

Cleanup Delays

Comment Writing Workshop

August 2, 2022



This material is funded through a Public Participation Grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. The content was reviewed for grant consistency, but is not necessarily endorsed by the agency.

Accountability





Waste Treatment Plant

- Original deadline 2007
- Then 2009, 2012
- Now 2023 for low-activity waste
- High-level waste portion 2036 or later





PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Proposed Tri-Party Agreement Changes Related to Adaptive Milestone Approach for Establishing Scope and Schedule for Central Plateau Cleanup Work

Fact Sheet

GET INVOLVED

Comment Period
July 5 – Aug. 19, 2022

Administrative Record
<https://go.usa.gov/xuU3E>

Virtual Public Meeting
Aug. 9 at 5:30 p.m. PT

Send comments by Aug. 19, 2022 to:
CPmilestones@rl.gov



Contact Information



Aerial photo looking west over the Hanford Site's Central Plateau

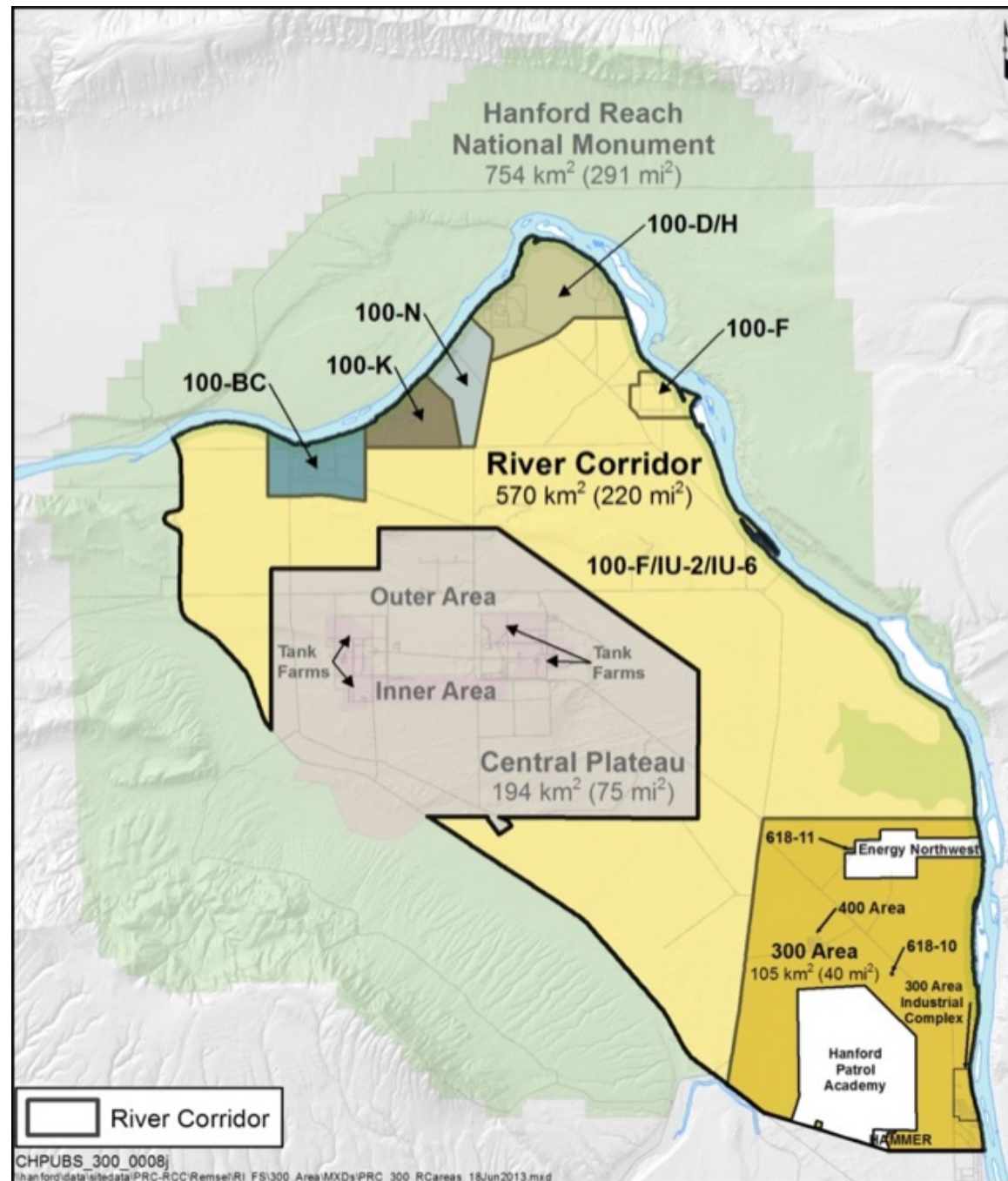
The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies — U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) — have agreed to pilot a new approach to establishing Hanford cleanup milestones. As the new approach will involve some changes to the TPA and established milestones, the agencies would like your input on it.

Background

The 580-square-mile Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state was created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for the nation's defense program. Waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at Hanford, currently focusing on treating tank waste through the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program and cleanup on the Central Plateau, while also conducting site operations that enhance the safety of our workforce and the public.

What is a milestone?

- M (for milestone) -015 (number represents a big overarching cleanup site/goal) -118 (more numbers for interim deadlines to finish the big overarching cleanup work)
- M-015: completing investigation, paperwork, and decisions to figure out how to clean up non-tank farm sites on the Central Plateau, except for canyons
- M-016: cleaning up the non-tank farm sites on the Central Plateau, except for the canyons
- M-085: completing cleanup for canyon facilities B-Plant, PUREX, and REDOX where they dissolved fuel rods to extract plutonium, and waste sites near those buildings.



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Comment Period

- Do you agree with the cleanup work USDOE selected in the milestones they added and updated in this change package? Should they have prioritized different work?

Hanford Challenge thinks you should also comment on:

- Adaptive Milestone Approach- new system for setting milestones

What is the Adaptive Milestone Approach?

1. Computer model
2. 3-year batched milestones, negotiated every three years. This milestone series is for 2022-2024
3. Breaking up milestones into smaller pieces of work.

How did USDOE get this list of prioritized cleanup work for the Central Plateau?

- Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo) contractor
- 14 milestones placed in abeyance- suspended
- Adaptive Milestone Approach
- Continue with cleanup work
- End State Contract

Concerns

- Is this just a way for USDOE to do whatever it wants? What could get missed by switching to this approach?
- Will this greenlight using this approach for all non-tank Central Plateau work and River Corridor work?
- How are budget issues being addressed?
- How are systemic issues being addressed?

Why are Milestones missed?

- Mismanagement
- Budget Shortfalls
- Technical problems
- Uncertainty (surprises, like 324-Building B Cell contamination)
- Culture of denial
- Covid
- Supply chain issues
- No real consequences for missing the milestones

Suggested Comments

- Get to the root of the problem, USDOE. What are the factors deeply embedded in the culture of the organization that result in delays? Design a strategy that transforms the system, behaviors, and management to result in a timely and effective cleanup without cutting corners.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the Adaptive Milestone Approach model tool, inputs, and success metrics.
- Build a case for a fully funded cleanup and ask for the funding needed to maintain a compliant budget and ensure cleanup stays on track.
- Share the specific cleanup priorities established in out-year milestone negotiations at the annual Budget/Cleanup Priorities public meeting, not just the big buckets of overarching cleanup work.
- Please improve the accessibility of your public involvement materials.

TAKE ACTION!

Cleanup Delays, Oh My!

Comments due August 19 by midnight

HANFORD
CHALLENGE



- USDOE Public Meeting August 9th at 5:30pm PT
- River and Plateau Committee Meeting on August 11th at 2pm PT