



# Washington Department of Ecology

March 2026- Agency Update

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# Outline



Outreach and Education



Hanford Budget Update



Project updates



Public Involvement Activities



Hanford Sitewide Permit Update

# Outreach & Education

- Since November 2025:
  - Engaged more than 1,100 people
  - Rural communities in Columbia, and Okanogan counties (WA)
  - Tri-Cities Sportsmens Show
  - Tri-Party Agreement Survey closed with 255 responses
- All events in 2025:
  - Engaged 5,112 people
  - Presenting groundwater cleanup, protecting natural resources, and Hanford Site updates.
- Upcoming events
  - STEM Fairs and Career Days
  - Rotary Clubs and other service organizations
  - April is Earth Month! Yakima ArborFest, Tri-Cities Earth Day, Salmon Summit



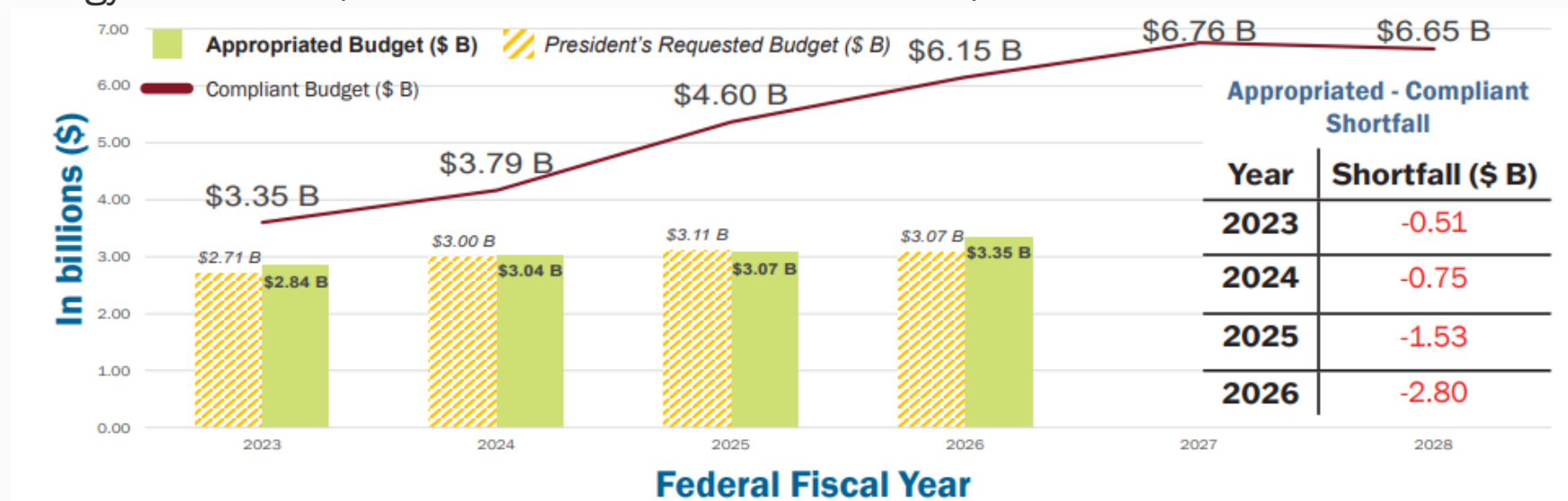
(L) Toppenish students using a makeshift pump-and-treat facility to clean groundwater. (R) Ecology staff attending the Tri-Cities Sportsmens Show.



Contact  
[Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov)  
if you'd like us to come  
talk to your organization

# Hanford Site budget update

- In January, Congress passed a record \$3.35B for Hanford for FY2026.
  - Ecology estimated a compliant budget of \$6.15B was needed in FY2026.
- While this budget falls short, it represents significant progress in increasing funding and the historic achievements being made at Hanford.
- We are already hard at work advocating for FY2027's budget.
  - Ecology estimates \$6.76B is needed in FY2027 and \$6.65B in FY2028.



# New M-100 milestone series

Ecology, EPA, and Energy (Tri-Parties) recently completed public comment and Tribal consultation on proposed milestone changes to:

- M-15 covers the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study investigation process for all non-tank farm, non-canyon operating units. (Due 2026)
  - M-16 covers the remedial actions for non-tank farm, non-canyon operating units. This includes both soil and groundwater. (Due 2042)
  - M-85 covers all response actions for the canyon facilities and associated operating units, except for U Plant and T Plant. (Due date TBD)
- The agencies proposed a new milestone series (M-100), utilizing an adaptive approach.
  - The Tri-Parties concluded Tribal Consultations on this matter in February and March.
  - The Tri-Parties will respond to public comments sometime in April 2026.

# Update on low-activity waste commissioning (LAW)

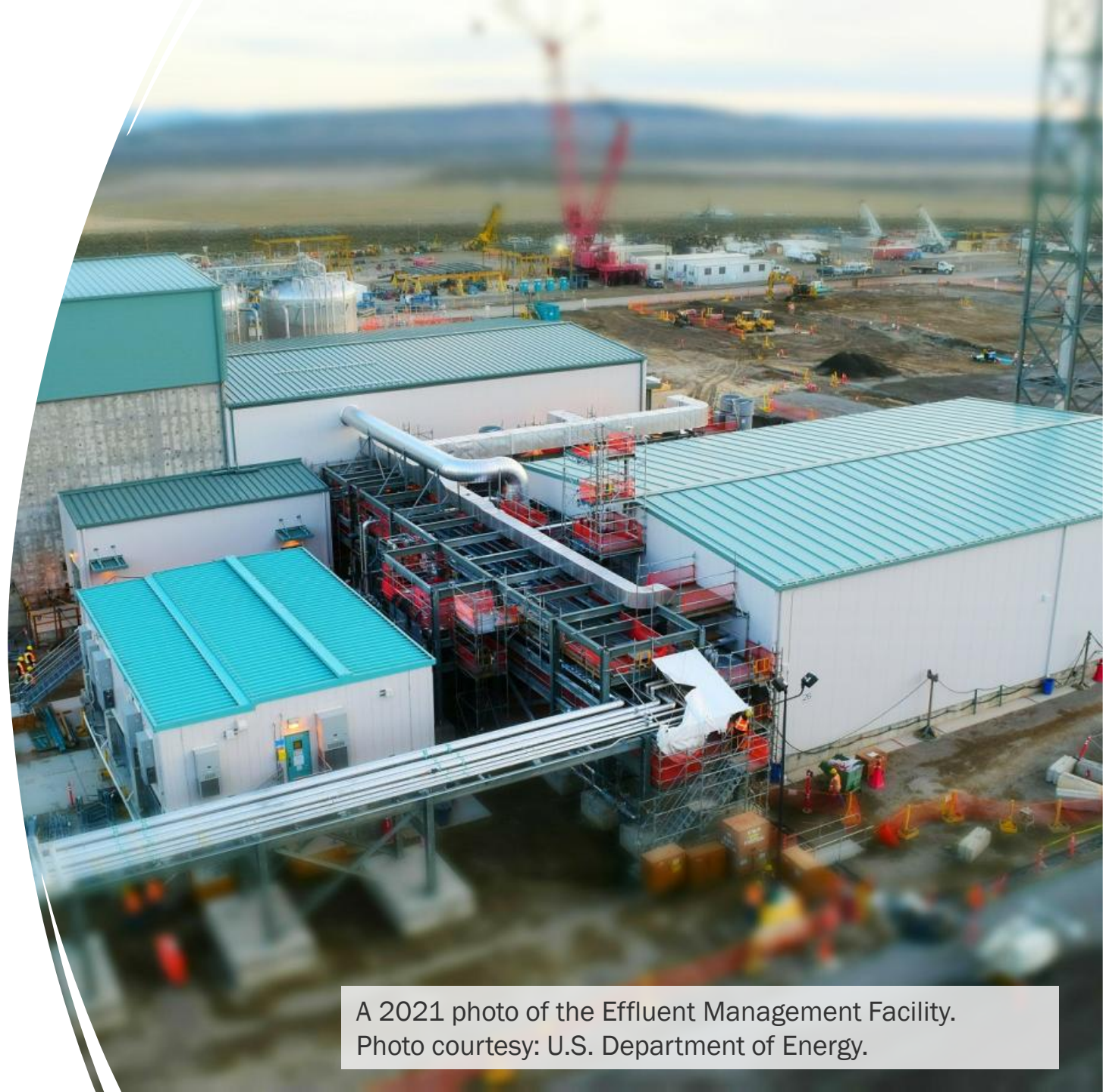
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- Hot commissioning complete on the LAW Facility on Oct. 15, 2025.
- As of February, more than 140 metric tons of glass poured, including more than 50,000 gallons of tank waste in 34 containers.
- Energy continues to ramp up production, and we expect dual-melter environmental testing in the coming months.



# Mixed waste by-product grouting

- Energy's 60-day public comment period began Feb. 25.
  - Public meeting to be held March 24
- Comment period involves a proposed modification to Ecology's Hanford Sitewide Permit to support onsite waste management activities for proposal.
- Once comment period concludes, Ecology will respond to comments and make a final permitting decision.



A 2021 photo of the Effluent Management Facility.  
Photo courtesy: U.S. Department of Energy.

# Update on West Area Risk Management (WARM)

- Energy's Dec. 31, 2025 milestone for alternative treatment location decision has been extended to July 1, 2026.
- Ecology and Energy are discussing permitting needs.
- Energy's Waste Incidental to Reprocessing evaluation out for public comment until March 26.



Solidified grout sample. Photo courtesy, Energy

# Moving capsules

- Energy began moving capsules to dry storage in early November 2025.
- Ecology permitted and is overseeing this project.



# Public Involvement Opportunities



2/20 – 3/22/26  
WTP Notice of  
Construction



2/23 – 3/26/26  
WIR 200 West  
Area Tank  
Treatment Mission



2/25 – 4/26/26  
EMF Concentrate  
Pathway

- Public meeting  
3/24/26 Richland  
Public Library

# Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal status

- A 120-day public comment period is scheduled to start June 29, 2026.
  - Several informational meetings and public hearings are being planned.
- Staff from both Ecology and the permittees are finalizing the remaining portions of the draft renewal.
  - We're also completing responses to public, Tribal Nation, and permittee comments.
- The Hanford Sitewide Permit, Rev. 9A Renewal will include:
  - 52 Operating, Closure, Post-Closure, and Corrective Action unit groups.
  - Standard conditions, attachments and supporting documents.



# Questions?

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