



Ecology Update
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May 2, 2022



Outline

- Tank Waste Holistic Negotiations
- Lifecycle Scope, Schedule and Cost Report
- Upcoming Tri-Party Agreement Changes
- Environmental Justice
- Transition to in-person Public Meetings
- Ecology recruitment

Holistic negotiations for Tank Waste Retrieval and Treatment

- Three Years Ago: May 2019 - Ecology Director Maia Bellon proposed holistic negotiation of tank waste retrieval, treatment – <https://pdw.hanford.gov/document/AR-02484>
- Negotiations include the Tri-Parties plus US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Washington Attorney General Office
 - Ecology is required to consult with Oregon before finalizing any draft schedule milestones, per Oregon-Washington Hanford Memorandum of Agreement
- Per a mediation agreement, the parties will not discuss status or progress during the negotiations, and
- We are optimistic about the progress of negotiations
- If Tri-Parties (with DOJ endorsement) reach tentative agreement, public outreach and public comment will follow

2022 Hanford Lifecycle Scope, Schedule, and Cost Report



- Summarizes the remaining work scope, schedule, and cost estimates for the Hanford site
 - The active cleanup schedule, using the baseline planning case, is from fiscal year (FY) 2022 to FY 2078, and Long Term Stewardship extends through FY 2095
- DOE issues the report every 3 years <https://go.usa.gov/xE8sB>
 - Public feedback period ended April 29
- The remaining estimated cleanup costs for Hanford include a low-range estimate of approximately \$300.2 billion and a high-range estimate of approximately \$640.6 billion

Upcoming Tri-Party Agreement Changes

- April 27 the Tri-Parties signed a Tentative Agreement that changes or creates 17 schedules milestones
 - The Parties agreed to pilot an “**Adaptive Milestone Approach**” for identifying scope and schedule for HFFACO milestones for work on the Central Plateau. This Adaptive Milestone Approach aims to define achievable milestones that can demonstrate cleanup progress and be more nimble to emerging priorities, progress, issues, and resource constraints. The approach will utilize **decision logic tools** to consider varying scenarios, priorities, and constraints to Central Plateau cleanup with a goal of providing objective insight to optimum work sequences and timing of critical work activities.
- The Tri-Parties will hold a public comment period

Environmental Justice (EJ) is receiving increased emphasis from all Tri-Party agencies



- Ecology must implement Washington's Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act
- In January EPA released its Draft Environmental Justice Action Plan for its Land Protection and Cleanup Programs
- In November DOE released its Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report for FY 2020
- Ecology Director, EPA Region 10 Administrator, and DOE Hanford Site Manager meet up to 3 times per year
 - Their April agenda discussed EJ collaboration

Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act

- In 2021, WA lawmakers passed the HEAL Act.
 - This is a historic step toward eliminating environmental and health disparities in communities of color and low-income populations.
- The state departments of Agriculture, Commerce, *Ecology*, Health, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Puget Sound Partnership are covered by the law, and other agencies may opt into HEAL.
- Ecology created an Office of Equity and Environmental Justice that will provide leadership on environmental justice, HEAL implementation, Title VI compliance, equity analysis, and diversity and inclusion.

Environmental justice defined

HEAL establishes a clear definition of environmental justice (EJ) for Washington that expands the Environmental Protection Agency's definition:

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies.

Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.

Goals of the HEAL Act

HEAL implements recommendations from the Environmental Justice Task Force. HEAL mandates we work to:

- Remedy the effects of policies and practices that led to environmental health disparities in communities and improve the health of all people in Washington.
- Prevent and address environmental health disparities in the administration of ongoing and new environmental programs, including allocation of funds.
- Reduce exposure to environmental hazards within Indian country.
- Track and measure the accomplishments of state agency environmental justice implementation.

Transition back to in-person public meeting

- Public meetings have been virtual (on-line and on-the-phone) for the past 2 years due to pandemic-related restrictions
 - A return to in-person meetings is now possible
- What will in-person meetings look like?
 - We anticipate “hybrid” meetings with some physical attendees and some on-line attendees
 - We will have to learn from our experiences with hybrid meetings, to give equal opportunity to on-line attendees

Recruitment

Priorities:

- Over the last 3 months we have had about 26 vacancies.
- Since January we've had 8 new hires.
- Knowledge transfer and mentoring the next generation of our team is critical for long-term success

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR):

- There are five competencies associated with DEIR - core values to Ecology's work
- Every team member will be expected to become familiar with and practice the first two competencies throughout 2022:
 - DEI knowledge, understanding and commitment
 - Self-awareness and commitment to growth

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