

### 3.7 DOE Preferred Alternative

Based on the results of the environmental consequences analyses as presented in Sections 3.4 and 5, cost, and other considerations, DOE has identified a preferred alternative for the HSW EIS. The preferred alternative consists of those actions identified in Alternative Group D for waste quantities up to the Upper Bound waste volumes, in addition to the use of modular facilities (from Alternative Group B) for the processing and certification of TRU waste, as follows:

**Storage:** The Central Waste Complex will continue as the primary storage facility for LLW, MLLW, and TRU waste. The storage of retrievably-stored TRU waste in the Low Level Burial Grounds would continue until retrieval operations are complete.

**Treatment:** LLW and MLLW would be treated using a combination of existing capabilities and processes, offsite commercial capabilities, and a modified T Plant. TRU waste would be processed and certified using a combination of the Waste Receiving and Processing Facility, a modified T Plant, and the modular facilities.

**Disposal:** LLW, MLLW, ILAW, and melters would be disposed of in a new modular facility. This new disposal facility would include a RCRA-compliant liner and a leachate collection system and upon closure would be capped with the modified RCRA Subtitle C cover. Existing Low Level Burial Grounds would be similarly capped. These existing Low Level Burial Grounds would continue to be used pending operation of the new disposal facility.

In general, alternatives outlined in Alternative Groups D and E would be the most environmentally preferable, operationally efficient, and marginally cost-effective. The differences in impacts between Alternative Groups D and E and their respective subgroups would be minor. However, Alternative Group D appears to offer a combination of low environmental impacts and low cost. Waste disposal operations would be combined in a single location that could provide a more efficient regulatory pathway to construction and operation.

### 3.8 References

40 CFR 141. "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations." U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

40 CFR 1500-1508. "Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act." U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. Online at: [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_01/40cfrv28\\_01.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/40cfrv28_01.html).

46 FR 18026. "Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act regulations: 1. Range of Alternatives." March 23, 1981. Online at: <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/40/40p3.htm>.

62 FR 8693. "Record of Decision for the Tank Waste Remediation System, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington." *Federal Register* (February 26, 1997).