

Nez Perce Hanford End-State Vision
Resolution NP-05-411
September 27, 2005
(Revised by NPTEC Administration Action January 27, 2009)

POLICY STATEMENT AND CONDITIONS

The Nez Perce Tribe believes that the Endstate Vision of the Hanford Site should allow for Nez Perce Tribal members to utilize the area in compliance with the Usual and Accustomed treaty rights reserved and guaranteed in the 1855 treaty between the United State Government and the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Nez Perce Tribe believes that the ultimate goals of the Hanford cleanup should be to restore the land to uncontaminated pre-Hanford conditions for unrestricted use. This includes air, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Tribal members, ecological resources, and cultural resources within Usual and Accustomed areas should not be exposed to any potential adverse risk above that which has always existed for the tribe prior to the establishment of the federal government projects and facilities at Hanford in 1942.

To accomplish this long term cleanup goal the Nez Perce Tribe recognizes the following:

1. The Nez Perce Tribe will continue to work with DOE via its cooperative agreement on cleanup issues to ensure that treaty rights and cultural and natural resources are being protected and that interim cleanup decisions are protective of human health and the environment.
2. These goals will require the responsibility of future generations until the goals are finally reached.
3. Technology to cleanup or dispose of some contaminants may not be currently available, but as it becomes available the Nez Perce Tribe will work with the Federal government to further reduce the levels of any residual contamination.
4. Based on the history of man, the Nez Perce Tribe does not believe that institutional controls are necessarily a viable option to be used until land and water can be cleaned up.

For clarification, the following terms are defined:

Hanford and/or Hanford Site shall be defined as the 670 square mile geographic area originally acquired in Central Washington State by the Federal government under the Second War Powers Act in 1942 for the purpose of siting plutonium production facilities of the Manhattan Project.

Pre-Hanford shall be defined as prior to the establishment of the Manhattan project area today known as Hanford.

Uncontaminated shall be defined as free from hazardous and radiological elements and compounds associated with Hanford operations.

Unrestricted shall be defined as Nez Perce tribal access to, and use of, all resources within or affected by Hanford.