



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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RICHLAND
OPERATIONS OFFICE
United States Department of Energy

ch2m

Workers Successfully Demolish Plutonium Finishing Plant Ventilation Stack

Achievement more significant demolition progress; enables additional demolition to proceed

RICHLAND, Wash. – Workers safely removed a landmark from the Hanford Site skyline Saturday, with the demolition of the ventilation stack at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The PFP was the last stop of plutonium production at the Hanford Site, and the 200-foot-high exhaust stack serviced the PFP for all of its 68-year history.

“The stack demolition is the result of years of preparation to clean out the contaminated facility to the point where the ventilation system isn’t needed and can be demolished,” said Tom Teynor, project director for PFP demolition at the Department of Energy (DOE) Richland Operations Office. “Removing the stack is not only historic, but it allows workers in heavy equipment to more easily access and demolish the remaining portions of the facility.”

DOE contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M) subcontractor, Controlled Demolition, Inc. (CDI), used a small amount of explosives to weaken the stack, allowing gravity to bring it to the ground. The same technique has been used to demolish similar structures at Hanford and is considered safer and more efficient than having workers, at elevated levels, use cranes and other equipment to demolish the tall structure. CDI has performed similar work at other DOE sites.

It took a tremendous amount of work to remove – and prepare to remove – the contaminated portions of the facility’s ventilation system, which enabled workers to shut down the system and demolish the stack.

Crews spent six months planning for the demolition of the stack, and numerous controls were in place to ensure employee and environmental safety during this implosion. Similar hazard mitigation and monitoring measures are used across PFP to ensure safe demolition.

“We made history today at PFP and at the Hanford Site,” said Kelly Wooley, CH2M deputy vice president for the PFP closure project. “We’ll continue our focus on working safely as we demolish more and more of the facility.”

With the ventilation building and stack removed, demolition is complete on two of the four main processing buildings that made up PFP. This month, demolition will start on the main processing facility; and demolition of that facility and the Plutonium Reclamation Facility are expected to be complete in September 2017.

[Watch](#) a video of the ventilation stack demolition
[View](#) photos of the ventilation stack demolition

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the federal government’s cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. Except for a tank waste mission managed by the DOE Office of River Protection, the DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on cleaning out and demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future. The office oversees Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov.

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