



PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NEEDS TO LEVEL WITH THE PUBLIC ABOUT HANFORD CLEANUP PROGRESS



Five years ago, the Department of Energy released their “2015 Vision” for the Hanford Nuclear Site - a public relations campaign to show the short-term progress with Hanford cleanup. “Blurred Vision” is more like it. Energy’s campaign misleads the public and decision makers about the extent of cleanup in the River Corridor. And now, it is clear that they will not even meet their 2015 cleanup milestones.

ENERGY’S “2015 VISION”

THE TRUTH ABOUT HANFORD CLEANUP PROCESS



- ★Complete River Corridor cleanup by 2015.
- ★Reduce active cleanup footprint by 90% by 2015.

- ★Energy’s own fact sheet states “more time is needed to address numerous additional waste sites and more extensive contamination discovered on Hanford’s River Corridor.”
- ★In December 2012, the Tri-Party Agencies (Energy, Washington Department of Ecology, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) announced plans to extend the River Corridor cleanup schedule.
- ★Even then, many cleanup projects including the ultimate cleanup of 8 cocooned reactors and billions of gallons of contaminated groundwater remain.
- ★Energy’s 2015 Vision focusses on Hanford’s surface operations and fails to publicize the significance of the underground contamination. It is comparable to treating the flu by scrubbing the skin.
- ★Measuring progress by the size of the surface footprint ignores groundwater and vadose zone pollution: some of the most insidious waste sites remain, misleads decision makers and jeopardizes Congressional funding.



ENERGY'S BLURRED VISION

Energy Won't Meet its 2015 Cleanup Goals

Proposed amendments to the Tri-Party Agreement prove that Energy's "2015 Vision" for Hanford is off track. The Tri-Party Agencies are proposing to extend the due-date on some key River Corridor cleanup projects. Energy drafted these deadlines before they understood the extent of the contamination in the River Corridor.

Energy's Loyalty to their 2015 Vision Public Relations Campaign Threatens Cleanup

Although Energy has made significant progress towards cleanup of Hanford, pollution continues to enter the Columbia River. These contaminants could threaten the health of endangered salmon and steelhead populations as well as kayakers, swimmers and recreational fishermen.

By sticking to the "2015 Vision," Energy hinders their ability to secure funding to finish River Corridor cleanup projects



Hanford Facts

Size: 586 square miles

Plutonium produced: 57 tons

Contaminated Groundwater: 80 square miles

Underground Storage Tanks: 177

High Level Radioactive Waste In Underground Tanks: 56 million gallons

Amount of Waste That Has Leaked from Underground Tanks: 1 million gallons

Oldest Tank: 1944

Newest Tank: 1986

Contaminated Facilities: ~ 500

Spent Nuclear Fuel on Site: 2,100 tons

Waste disposed of in Hanford Landfill: 10 million tons

Trench Waste: 15 million cubic feet

A NEW VISION FOR HANFORD

Even after Energy completes all of the projects in the "2015 Vision," difficult cleanup will remain. Energy needs a new vision for Hanford that removes the pollution and minimizes the threat of contamination to the Columbia River and river communities. Columbia Riverkeeper recommends the following initial steps:

- ◆Energy should tell us the truth about the timing and the cost of Hanford cleanup.
- ◆The Tri-Party Agencies should extend deadlines only for those projects with technological hurdles, not for alleged lack of funding.
- ◆Energy should stop defining progress with confusing statistics such as the site footprint and instead detail the true quantity of contamination that remains in the River Corridor and at the Hanford Site, both on the surface and in the ground.

Submit Comments on proposed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement that will extend the 2015 deadlines to:

Tiffany Nguyen. U.S. Department of Energy. Richland Operations Office. P.O. Box 550, A7-75. Richland, WA 99352 or email TPACH@ri.gov deadline is **January 24, 2013.**

GET INVOLVED at columbiariverkeeper.org - CONTACT US at theresa@columbiariverkeeper.org



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