The scope of the HSW EIS does not include commercial LLW disposed of on land we lease to the State of Washington. The State permits US Ecology to operate a low-level waste burial ground for commercial waste on Hanford's Central Plateau. This operation is independent of our DOE cleanup and waste management operations at Hanford. However, we do consider the US Ecology facility in the cumulative impacts analysis in this EIS.

Figure S.5 provides an overview of Hanford's waste and material disposal paths. It provides references to the existing NEPA documentation associated with each waste stream or source, including this HSW EIS.

S.3 Development of the Revised Draft HSW EIS

Last year, we issued our first draft of the HSW EIS for public comment. During the public comment period, we received a large number of comments (approximately 3,800) from tribal governments, regulators, stakeholders, and the public. Comments focused predominantly on the following:

- importation of waste to the Hanford Site from offsite locations and the impact that waste would have on the environment
- how Hanford cleanup plans are affected by this EIS
- disposal facility design and long-term performance: there were numerous concerns regarding the use of unlined trenches for disposal of LLW, as well as concerns about contamination of groundwater and the Columbia River
- whether the document adequately analyzed the cumulative impacts of waste coming from offsite along with the wastes that are already here
- scope of transportation analysis: comments questioned the appropriateness of the WM PEIS transportation analysis and the decision not to repeat that nationwide analysis in the HSW EIS
- technical content and scope of the HSW EIS: comments 1) pointed out perceived omissions or inaccuracies in the HSW EIS technical analyses alternatives and scope of the EIS, and 2) requested evaluation of additional alternatives for waste treatment and disposal, including alternative disposal facility designs
- why all other waste types at Hanford were not specifically analyzed, including disposal of the ILAW stream.

We have prepared a revised draft of the HSW EIS to address these comments and give the public the information needed to better understand the decisions we need to make. This draft incorporates substantial changes that respond to the concerns we heard. Key changes included the following:

- expanding the range and depth of alternatives and supporting analyses to include ILAW disposal alternatives

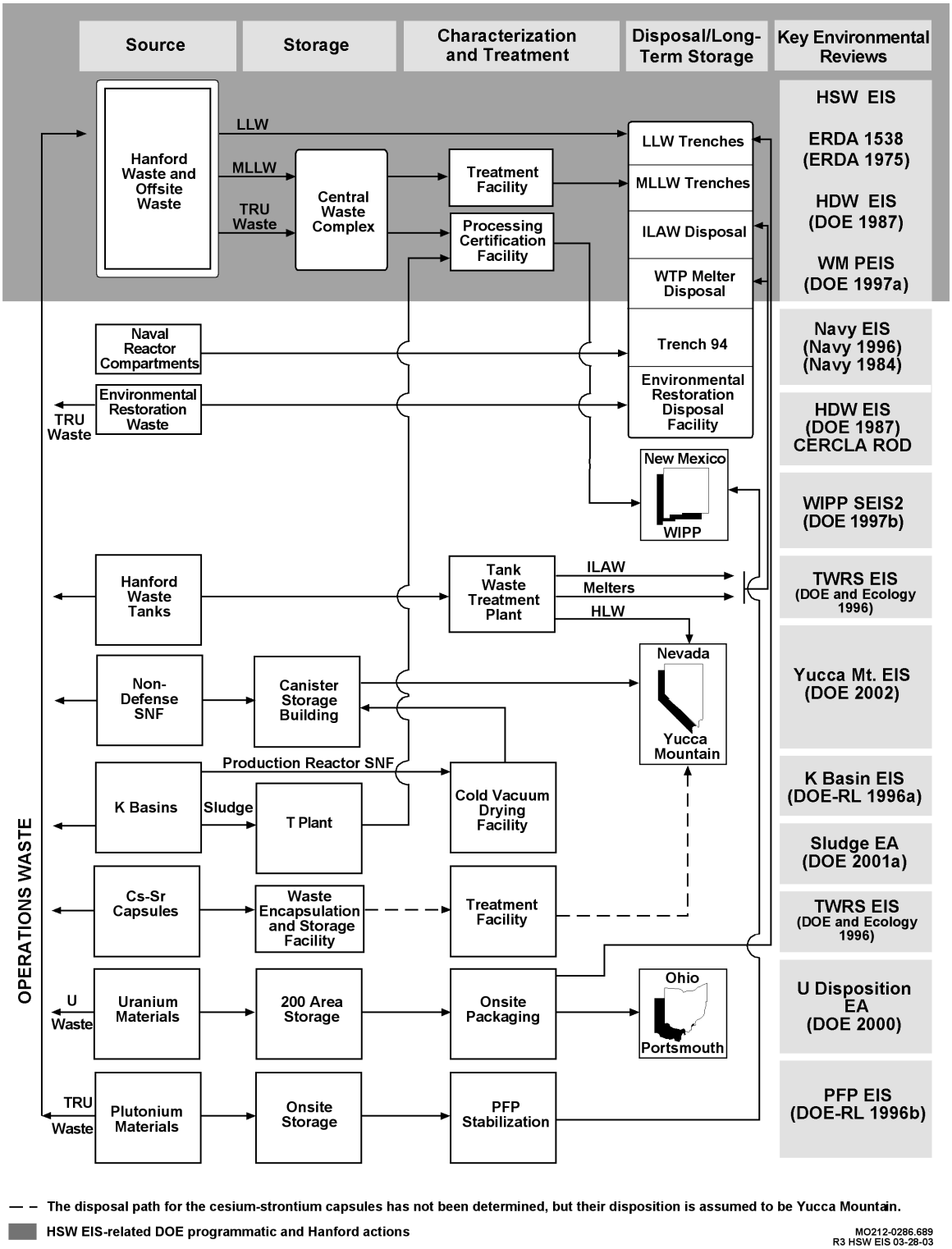

Figure S.5. Relationship of the HSW ES to Other Key Environmental Reviews

- providing information describing new DOE plans to accelerate cleanup and how they relate to the HSW EIS

- distinguishing between the Hanford waste volumes and those projected to come from offsite

- providing a fuller description of transporting waste through the states of Washington and Oregon

- providing an expanded discussion on cumulative impacts, including groundwater impacts.

S.4 Waste Volumes Analyzed

In this HSW EIS we address LLW, MLLW (including tank waste treatment plant melters), ILAW, and TRU waste. Radioactive waste may also be classified as either contact-handled or remote-handled. This HSW EIS does not reevaluate alternatives for waste types that have been or will be addressed by separate National Environmental Policy Act reviews or other appropriate documentation.

Because we do not know precisely how much waste Hanford will receive from offsite, we evaluated a range of waste quantities. For each waste type, we analyzed as many as three waste volumes. The "Lower Bound" waste volume is our current best case projection of the amount we could receive from offsite (based on past receipts) combined with our best projection of what we might generate during our own cleanup operations. The "Upper Bound" waste volume provides the highest waste volume we believe we could receive, again along with our best projection of what we might generate during our own cleanup operations. The "Hanford Only" waste volume is a newly analyzed waste volume developed as a result of comments we received on the first draft of this HSW EIS. The Hanford Only waste volume excludes future offsite waste volumes entirely. In other words, we added the Hanford Only waste volume so the incremental impacts of receiving offsite waste could be determined. We used a single value for the Hanford Only waste volume (versus a Lower and Upper Bound waste volumes) because of our past experience in forecasting our own waste volumes and our in-depth understanding of our cleanup plans and commitments. The three volumes by waste type are illustrated in Figure S.6. The Hanford Only waste volumes in Figure S.6 include only those volumes of wastes disposed of in the Low Level Burial Grounds, in storage at Hanford, and forecasted to be generated as part of our cleanup operations.

What is the difference between contact-handled and remote-handled waste?

Contact-handled waste containers produce radiation dose rates less than or equal to 200 mrem/hr at the container surface. Remote-handled waste containers produce dose rates greater than 200 mrem/hr at the container surface. Contact-handled containers can be safely handled by direct contact using appropriate health and safety measures. Remote-handled containers require special handling or shielding during waste management operations.

The Hanford Only waste volumes do not include waste disposed of in older burial grounds, environmental restoration waste disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, decommissioned Naval reactor compartments, or commercial waste disposed of in the US Ecology facility. This is because