

# THE HANFORD SITE

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May 13, 2020

**TO:** All Hanford Site Employees

**SUBJECT: Hanford Site Posture of Essential Mission-Critical Operations Continues Next Week**

**\*\*PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT ON COMPUTERS\*\***

For the week of 18 May, the Hanford Site operations posture will continue as essential mission-critical operations with a continuing emphasis on planning activities for remobilization.

The health and safety of the workforce continues to be the priority for the Department and its contractors. Based on that priority, on Sunday, 22 March, the Department distributed a site wide message notifying the workforce that the Hanford Site was transitioning to a temporary planning operations status, and only essential personnel should report to work. This transition was executed on 23 March, and on 24 March, the Department announced the shift to our current essential mission-critical operations posture, establishing the staffing required to effectively maintain the safety of our workforce, our community, and our environment in consideration of the hazards managed at the Hanford Site. While a significant number of our Hanford teammates had already been placed on telework, DOE issued contract modifications to ensure that the majority of workers whose jobs were not portable would continue to be paid, so they could remain home and support our community fight against the spread of COVID-19, prior to enactment of the CARES Act.

Since this period of reduced operations began, DOE and our contractors have effectively implemented measures to protect the health of the essential mission critical workforce. These measures include adding hand washing stations, reconfiguring office and work areas for social distancing, increased cleaning services including regular and recurrent disinfection of high touch areas throughout the day, to name a few. To date, there have been four positive COVID cases for Hanford site employees, the majority of which had not been on site for several weeks. DOE and its contractors are continuing to implement measures and mitigations to protect the workforce and prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Our work on the site is essential in managing the environmental risks resulting from past national security operations. Since 1989, the record of cleanup progress has been exceptional with nearly 900 buildings demolished, more than 1,300 waste sites remediated, and over 22 billion gallons of groundwater treated, just to name a few impressive examples. Now, we are preparing for the next phase of the cleanup as we work to finish construction, startup testing, and commissioning of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant to begin the treatment of tank waste in just a few years. Beyond the start of tank waste treatment, we will continue to plan and execute cleanup projects that reduce risks from aging infrastructure and other sources on a priority basis. I hope that those who have the privilege to contribute to our important mission take pride in the progress being delivered every day. Thanks for your service to each other as Hanford employees, to our community, and our environment.

Please continue to take care of yourselves, your families and support our community as we prepare for a structured and methodical phased remobilization to continue our important cleanup mission at the Hanford site.

Brian T. Vance  
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Richland Operations /  
Office of River Protection

