Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury Environmental Impact Statement (Mercury Storage EIS)

DOE's goal is to provide safe, secure, long-term mercury storage.

Mercury Storage Site Alternatives

The Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 requires DOE to provide storage and long-term management of elemental mercury generated in the United States. In March 2009, DOE published a Request for Expressions of Interest in the *Federal Register* as well as in *Federal Business Opportunities* seeking potential locations from federal agencies and the private sector for a facility or facilities where DOE could store and manage mercury pursuant to the Act.

Based on the responses received and DOE criteria, seven candidate sites were analyzed in the Draft EIS; five DOE sites, one commercial site, and an Army site. See candidate site descriptions on page 2.

DOE's Preferred Alternative

Waste Control Specialists, LLC, of Texas is DOE's Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS.

The Preferred Alternative is the alternative that DOE believes would best fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, and technical factors.

DOE identified Waste Control Specialists, LLC, near Andrews, Texas, as the Preferred Alternative location for long-term storage of U.S. mercury, based on the following factors:

- Compatibility with existing waste management activities, land use plans, and regulatory agreements
- Remote location
- Low population density in surrounding area
- No nearby major bodies of surface water
- Existing rail line
- Negligible to minor environmental impacts

No final decision will be made until this Draft EIS has been subject to public review and comment, the Final EIS has been published, and a Record of Decision (ROD) has been issued. The ROD will present DOE's rationale for selecting a mercury storage site based on analyses in this EIS and other studies, as well as mission and policy considerations.

To Submit Comments or Request More Information

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Grand Junction Disposal Site

DOE Grand Junction Disposal Site, CO

The Grand Junction Disposal Site is located on DOE-owned land, 18 miles southeast of Grand Junction, Colorado. The site occupies 360 acres in a rural setting. It is accessed from a two-lane paved road off of U.S. Highway 50. At present the primary use of the site is for the disposal of uranium mill tailings in the 94-acre Grand Junction uranium mill tailings disposal cell; however, adequate room is available for a mercury storage facility.

Central Waste Complex at the Hanford Site

DOE Hanford Site, WA

The Hanford Site is located on 375,040 acres of DOE-owned land in southeastern Washington State. It is situated to the northwest of the Tri-Cities (Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco) and encompasses large areas of open land interspersed by a number of industrial facilities. The site is accessed from Richland via Route 240 and Washington Boulevard.

Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center at Idaho National Laboratory

DOE Idaho National Laboratory, ID

Idaho National Laboratory is owned by DOE and occupies 569,135 acres in southeastern Idaho. The site is largely undeveloped with a number of industrial areas scattered throughout. It is located 24 miles to the west of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and is accessed from that city via U.S. Route 20.

Existing Storage Buildings at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex at Idaho National Laboratory

Existing Main Manufacturing Building at the Kansas City Plant

DOE Kansas City Plant, MO

The Kansas City Plant is a DOE-owned site situated on 136 acres of the 300-acre Bannister Federal Complex. It is located within Kansas City, Missouri, 12 miles south of downtown. The surrounding area is characterized by single and multiple family dwellings, commercial establishments, industrial districts, and public use lands. The plant, which is very compact and highly developed, is served by two four-lane city streets: Troost Avenue on the west and Bannister Road. The Kansas City Plant has adequate floor space in existing buildings to support a mercury storage facility.

E Area at the Savannah River Site

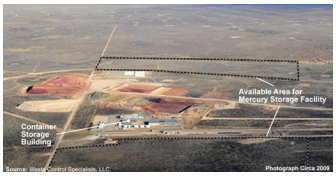
DOE Savannah River Site, SC

The Savannah River Site is a DOE-owned site that covers 198,344 acres in southwestern South Carolina. The site is approximately 12 miles south of Aiken, South Carolina, and 15 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia. The Savannah River Site is accessed via U.S. Route 125 from Augusta and Highway 19 from Aiken. About 90 percent of the site consists of natural forests and managed pine plantations; the surrounding area is largely rural.

Existing Storage Buildings in the Central Magazine Area at the Hawthorne Army Depot

Hawthorne Army Depot, NV

The Hawthorne Army Depot encompasses 147,000 acres of open land situated in the high desert of southwestern Nevada. The installation is accessible by U.S. Highway 95. The Central Magazine Area, the area within which mercury would be stored, is located about 4 miles north of the town of Hawthorne, Nevada.



Waste Control Specialists

Waste Control Specialists, LLC, TX

The Waste Control Specialists site, which is privately owned, is located in a rural setting 30 miles west of Andrews, Texas, just east of the Texas-New Mexico border. The site is situated 1 mile north of Highway 176. The location of the proposed mercury storage facility is within a 1,338-acre tract of land, referred to as the facilities area, on which other existing and proposed facilities are located.