

Public Involvement

Comments

E-0014/005

When our government recklessly harms our land and us, it resembles those against whom it claims to defend us. Please, do not treat us as the dictators we despise treat their people.

E-0018/002

There is no infallibility when it comes to man. We make far too many mistakes or poor decisions before we look into future consequences especially when it comes to the environment.

E-0041/002

In the case of the responses to the agency comments, essentially every question asked has been answered—sometimes with inadequate and evasive answers, to be sure, but there are answers.

E-0041/003

As to responses to comments by private individuals, I can only judge by the responses to my comments, as I hadn't time to get to anybody else's—the responses were inadequate in the extreme. Often whole sections of questions and comments were essentially acknowledged with a shrug—questions simply went unanswered.

When they were answered, the answers and the questions were so badly matched that it was often difficult to tell what question was being answered--sometimes it was possible to tell from context, often not.

Even when there were specific answers, they were often inadequate. The phrase "These details do not change the assessment documented in the HSW EIS" is repeated ad nauseum, with no explanations or justifications for the bald statement--if the questions had been given adequate consideration, it would not have been necessary to fall back on dismissive formula.

E-0043/001, EM-0217/001, EM-0218/001, L-0056/001, LM-0017/001, LM-0018/001

The revised Draft Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement should be withdrawn and rewritten to consider, address, and analyze all of the comments detailed below.

E-0046/001

Enclosed please find some detailed information about Contemporary Technologies, inc. We are experts in the design and development of software solutions that help manage and streamline the process of treating, storing, disposing and shipping of critical materials such as hazardous and nuclear waste. . . . Combined, these assets can make us a valuable asset to the Richland Operations Office and its prime contractors.

E-0051/006

It's time to get back on track, and the preferred alternative of the HSW EIS isn't it.

F-0023/001

It is important for civil servants to remember they work for we the people, we the taxpayers and not an illegitimate regime representing their selfish corporate interests. You are paid for and work for us!

F-0024/001

You may get away with burying us in paper - All kinds of "dirty" tricks could be hidden in there.

L-0016/013

My assessment was that information on the site and its neighborhood was insufficient to make long-term plans, and I stand by that assessment.

L-0016/014

Paleoclimatology, for example, might not help predict future climactic changes, but it would provide data on how sudden (and how radical) changes could be.

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L-0016/015

Present population figures are no guarantor of future demographic patterns.

L-0039/020

If the above concerns are addressed in a revised draft EIS, the specific Hanford-only waste decisions the HSW EIS could support would be limited to:

- Whether to use an existing facility or build a new facility to treat waste;
- Whether to dispose of Hanford low-level waste (LLW), mixed low-level waste (MLLW), and ILAW in a common facility or continue to use separate disposal operations;
- Where such disposal facilities should be located; and
- Whether to continue existing disposal practices or move to larger facilities with liners and leachate collection capability.

P-0078/001

The revised draft of the Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement fails to adequately address citizen's concerns.

TSP-0009/005

I would encourage that DOE recognize that the issues here are not only legal, medical and chemical and biologic and radioactive, but they are also very much ethical issues, and they will impact our communities and impact the river for a very long time to come.

Response

The HSW EIS uses the best available data, computer modeling, assumptions, and related methods to produce estimates of reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts. The modeling approach was consistently applied to each alternative, and it provided information that allowed comparison of the alternatives.

NEPA procedures ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. DOE considers public input a valuable and required step in the NEPA process. DOE solicited input from regulators, tribal nations and members of the public over a three-month comment period on the first draft HSW EIS, and over an extended sixty (60) day comment period on the revised draft HSW EIS. The HSW EIS incorporates accurate scientific analyses, expert comments from supporting agencies, and the results of public scrutiny provided during scoping and other public review periods. The resulting HSW EIS concentrates on issues that are truly significant to management of LLW, MLLW, and TRU waste at Hanford. The revised draft HSW EIS was presented for a public comment period of forty-five (45) days beginning April 11, 2003. In response to requests, the comment period was extended for an additional fifteen (15) days to June 11, 2003.

Both oral and written comments were received at public meetings. Written comments were also accepted by conventional and electronic mail. Comments were provided on several common topics including: coordination with other environmental impact statements and DOE activities; alternatives and activities to analyze; waste types and volumes to analyze; public health, environmental consequences; transportation risk, and public involvement and government agency consultation. DOE has carefully considered and made an extensive effort to respond to comments and incorporate revisions in the final HSW EIS. It must be noted that many of the actions evaluated will be subject to additional and more specific regulatory and public reviews pursuant to the dangerous waste permitting process and the TPA.

DOE believes this HSW EIS complies with applicable NEPA requirements. See Volume I Sections 1.6 and 7, Volume II Appendices A and I, and the Volume III CRD introductory sections for further details on consultation and public involvement.