

## 1.4 Site Environmental Programs

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It is the policy of DOE and Site contractors to conduct effluent monitoring and environmental surveillance programs that can determine whether the public and the environment are protected during Site operations and whether operations are in compliance with DOE and other federal, state, and local standards, regulations, and requirements. A number of environmental programs are conducted onsite. These programs monitor for impacts from operations in several areas. The first area consists of the point of possible release into the environment; this area is covered by the effluent monitoring programs operated by both PNL and WHC. The second area consists of possible contamination immediately adjacent to DOE facilities and is covered by the near-facility environmental monitoring program operated by WHC. The third area consists of contamination in the general environment both on and off the Site and is covered by the Site environmental surveillance program operated by PNL.

In addition, aspects of the environment are studied for reasons other than specific impacts from possible contamination. These aspects include climate, wildlife, and cultural resources. These studies are summarized in Section 4.0, "Environmental Program Information."

### **Effluent Monitoring and Waste Management and Chemical Inventory Programs**

Liquid and airborne effluents and solid waste and chemical inventories are monitored or managed through effluent monitoring programs. The effluent programs are designed to measure effluents at their point of release into the environment, whenever possible. The waste management and chemical inventory programs document and report the quantities and types of solid waste disposed of at the Hanford Site and the hazardous chemicals stored across

the Site. Results for the 1994 effluent monitoring and waste management and chemical inventory programs are summarized in Sections 3.1, "Facility Effluent Monitoring," and 3.3, "Waste Management and Chemical Inventories."

### **Near-Facility Environmental Monitoring Program**

The near-facility environmental monitoring program provides facility-specific environmental monitoring immediately adjacent to facilities on the Site that are managed by WHC and BHI. This monitoring is conducted to ensure compliance with DOE and contract requirements and local, state, and federal environmental regulations. The program is also designed to evaluate the effectiveness of effluent treatments and controls, waste management and restoration activities, and to monitor emissions from diffuse/fugitive sources. Results for the 1994 program are summarized in Section 3.2, "Near-Facility Environmental Monitoring."

### **Sitewide Environmental Surveillance Program**

The Sitewide environmental surveillance program is conducted by the PNL independent of facility specific monitoring programs conducted by other Site contractors. The program's main focus is on assessing the impacts of radiological and chemical contaminants on the environment and human health, and confirming compliance with pertinent environmental regulations and federal policies. Surveillance activities are conducted both on and off the Site and monitor contaminants from the entire Hanford Site, rather than from specific contractor-owned or managed facilities. Results for the 1994 Sitewide environmental surveillance program are summarized in Section 5.0, "Environmental Surveillance Information."