



Hanford Cleanup Priorities
Public Meeting- May 4 @ 5:30 p.m.

Comment Period- May 4- June 5

What is the public meeting about? The U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) is hosting a public briefing on its cleanup priorities at the Hanford Nuclear Site this upcoming year. Typically, DOE will present on current projects taking place onsite and what they will prioritize. The Washington Dept. of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will also share their perspective.

Does it make a difference if I attend? Yes! While, DOE will not accept formal verbal public comment during the meeting, this is a great time to ask questions about projects and issues at Hanford that you care about, from water quality to work safety to Tribal rights. Attending the meeting (in-person or virtually) and asking questions reminds the agencies that the public cares about Hanford cleanup and the trajectory that the agencies are taking that cleanup.

What's the meeting format? The public meeting will be hybrid. If joining on the computer, be prepared to type your name into the chat. In-person you will be asked to sign in. Next, DOE will share a powerpoint going through Hanford projects, after that the other agencies will be asked to provide their perspectives. Questions will be taken at the end. If online, you can enter into the "queue" by either typing "Q" or your question into the chat. If you would like to ask your question, be prepared to come off mute when your name is called and ask, otherwise an agency representative will read your question. If in person, raising your hand will enter you into the "queue" and you will have the opportunity to ask your question. The amount of people at the meeting and the amount of questions will determine if you can ask more than one question.

Public Meeting Details
May 4 at 5:30 p.m.

In-Person: Gallery Room of the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, WA 99352.

Virtually: via Microsoft Teams by following these instructions:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

509-931-1284 United States

833-633-0875 United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 773 869 535#



Sample Questions and Topics

Groundwater & River

1. What is the status of groundwater treatment along the River Corridor?
2. What is the progress of removal of hexavalent chromium in the D/H reactor areas? We are very appreciative of the hard work to remove hexavalent chromium. Is the process working well? Will more funding be needed to sustain information-gathering so that cleanup can proceed?
3. Are River Corridor cleanup plans being prioritized and what is the status of those?
4. The River is in a state of transition, now. The mouth of the Yakama River has been freed from the Bateman Causway. What will this do to the ecosystem near the 300 Area and will this impact River levels and the fluctuating uranium plume along the shoreline?
5. What priority is being given to testing fish in the Hanford Reach?

Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF)

1. What is the status of the capsules at WESF? Has there been any delay in this project? This work is so important to us, we have appreciation for those who execute these tasks carefully.
2. Is there a way to publicly track the WESF capsule movements? What will happen to the capsules now that they are in dry storage and what priority will this be given?

324 Building

1. What is the status of the 324 Building and the highly radioactive waste farm beneath it?
2. Will the public have an opportunity to comment on the demolition process and when is that anticipated to begin?



618-11 Burial Ground

1. What is the status of the 618-11 Burial Ground, and at what point should the public expect to offer feedback? What documentation should we be responding to? There are many relevant issues arising in the Administrative Record that point to a need to clarify the order of operations and the intention of dealing with material that is high-level, appropriately.

Tank Farms

1. What is the status of operations in the SX Tank Farm? Are the workers okay? How are they supported to continue? The work to understand highly radioactive, highly toxic, caustic, potentially ignitable material is so careful that we feel caution is an understatement. Is the recent Administration's pressure to prove progress harming workforce mental health, and overall durability of the cleanup effort?
2. Is vitrification still a priority or is that switching to grout?

Budget

1. I have seen in the news that the new budget proposes a cut to Hanford funding, what projects will that cut impact?

Future of Hanford

1. What are the agencies doing to prioritize the building of public trust around the cleanup?
2. I see efforts to develop new nuclear energy projects on site: this includes in the 300 Area, Small Modular Nuclear Reactors, the expansion of the Columbia Generating Station, and a data center proposal. I have also seen that General Matter leased a building at Hanford to produce HALUE fuel, a uranium enrichment process. I am wondering how the agencies are prioritizing clean up of nuclear waste, while at the same time adding more nuclear waste to the site. I would also like to know when a new environmental review will occur to address all of this? I hope that the Tri-Party Agencies involved in cleanup are also the ones working on the permitting process for this because they hold necessary expertise and knowledge of the site.
3. What is the status of the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and is that being given priority prior to development onsite?