

Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement

The Alternatives

Most of the EIS proposals include mixing the intensely radioactive wastes from the Hanford tank farms into molten glass, sending the high-activity waste to a deep geological repository (yet to be named), and keeping the “low-activity” portion onsite in a large mega-trench.

The tank waste is the biggest issue at Hanford, but there are other problems as well. The EIS looks at how to manage the so-called low-activity waste from the tanks, the low-level radioactive waste in burial grounds and in the soil, and mixed low-level radioactive waste (MLLW) resulting from tank closure and other Hanford activities. The EIS also analyzes what to do with offsite radioactive and chemical wastes that would be imported and disposed of at Hanford in shallow burials.



Your input is needed on the following decisions:

- Should DOE retrieve and treat 0 percent, 90 percent, 99 percent, or 99.9 percent of the tank waste?
- Should DOE expand the ability of the Waste Treatment Plant (the vitrification facility or vit plant) to immobilize more waste by building more glass melters, or use some other treatment option (cement storage, or bulk vitrification) to dispose of this waste?
- Where should DOE dispose of treated tank waste? Disposal of Treated Tank Waste – The Draft TC & WM EIS addresses onsite and offsite disposal, depending on the waste type. Onsite disposal includes disposal of treated tank waste and waste generated from closure activities that meets onsite disposal criteria. The decision to be made involves the onsite location of disposal facilities.



highly controversial.

- Should DOE completely remove the underground waste storage tanks and some of the contaminated soil beneath them or leave them in place?
- Should DOE accept offsite waste and add it to Hanford’s waste inventory? Washington voters roundly rebuffed the notion that Hanford should accept offsite waste for burial in a 2004 Initiative – I-297 – at least until the Hanford Site achieves environmental compliance. This aspect of DOE’s study is thus