

- 1 • providing information describing new DOE plans to accelerate cleanup and how they relate to the
2 HSW EIS
- 3
- 4 • distinguishing between the Hanford waste volumes and those projected to come from offsite
- 5
- 6 • providing a fuller description of transporting waste through the states of Washington and Oregon
- 7
- 8 • providing an expanded discussion on cumulative impacts, including groundwater impacts.
- 9

10 **S.4 Waste Volumes Analyzed**

11
12 In this HSW EIS we address LLW, MLLW (including tank waste treatment plant melters), ILAW,
13 and TRU waste. Radioactive waste may also be classified as either contact-handled or remote-handled.
14 This HSW EIS does not reevaluate alternatives for waste types that have been or will be addressed by
15 separate National Environmental Policy Act reviews or other appropriate documentation.

16
17 Because we do not know precisely how much
18 waste Hanford will receive from offsite, we eval-
19 uated a range of waste quantities. For each waste
20 type, we analyzed as many as three waste volumes.
21 The “Lower Bound” waste volume is our current
22 best case projection of the amount we could receive
23 from offsite (based on past receipts) combined with
24 our best projection of what we might generate
25 during our own cleanup operations. The “Upper
26 Bound” waste volume provides the highest waste
27 volume we believe we could receive, again along
28 with our best projection of what we might generate
29 during our own cleanup operations. The “Hanford
30 Only” waste volume is a newly analyzed waste
31 volume developed as a result of comments we
32 received on the first draft of this HSW EIS. The
33 Hanford Only waste volume excludes future offsite waste volumes entirely. In other words, we added the
34 Hanford Only waste volume so the incremental impacts of receiving offsite waste could be determined.
35 We used a single value for the Hanford Only waste volume (versus a Lower and Upper Bound waste
36 volumes) because of our past experience in forecasting our own waste volumes and our in-depth under-
37 standing of our cleanup plans and commitments. The three volumes by waste type are illustrated in
38 Figure S.6. The Hanford Only waste volumes in Figure S.6 include only those volumes of wastes
39 disposed of in the Low Level Burial Grounds, in storage at Hanford, and forecasted to be generated as
40 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.

41
42 The Hanford Only waste volumes do not include waste disposed of in older burial grounds, environ-
43 mental restoration waste disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, decommissioned
44 Naval reactor compartments, or commercial waste disposed of in the US Ecology facility. This is because

1 the operation, cleanup, and/or closure of these facilities and areas are the subject of other cleanup decision
 2 documents. However, these wastes are discussed in the cumulative impacts section (Section 5.14) of this
 3 HSW EIS.

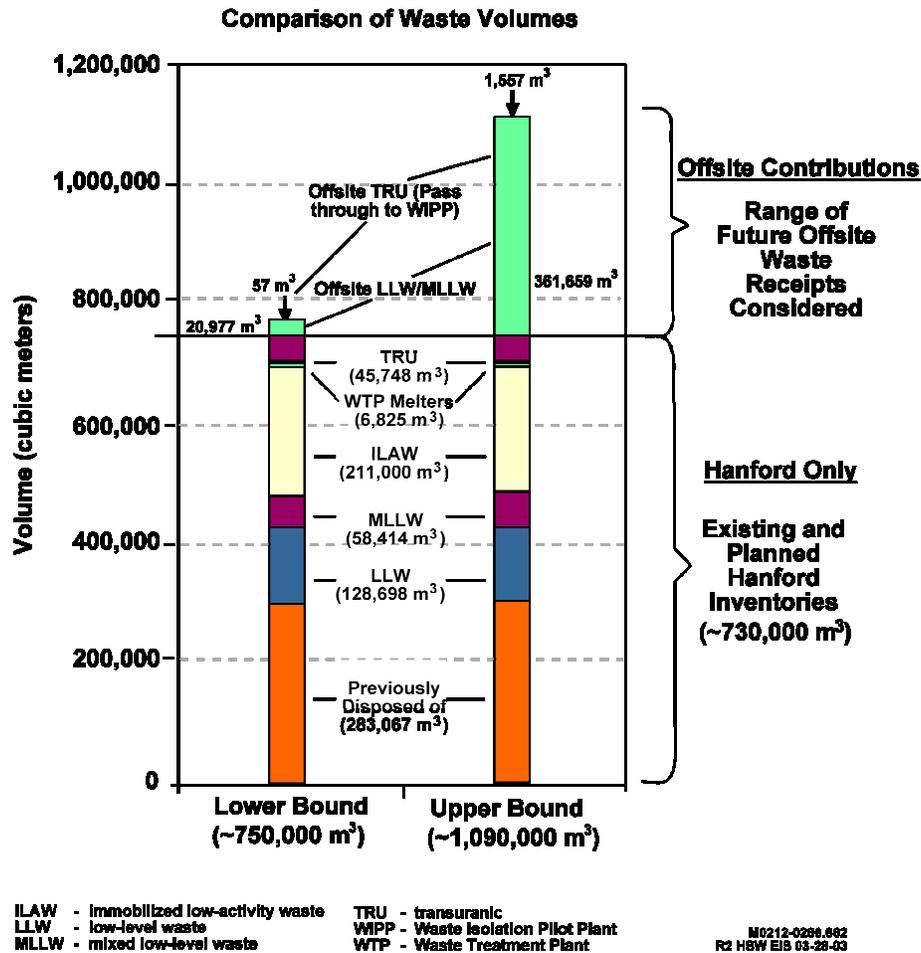


Figure S.6. Range of Waste Volumes Considered in the HSW EIS

S.5 Waste Management Activities and Facilities

In 1999, we developed a land-use plan based on the *Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS* (DOE 1999). This plan divided the site into five geographical areas: the Wahluke Slope, the Columbia River Corridor, the Central Plateau, the Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, and other areas (Figure S.7). The Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS Record of Decision (64 FR 61615) designates the Central Plateau as an Industrial-Exclusive zone, specifically for operating waste management and similar industrial facilities.

The Solid Waste Program activities at Hanford (located on the Central Plateau) include storage, treatment, and disposal of LLW and MLLW, as well as storage and processing of TRU waste and disposal of ILAW and melters from the tank waste treatment plant (currently under construction). To