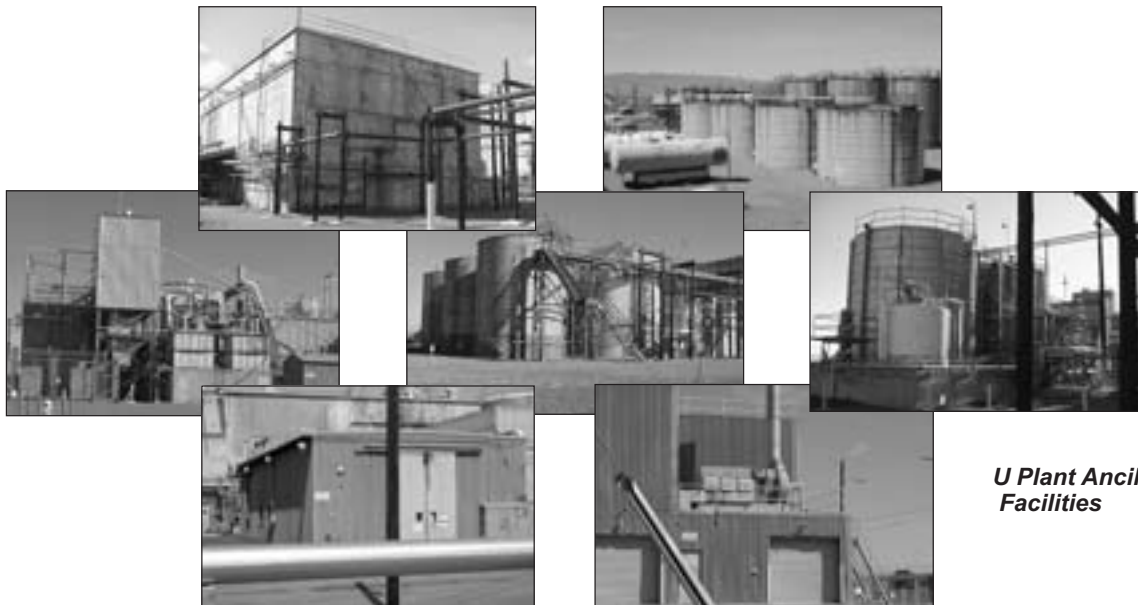


Next Steps for the U Plant Ancillary Facilities

U.S. Department of Energy - Washington State Department of Ecology - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



U Plant Ancillary Facilities

The U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Tri-Party Agreement agencies) would like your input on an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the U Plant Ancillary Facilities located in the 200 Area on the Hanford Site. The EE/CA evaluates alternatives for the disposition of 17 facilities and structures.

Background

The U Plant Area is located in the 200 Area (Central Plateau) of the Hanford Site. It is approximately one-half mile square and consists of the U Plant Canyon Building, ancillary facilities that supported the Canyon, soil waste sites, underground pipelines, and the groundwater underneath the area. The U Plant Ancillary Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) is the first in a series of U Area remedial

and/or removal action documents on which the public will be asked to comment. Other EE/CAs and Proposed Plans are expected to be out for public review in the coming months.

This EE/CA evaluates the options for what will be done with the ancillary facilities in the U Area. These facilities are:

- Uranium Storage Tank Enclosure (203-U)
- Concentrated Uranium Storage Tank Enclosure (203-UX)
- Bulk Storage Aqueous Chemical Make-Up Tanks (211-U)
- Tank Farm (211-UA)
- Office Administration Building (222-U)
- Uranium Trioxide (UO₃) Plant Concentration Building (224-U)

Public Comment

The Tri-Party agencies want your feedback on the U Plant Ancillary Facilities EE/CA.

The public comment period will run from **August 25 through September 24, 2004.**



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- UO₃ Calcination and Loadout Building (224-UA)
- Hot Shop/Cold Shop (272-U)
- Change House (2709-A)
- Warehouse (2714-U)
- Oil Storage Shed (2715-U)
- Insulation Shop/Adjacent Waste Shed (2715-UA)
- Valve Station Shed (2716-U)
- Propane Gas Storage Area (2726-U)
- Metal Storage Building (275-UR)
- Instrumentation Building (2712-U)
- UO₃ Plant Yard

The UO₃ building is the major facility evaluated in this document. It was used to convert uranyl nitrate hexahydrate solution from the Plutonium-Uranium Extraction (PUREX) Plant into a solid UO₃ powder. The building is approximately 200 ft. long, 60 feet wide and 60 ft. tall and operated until 1993. The buildings and structures (and plant yard) were used to support the UO₃ process and/or U Plant activities. These facilities contain some level of radioactive or hazardous material and currently are designated as inactive, surplus facilities awaiting disposition.

What is an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis?

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) evaluates feasible and cost-effective alternatives for proposed removal actions, and recommends a specific removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

A Removal Action is an immediate action taken over the short term to address a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. These U Plant Ancillary Facilities are non-time critical removal actions. This EE/CA identifies the goals of a non-time critical removal action, identifies and evaluates the various removal alternatives and recommends a given alternative for these facilities.

What Cleanup Actions Were Evaluated?

The removal action for the U Plant Ancillary Facilities must protect human health and the environment, and meet the removal action objectives identified in the evaluation. Based on these criteria, the following removal action alternatives were evaluated:

1. No Action
2. Continued surveillance and maintenance
3. Decontaminate and demolish to grade, excluding building foundation and underlying soils/structures
4. Decontaminate and demolish, including building foundation and underlying soils/structures to 39 inches below foundation

The recommended alternative is to decontaminate and demolish to grade, excluding the building foundations and underlying soils and structures (Alternative 3). The estimated cost for the recommended alternative is \$26.5 million. Environmental sampling will be conducted in conjunction with, or following, decontamination and demolition activities in order to assess whether cleanup and stabilization objectives were achieved. Following analysis of sampling results, DOE and EPA will jointly determine whether additional cleanup activities at the sites should be deferred to a subsequent CERCLA remedial action, or taken under this removal action.

How you can become involved

A 30-day public comment period on the U Plant Ancillary Facilities EE/CA will run from *August 25 through September 24, 2004*. The Tri-Party agencies would like your feedback on this document and will consider all comments before finalizing it. **To request a copy of the document or submit comments contact:**



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*The EE/CA can be viewed online at <http://www.hanford.gov/calendar>
under the Public Comment Period section*

The document is also available for review at the
Public Information Repositories listed below.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Michael Bowman (503) 725-3690

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443

Spokane

Gonzaga University Foley Center
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Attn: Sarah Nelson (509) 323-6548

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