

# **Department of Ecology**

Alex Smith, Nuclear Waste Program Manager



## Outline

- Ecology's regulatory role at Hanford
- Tri-Party Agreement
- Current work
- Consent decree



# Ecology's regulatory role at Hanford

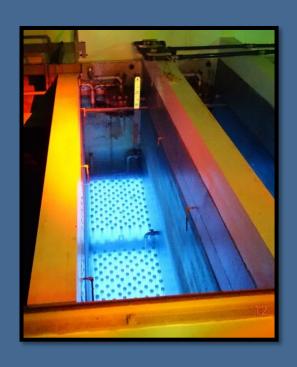


- Ecology is authorized to implement certain federal environmental laws at Hanford:
  - Clean Air Act
  - Clean Water Act
  - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Ecology also implements Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) at specified sites.

# **Tri-Party Agreement**

- Federal Facilities Compliance Act Requires a Site Treatment Plan
  - For the backlog of Department of Energy (DOE) legacy wastes at DOE sites across the country
  - Requires an enforceable plan and schedule for the treatment and disposal of all "mixed waste"
- The Tri-Party Agreement is Hanford's Site Treatment Plan
- It is also a CERCLA Compliance Order
- It includes an "Action Plan" with numerous milestones for the completion of various cleanup tasks
- Milestones can be moved, and have been moved out historically to address funding and other challenges

#### **Current Work**

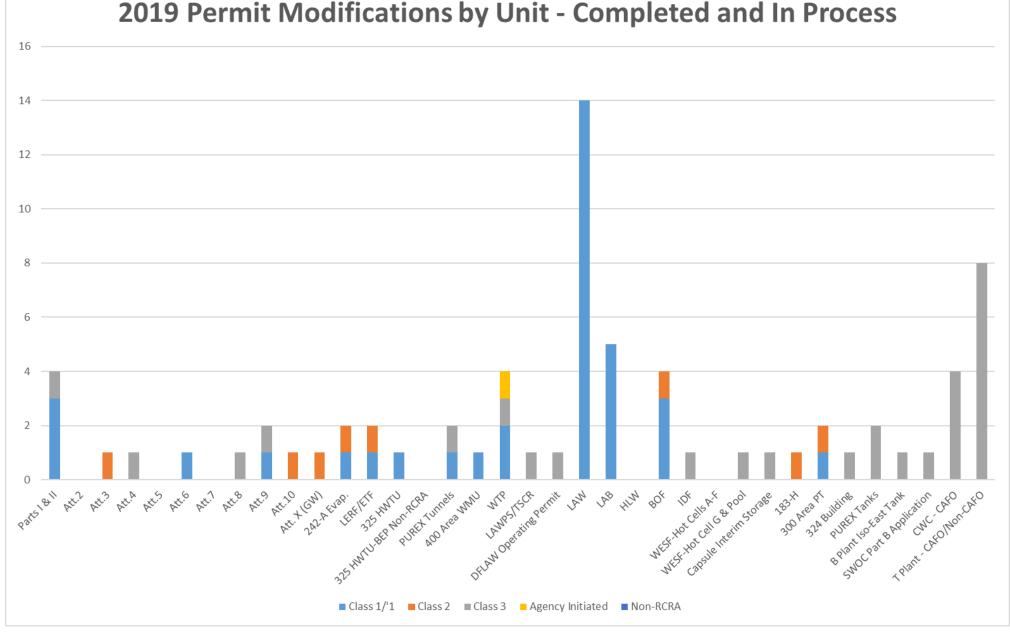


- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
  - 7 permits to support Direct Feed Low Activity Waste Treatment
    - Operating permit for low activity waste treatment and support facilities
    - Permit for the disposal site for treated waste (Integrated Disposal Facility)
  - 2 permits related to moving cesium and strontium capsules to dry storage
  - Ongoing inspections
  - Coordinated Closure

#### CERCLA

- 200-BP-5/PO-1 Feasibility Study Approval
- 200-BP-5/PO-1 Proposed Plan/Interim Record of Decision Development
- 200-BP-5/PO-1 Public Involvement Planned for Early 2020

The table shows permit modifications by Unit; note that WTP and its related units and the Solid Waste Operations Complex (SWOC -CWC/WRAP, LLBG, and T Plant Complex) have the most modifications of all the units listed.



# Consent Decree



- Ecology and Department of Energy entered into a Consent Decree in 2010
  - To address aspects of the tank waste mission:
    - High Level Waste (HLW) vitrification
    - Pretreatment
    - Single-shell tank retrievals
  - Consent Decree was amended in 2016
    - Pushed dates for HLW vitrification and pretreatment construction to 2033
    - Pushed dates for HLW vitrification and pretreatment operations to 2036
  - Department of Energy recently notified the state that these deadlines are at "serious risk" of being missed
  - Ecology and the Department of Energy are working to begin "holistic" negotiations to address how and when pretreatment and HLW vitrification will happen

### Questions?

Follow Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program on Facebook, Twitter and our website







@ecyHanford

Ecology.wa.gov/Hanford

Nuclear Waste Program 509-372-7950 Hanford@ecy.wa.gov

