



Washington Department of Ecology

June 2026- Agency Update

Eddie Holbrook, Deputy Program Manager, Nuclear Waste Program

Ryan Miller, Communications Manager, Nuclear Waste Program

Outline



Outreach and education



Hanford budget update



Project updates



Public involvement activities



Hanford Sitewide Permit overview

Outreach & Education

- Since March 2026:
 - Engaged over 2,400 people at 21 events
 - Middle school groundwater series
 - Earth Days in Richland and Prosser, WA
 - Resource night in Mattawa, WA
 - STE(A)M fairs and Salmon Summits
 - Pride festivals in Walla Walla and Richland
- Upcoming Events
 - Ecology Night at the Ballpark, Tri-Cities Dust Devils, July 9
 - Environment activities with B5 Learning Center

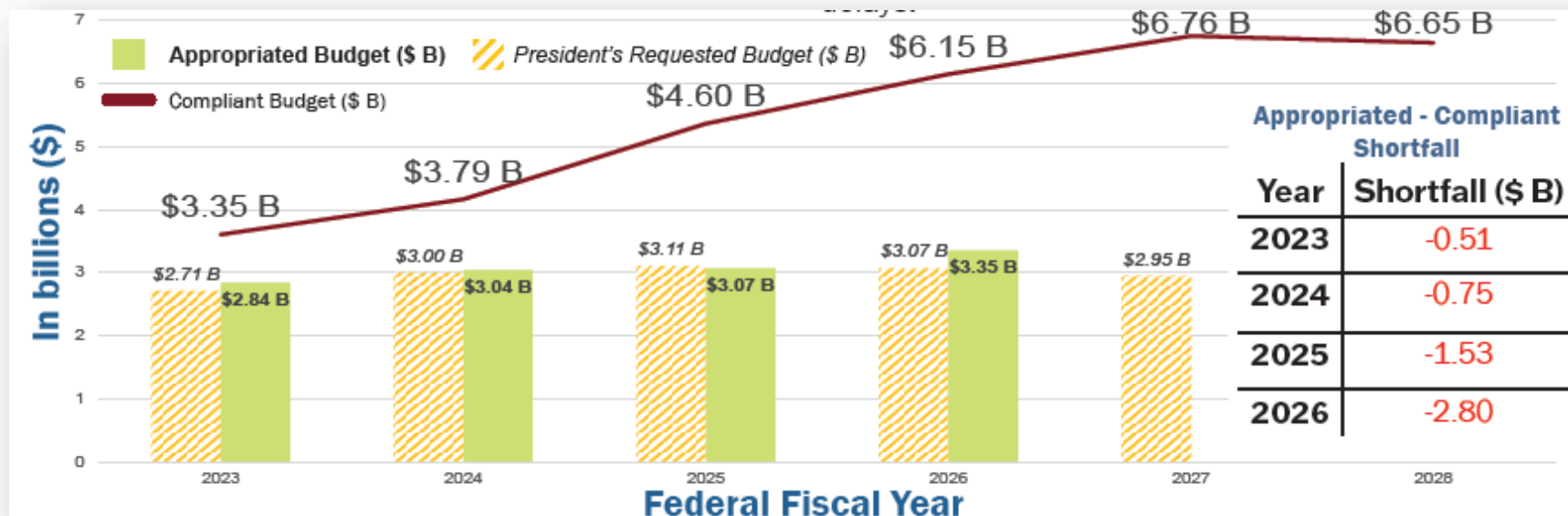


(L) Joy Morris showing students the tank structures at Salmon Summit. (R) Ecology staff at the Dust Devil's game for the Keep WA Litter Free campaign.

Contact
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 hard at work advocating for FY2027's budget.
 - Ecology estimates \$6.76B is needed in FY2027 and \$6.65B in FY2028.
 - We're concerned with both the President and House's proposed budgets, which would cut hundreds of millions.



New M-100 milestone series

Ecology, EPA, and Energy (Tri-Parties) have signed the final change package for the M-100 Series.

The M-100 series consolidates the M-15, M-16, and M-85 milestones.

- M-15 covers the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study investigation process for all non-tank farm, non-canyon operating units).
- M-16 covers the remedial actions for non-tank farm, non-canyon operating units. This includes both soil and groundwater.
- M-85 covers all response actions for the canyon facilities and associated operating units, except for U Plant and T Plant.

The final package includes minor modifications based on public comments and includes all responses to public and Tribal comments.

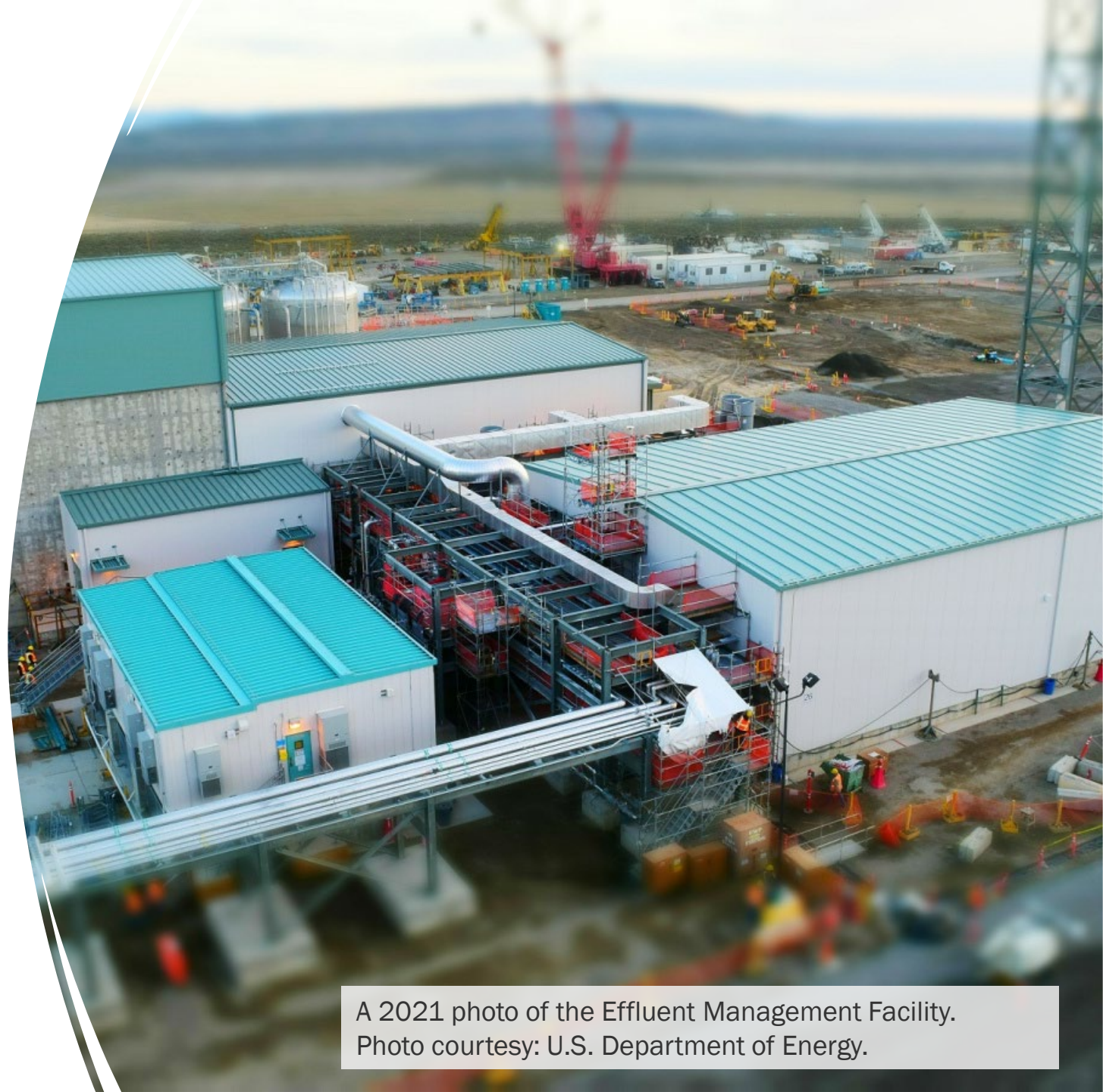
Update on low-activity waste treatment (LAW)

- Energy continues to optimize and ramp up production
 - Dual-melter environmental testing update expected this summer
- As of May 27, more than 115,000 gallons of tank waste treated, filling 82 containers.
 - 55 containers have been shipped to the Integrated Disposal Facility
 - First containers were disposed of at IDF April 8!



Mixed waste by-product grouting

- Energy's 60-day public comment period ended April 26.
 - Energy held a public meeting on March 24.
- Ecology reviewed all comments submitted and [issued a response to comments](#)
- Ecology approved the permit modification May 26. It will become effective June 26.



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

Update on West Area tank waste treatment

- Energy's Dec. 31, 2025, milestone for alternative treatment location decision was extended to July 1, 2026.
- We need Energy to make its decision to determine permitting needs for pretreatment and alternative treatment.
 - Energy and Ecology holding public meeting on West Area Risk Management System June 17.
- Ecology and Energy are continuing to discuss permitting needs and schedule.



Solidified grout sample. Photo courtesy, Energy

Moving capsules

- Energy continues to move capsules to dry storage.
- Ecology continues to oversee this project and capsule transfers.
- Three casks, filled with a total of 360 cesium capsules, moved to dry storage.



Public Involvement Opportunities



June 17, 2026

Hybrid Public meeting on the construction and operation of a modular system to remove cesium from tank waste in the 200 West Area of Hanford.

Richland Public Library
5:30 p.m. PT



June 29 – Oct. 27, 2026

Hanford Sitewide Permit, Revision 9A draft renewal tentatively scheduled.

Informational meetings
June 10 - Richland Public Library
July 15 – Tri-Cities Visitor Center
in Kennewick



September 2026 (Tentative)

Hanford Air Operating Permit
(second comment period)

What is the Hanford Sitewide Permit?

Ecology's tool for overseeing the U.S. Department of Energy's storage, treatment, and disposal of mixed hazardous and radioactive waste at 52 facilities and waste sites across the Hanford Site.

Our goal is to issue a permit that is:

- Protective of human health and the environment.
- Responsive to public comments.
- Consistent and enforceable.

Hanford Sitewide Permit renewal status and why it matters.

Status

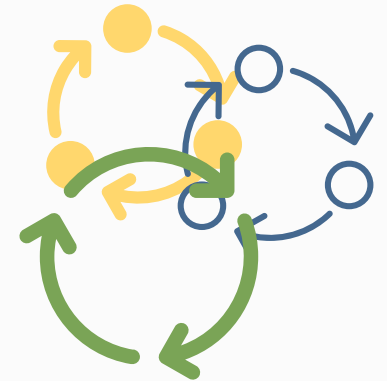
- Ecology is preparing the Hanford Sitewide Permit for a 120-Day Public Comment with a planned start date of June 29.
- We are completing remaining actions to meet our deadline to start the comment period.

Why it Matters

- Permitted facilities **move the clean up mission forward**
- Both the permittees and the regulator will work to **one standard.**
- The permit sets standards that are **protective of human health and the environment.**

What is a unit group?

- A facility or waste site in the Sitewide Permit that we regulate is called a unit group.
- There are four types of unit groups in the Permit:
 - Operating unit groups
 - Closure unit groups
 - Post closure unit groups
 - Corrective Actions unit groups



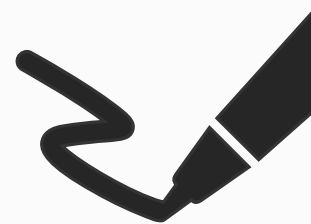
Hanford Sitewide Permit History

- The Hanford Sitewide Permit was first issued in 1994.
- The permittees are currently operating under the Hanford Sitewide Permit, Revision 8C.
- There are 22 waste sites and facilities (unit groups) covered by the Rev. 8C Permit.

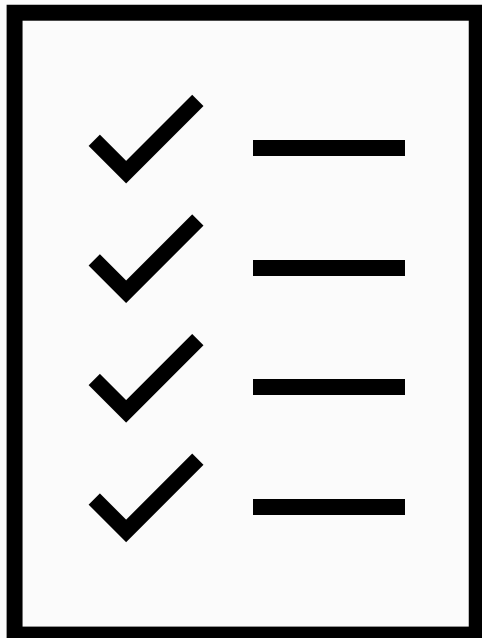


What's new

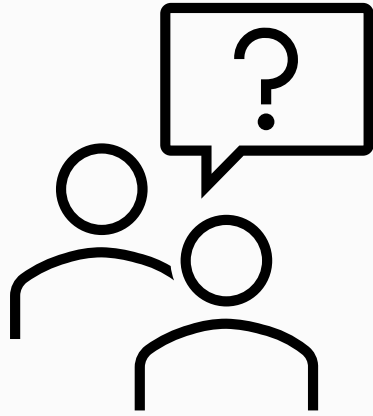
- There are 30 unit groups added to the Rev 9A Permit.
- We also updated:
 - Standard Conditions which apply to all Unit Groups in the Hanford Sitewide Permit.
 - Conditions for each individual unit group.
 - Attachments



Permit structure



- There are 6 parts of the Sitewide Permit:
 - **I and II** General Conditions
 - **III** Unit-Specific Conditions for Final Status Operations
 - **IV** Unit Specific Conditions for Corrective Action
 - **V** Unit-Specific Conditions for Units Undergoing Closure
 - **VI** Unit-Specific Conditions for Units in Post-Closure



How you can get involved

- Start by checking out our [Hanford Sitewide Permit Revision 9A Baseball Cards](#)
- Follow for updates on [Hanford Sitewide Permit - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
- There are many ways to learn about the Sitewide Permit:
 - Public meetings
 - Lunch & Learns
 - Website
 - Public hearings
 - Ask us questions!





Questions?

Follow Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program
on Facebook, Instagram, and our website
[Ecology.wa.gov/Hanford](https://ecology.wa.gov/Hanford)



@EcologyWAHanford



@ecologyhanford.bsky.social



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