

DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

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Washington State's Authority to Regulate Dangerous Waste at Hanford

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may authorize states to administer and enforce a state hazardous waste management program (Section 3006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C. Section 6926).
 - EPA has an office in Seattle, Washington that is responsible for RCRA issues.
 - EPA also has a Hanford Site office on Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) issues through the Tri-Party Agreement.
- The State's authority is equivalent to the federal program.
- Ecology works closely with EPA on regulatory issues and decisions. EPA maintains an oversight role of their delegation of RCRA to the state.

What does Ecology regulate?

- Ecology regulates the following under the Dangerous Waste Regulations (Washington Administrative Code WAC 173-303) and the State Hazardous Waste Management Act. The Dangerous Waste Regulations implement Chapter 70.105 (Now 70A.300) Revised Code of Washington (RCW), the Hazardous Waste Management Act, as amended:
 - Dangerous Waste
 - Dangerous Waste Components of Mixed Waste
- The Hanford Site-wide Permit has requirements for the treatment, storage and disposal of dangerous and mixed waste at Hanford.
- Ecology's responsibility is the protection of human health and the environment.
- What isn't under Ecology's authority?
 - Waste that is solely radioactive is managed exclusively by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE).
 - Radioactive materials
 - Radioactive waste

Other State Permits at Hanford

- Air Operating Permit
- Water Permits

Tri-Party Agreement

- Ecology, EPA, and USDOE signed this legally binding [Tri-Party Agreement](#) and Consent Order.
 - Milestones were developed to support RCRA and CERCLA cleanup.
 - The Hanford Site-wide Permit application material was originally submitted through Tri-Party Agreement milestones.
 - Not all the facilities and dangerous waste management units were included in the first Hanford Site-wide Permit.

Hanford Sitewide Permit History

- The Hanford Sitewide Permit was first issued in 1994.
 - Currently, the Permittees are operating under the Hanford Sitewide Permit, Revision 8C.
 - 22 units are included in this revision.
 - The permit is separated into Permit Conditions and Attachments, Operating Unit Groups, Corrective Action Unit Groups, Closing Unit Groups, and Post-Closure Unit Groups.
 - The Hanford Sitewide Permit, Revision 9 was transmitted as the renewal in 2012.
 - 37 units were included in the renewed permit.
 - Included all units that are considered “interim status”.
 - Ecology is actively working toward transmitting a revised version of the renewal in 2024.
 - 50 unit groups are included in this version.
 - The permit maintains the same organization as referenced above.
 - Incorporates all units that are considered “interim status”.

Research Development and Demonstration Permits (RD&D)

- Ecology may issue an RD&D Permit to a facility that proposes to utilize an innovative and experimental dangerous waste treatment technology or process as specified in WAC 173-303-809.
- Draft RD&D Permits follow WAC 173-303-840 regulations for public information and involvement.
- Ecology has some discretion when determining which permitting requirements of a dangerous waste treatment facility should be applied to an RD&D facility.
- Operation of an RD&D facility is limited to one year (based on 365 separate “calendar days”). [WAC 173-303-809(1)]

Research Development and Demonstration Permits

- Ecology is current working on two draft RD&D Permits.
 - Test Bed Initiative (TBI)
 - The purpose of the TBI Phase 2 Project RD&D Permit is to demonstrate and evaluate the feasibility of pretreating liquid tank waste using an in-tank column.
 - Ecology received the formal permit application on June 8, 2023. Ecology is currently preparing the permit for public review.
 - The 45-day public comment period will begin early spring 2024.
 - NUCON
 - The purpose of the NUCON Project RD&D Permit is to evaluate the effectiveness of a particular control technology in reducing the concentrations of target tank vapor constituents in air emissions from Hanford tanks.
 - Ecology received the formal permit application on September 28, 2023. Ecology is currently responding to the permit application.
 - The public comment period is scheduled for early 2024.

Involvement of Ecology Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program in Permitting

We work together with Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction (HWTR) program to ensure we are meeting our requirements and agreements with HWTR. For questions regarding HWTR permitting guidance or discussions on specific issues, we go to HWTR first for consultation and direction.

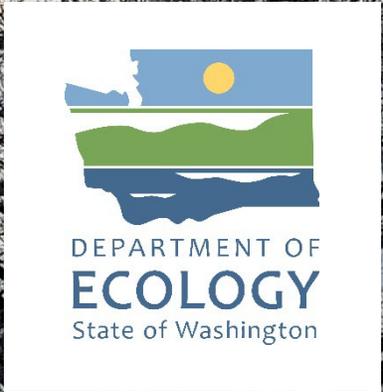
The Memorandum of Understanding with EPA is maintained by the HWTR program and coordinated with NWP.

Involvement of EPA and Washington State Attorneys

- The EPA Region 10 works with us on our Rev. 9 renewal. Through a Memorandum of Agreement, we keep EPA informed and involved in permit modifications and permit renewals.
- We also work with the Attorney General's Office, who provide legal advice on permitting issues and decisions.

Non-Hanford Permits

- Perma-Fix is a waste storage and treatment facility specializing in treating low-level and mixed low-level waste. We regulate the mixed waste stored and treated at the facility, consisting of waste from Hanford and other in-state or out-of-state mixed waste generators.
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard: We oversee the permit for storage of dangerous and mixed waste at the U.S. Navy's Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. The shipyard is a home port for both active and inactive vessels, and is used to maintain, overhaul, decommission, and dismantle vessels in service of the United States Navy.



Questions?

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