



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

Dr. Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Dr. Winokur:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) *Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (TC & WM EIS)* (DOE/EIS-0391), prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508; 10 CFR Part 1021). A printed Summary and an electronic copy of the full *Final TC & WM EIS* are enclosed.

DOE is the lead agency for this EIS, and the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are cooperating agencies. The *Final TC & WM EIS* analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions and the alternatives for three types of actions: (1) retrieving and managing waste from 177 underground storage tanks, including 149 single-shell tanks (SSTs), at the Hanford Site and closure of the SSTs; (2) decommissioning of the Fast Flux Test Facility and its auxiliary facilities; and (3) ongoing and expanded solid waste management operations on site, including disposal of Hanford's low-level radioactive waste (LLW) and mixed low-level radioactive waste (MLLW) and limited volumes of LLW and MLLW from other DOE sites in an Integrated Disposal Facility. No Action Alternatives were also analyzed for each of the three programmatic areas.

DOE's preferences among the 17 alternatives evaluated are discussed in the EIS Summary, Section S.7, Preferred Alternatives. Perspectives of the cooperating agencies can be found in their respective forewords, which are included with the Summary.

DOE issued the *Draft TC & WM EIS* for public comment on October 30, 2009. The original 140-day public comment period was extended to 185 days and ended on May 3, 2010. DOE held public hearings in eight locations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington State. DOE has considered all comments received in preparing the *Final TC & WM EIS*. Copies of all comments received on the draft EIS and DOE's responses are included in the final EIS on the enclosed CD. Major changes between the draft and final EISs include waste inventory updates; parameter clarifications; tribal interactions; and discussions of Oregon's proposal, potential future cleanup actions, climate change, waste form performance (steam reforming and secondary waste), and high-level radioactive waste storage. More-detailed information on these topics can be found in the Summary, Section S.1.4.4, Public Hearings and Comments on the *Draft TC & WM EIS*, and Section S.1.5, Changes Since the *Draft TC & WM EIS* Publication.

DOE will issue a Record of Decision for this *Final TC & WM EIS* no sooner than 30 days after EPA publishes its Notice of Availability of this final EIS in the *Federal Register*.

The *Final TC & WM EIS* will be available on the DOE NEPA website at <http://energy.gov/nepa> and the DOE Office of River Protection website at <http://www.hanford.gov>.

If you have any questions regarding the *Final TC & WM EIS* or would like a printed copy of the full EIS, please contact Mary Beth Burandt, *TC & WM EIS* NEPA Document Manager, at 1-888-829-6347. Should you require further information on DOE's NEPA process, please contact me at 202-586-4600.

Thank you for your interest in the *TC & WM EIS*.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Borgstrom
Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance

Enclosure: Summary and electronic copy of the *Final TC & WM EIS*