

flect constant dollars for the current year; improved and updated estimates for the same scope of work, including changes resulting from the deferral or acceleration of work; revisions in technical approach or scope, including additional contamination; updated estimates of projected waste volumes; changes in the department's allocable percentage share of future costs; legal and regulatory changes; and cleanup activities performed.

According to the DOE's financial report, "Estimating the department's environmental cleanup liability requires making assumptions about future activities and is inherently uncertain. The future course of the department's environmental cleanup and disposal will depend on a number of fundamental technical and policy choices, many of which have not been made."

The Hanford life-cycle report can be found online at <www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordLifecycleReports>. The DOE is accepting comments on the report until April 15. Comments can be sent by email to <lcscs@rl.gov> or by mail to Shannon Ortiz, Lifecycle Report Project Manager, DOE-Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, Mailstop H5-20, Richland, WA 99352. The DOE's FY 2018 Agency Financial Report can be found online at <www.energy.gov/cfo/listings/agency-financial-reports>.

DOE to add cesium storage to Hanford Site's WTP

The Department of Energy has issued an amendment to its 2013 record of decision (ROD) for the *Final Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington* (DOE/EIS-0391) (TC&WM EIS) to include the construction and operation of a storage pad for holding cesium-loaded ion exchange columns. The amended ROD was published in the January 28 *Federal Register*.

As part of the DOE's efforts to treat Hanford's radioactive tank waste, the ion exchange columns would be used to remove cesium from the low-activity waste (LAW) stream before it is sent to the LAW Facility for immobilization by vitrification. Part of Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP), the LAW Facility is one of the few WTP facilities nearing completion, as technical issues have delayed the completion of the WTP's Pretreatment Facility and High-Level Waste Facility. In order to begin treating low-level radioactive waste as soon as practicable, the DOE has adopted a sequenced approach, called direct-feed low-activity waste (DFLAW), that would treat LAW, beginning no later than 2023, before treating HLW.

According to the DOE, as currently envisioned, Hanford's cesium-removal system would be deployed in phases, with the first phase employing one or more cesium-removal units capable of supporting the full operation of the LAW Facility. The cesium-removal system would perform some of the same functions that the WTP Pretreatment Facility would perform, thereby allowing the DOE to proceed with the DFLAW approach. Once loaded with cesium, the ion exchange columns would be dried and moved to the storage pad for interim storage before final disposal. The DOE said that to accommodate the expected number of columns, the pad would be approximately 34,200 square feet.

As the DFLAW will operate in a sequence different from that analyzed in the TC&WM EIS, and as the 2013 ROD did not address the construction and operation of the ion exchange column storage pad, the DOE prepared a supplemental analysis (DOE/EIS-0391-SA-02), released in January, to determine whether a new or supplemental environmental impact statement was needed. Based on its supplemental analysis, the DOE concluded that the proposed action "did not represent a substantial change to the proposal evaluated in the TC&WM EIS or significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that

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