Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington - Offsite Secondary Waste Treatment and Disposal* (DOE/EIS-0391-SA-03, January 2023) and the *Final Environmental Assessment of the Test Bed Initiative Demonstration* (DOE/EA-2086, March 2023). While the TC&WM EIS did not originally anticipate offsite treatment and disposal of tank waste, the volume of projected

² For the complete list of activities covered in the ROD, see 78 FR 75918.

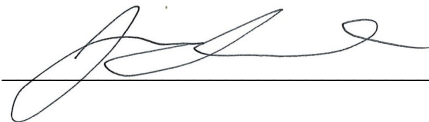
pretreated waste would be within the existing permitted capacity of the commercial TSD facilities and would not result in significant impacts or impact their current operations or commitments.

Transportation of pretreated liquid or solidified waste off site for treatment and/or disposal, as opposed to the onsite treatment and disposal evaluated in the TC&WM EIS, would transfer a portion of the potential normal operational health impacts from the Hanford Site workforce to workers at commercial TSD facilities. The proposal would not introduce any unique facility accidents that had not been evaluated either in the TC&WM EIS (including the previous SA-02 and SA-03 documents) or in the commercial facility permitting or licensing process. Accordingly, radiological impacts and accident risk resulting from the proposal would be comparable to those presented in the TC&WM EIS for treatment/disposal activities originally proposed for the Hanford Site.

The estimated radiological health risks to the public and transportation crews from transportation of solidified waste are low (0.84 and 0.55 latent cancer fatalities [LCFs], respectively, for the truck scenario) for the approximate 11-year Proposed Action period. Potential radiological health risks for rail transport of the pretreated or solidified waste would be even smaller.

The SA has evaluated the impacts of the Proposed Action against the impacts presented in the TC&WM EIS to determine if there are substantial changes to the proposal or significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that

would require further NEPA review. In the Supplement Analysis, DOE concluded that the changes to the proposed action are not a substantial change relevant to environmental concerns, nor are there substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of the adverse effects that bear on the proposed action or its impacts. DOE also determined that, consistent with DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, Section 3.9, these changes do not require a new or supplemental EIS. No further NEPA documentation is required.



10/7/25

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