

**Hanford Cleanup to Clean Energy Information Day**  
**Comment Response Document**  
**U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management**  
**November 2023**

DOE received many thoughtful responses to the Hanford Cleanup to Clean Energy Request for Information. Tribal Nations and industry (defined as any entity noting interest in being involved in the development of clean energy at the site) submitted 21 responses representing a range of potential technologies, primarily: solar, energy storage, green hydrogen, and nuclear. Interested citizens submitted several comments, many of which were shared, expressing concern or opinions on one or more aspects of the potential development of these lands. Those comments are broadly summarized below, including relevant information necessary to clarify various aspects of the subject initiative.

**Concerns received about allowing additional nuclear energy generation on the Hanford Site.**

Several commenters objected to additional nuclear energy generation on the site; some posed additional questions for consideration should new nuclear projects be selected to proceed. DOE has not yet determined specific technologies to be implemented. DOE intends to issue a draft solicitation in 2023. DOE intends to use input received in response to the draft solicitation to inform development of a final solicitation, expected to be released in early calendar year 2024.

**Support received for technologies other than solar (e.g., additional nuclear generation, hydrogen, carbon capture/sequestration, and possibly manufacturing/production of clean energy systems and components).**

DOE received several comments noting the importance of diverse energy technologies, 24/7 energy availability, and non-power-generation activities that could support a broader clean energy or clean technology sector. DOE has not yet determined specific technologies to be implemented. DOE intends to issue a draft solicitation in 2023, and use input received in response to the draft solicitation to inform development of a final solicitation, expected to be released in early calendar year 2024.

**Concerns received about honoring existing Tribal treaty rights.**

DOE is fully committed to meaningful Tribal consultation throughout this process and looks forward to further government-to-government conversations with the Tribal nations.

**Concerns received about the lack of an existing programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS).**

DOE will comply with all applicable Federal and state requirements, including the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). NEPA does not require a programmatic EIS for every action, and DOE has determined that NEPA analysis tailored to the specifics of selected projects will provide the public with the most relevant information and best opportunity to meaningfully engage in the NEPA process. In consultation and cooperation with Tribal Nations, DOE is in the process of initiating cultural resource surveys for any areas identified for this initiative. DOE intends to use the survey results to inform the NEPA analysis for any specific projects selected for further analysis and possible development.

**Concerns received about the urgent need of the cleanup mission.**

DOE and its contractors remain fully committed to achieving the critical cleanup mission at Hanford, as reflected in the ongoing progress to treat, immobilize and dispose of tank waste, reduce risks through remediation of site groundwater and soils, and completion of river corridor remediation.

While DOE headquarters is providing overall leadership on the Cleanup to Clean Energy Initiative, site experts are engaged to ensure future decisions do not interfere with DOE and its contractor's continued focus and advancement of this critical cleanup mission.

DOE appreciates the viewpoints shared as part of this process and values continued dialogue with Tribal Nations, stakeholders, and the public as we continue throughout this process. DOE encourages interested parties to regularly access the Hanford Cleanup to Clean Energy website, where new information will be posted as it is available.

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