

Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
November 30, 2016



A recap of events during the past week regarding Hanford's tank vapors

From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President:

It's been a busy couple of weeks at the tank farms. Earlier this month, [a federal judge denied a motion for preliminary injunction](#) filed by the Attorney General, Hanford Challenge and Local 598 to implement additional interim protective measures at Hanford's tank farms. The decision recognized WRPS' efforts to put in place "significant protective measures" in line with the Tank Vapor Assessment Team Report recommendations to safeguard employee health.

Also, the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued its report on chemical vapor exposure concerns at Hanford's tank farms. The OIG review "did not reveal significant issues with regard to the Department's and WRPS' strategy and ongoing actions to address vapor risks." The review team also noted that "Department and WRPS leadership have taken action to improve communication with the workforce on issues pertaining to vapors." WRPS is working to implement the OIG's recommendations, which can be found in the [full report](#).

In addition, we are awaiting a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which conducted a worker health and safety review at the tank farms this summer. We will share that report with you when it becomes available.

The safety and health of our workforce is my number one concern. We will continue to safeguard our workforce from Hanford's many hazards as we move forward with our important cleanup mission.

News and Notes

- An [article in the Tri-City Herald](#) this week highlights a request from the state of Washington, Hanford Challenge and union Local 598 to delay a lawsuit filed over Hanford chemical vapor protection by five months.
- A [news report aired on the NBC Today Show](#), highlighting worker concerns and calling Hanford "the most toxic place in America."

Web Postings

Seeking timely updates?

Subscribe at the Hanford Vapors website for notifications as updates occur.

www.hanfordvapors.com

Have questions or concerns?

[Send an email](#)

- A [second link to the AOP-015 interactive map](#) under the ***What are Hanford Vapors?*** category, as requested by a website focus group.
- A message to WPRS employees concerning the [court ruling on preliminary injunction](#).
- A message to WPRS employees about the [OIG special report on chemical vapors](#).

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is Dec. 14, 2 to 4 p.m. at the 2704 building, room G206. Meetings are open to all employees. Please coordinate attendance with your supervisor.
- The CVST communications subcommittee will meet Dec. 12 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the 2704 building, room B226. Please join the group as we identify topics to share with workers.

Mark