



**Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board –  
Tri-Party Agreement Update  
March 20, 2018  
John Price, Ecology**

# Tri-Party Agreement Upcoming Changes

## TPA Action Plan Section 5.5

- Coordination of CERCLA\* cleanup of soil and buildings with RCRA\* closure of dangerous waste management areas (DWMUs) that are subject to RCRA
  - Adds to language already in the TPA
  - Is an option for some, not all DWMUs that are associated with past-practice operable units
  - Ecology wants to add more details to 5.5
  - Some TPA schedule milestones would be re-worded to reflect updated Section 5.5
- Advance notice, public comment this year



# Tri-Party Agreement Upcoming Changes transuranic (TRU) waste management

- Purpose of M-91 milestone series is to acquire facilities (or capabilities) for retrieval, designation, storage, and treatment/processing prior to disposal
- M-91-53 is due 9/30/2018
  - DOE required to identify additional enforceable milestones
- Expect advance notice, public comment on these new milestones ~June 2019



# Idaho may affect Hanford M-91 milestone, Oregon

## US may want to keep Idaho nuclear waste plant running longer

KEITH RIDLER, Associated Press Published 2:58 p.m. MT March 17, 2018

*Waste is heading to New Mexico for permanent storage*



(Photo: Keith Ridler/AP)

BOISE, Idaho— U.S. officials are considering extending the use of an eastern Idaho nuclear waste treatment facility beyond its scheduled closure this year so it can repackage radioactive waste brought in from other states before it's sent to a permanent disposal site in New Mexico.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant at a site that includes the Idaho National Laboratory was originally set to stop operating after it finished treating waste from Idaho this year. But the Energy Department is considering keeping the \$500 million plant that employs about 600 workers running.

"The department has been looking at where to take waste from other DOE sites and treat it," Energy Department spokesman Brad Bugger said last week. "Hanford has a very significant volume of waste that could

be treated at Idaho."

Hanford, a sprawling Energy Department site in eastern Washington state that contains more than 50 million gallons of radioactive and toxic wastes in underground storage tanks, is a former nuclear weapons production area.

The Idaho treatment plant handles transuranic waste that includes items like work clothing, rags, machine parts and tools that have been contaminated with plutonium, americium or other radioactive elements. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission says transuranic wastes take much longer to decay and are the most radioactive hazard in high-level waste after 1,000 years.

The Idaho treatment plant compacts the transuranic waste, making it easier to ship and put into long-term storage at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

There's a catch in keeping the Idaho plant operating, though.

In 1995, following years of litigation amid concerns by state officials that Idaho was becoming a nuclear waste dump, the Energy Department signed an agreement with Idaho limiting how much nuclear waste can come into the state.



# Tri-Party Agreement Upcoming Changes

## TPA M-92 milestones

- M-92 purpose: store, treat/process, dispose of cesium and strontium capsules, bulk sodium, and 300 Area Special Case Waste
- M-92-09 is due 9/30/2018
  - DOE required to identify additional enforceable milestones and establish major milestone date
- Expect advance notice soon, with public comment period to follow



# Tri-Party Agreement Upcoming Changes Tank Waste

- System Plan negotiations (M-62-45)
  - 11am agenda topic
- TPA Appendix H & I, Single-Shell Tank System Waste Retrieval and Closure Process
  - Written 1994, 2004 before C Farm retrievals, Consent Decree
  - Would like to update per actual experience
  - Public, HAB have said they're confusing
  - No specific time-table to revise Appendix H & I
  - Would include public comment



# Tri-Party Agreement reprint

- July 18, 2011: TPA Revision 8
  - Online TPA is current; some people like hard copy
- Aug 2017: TPA Five-year update
  - 11 changes to TPA
  - Not reprinted due to upcoming major changes anticipating System Plan negotiation, others
- Fall 2018: Agencies reconsider reprint (Revision 9)

