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## News Release

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### **HANFORD SITE OPENS TO PUBLIC DURING SUMMER BUS TOURS**

RICHLAND, Wash. – June 13, 2005 – For the first time since the events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Energy is making areas of the Hanford site where cleanup is taking place available for public tours.

On Friday, June 24, and Saturday, June 25, visitors will be driven from Richland, Wash. through the Hanford Site on a route that is designed to follow the process used to produce plutonium for the nation's defense and explain current cleanup efforts, including:

- Hanford's 300 Area, just north of Richland, where fuel was manufactured for irradiation in Hanford's reactors
- The original Hanford town site
- Production reactors along the Columbia River, known as Hanford's 100 Area, where nuclear fuel was irradiated. Activities in that area today are primarily focused on 'cocooning' former reactors and cleaning up waste sites. This portion of the visit will include a walking tour of B Reactor, the world's first large-scale plutonium production reactor.
- Hanford's central plateau, or 200 Areas, where irradiated nuclear fuel was processed to recover plutonium. This is where most of the waste that resulted from processing is located, along with a number of current activities to clean up the waste.

All tours will begin and end at the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center, located at 2890 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, Wash. Tours will begin at 7:30 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; and 12:30 p.m. on June 24 and 25. The tours are free of charge and last approximately 4 hours.

(more)

Visitors must sign up in advance of the bus tour at the following web page:

<http://www.hanford.gov/information/sitetours/registration/> . Requests to participate will be honored on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning June 13, 2005, and requests must be received no later than 72 hours before a tour. Tour participants must be U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old, and able to show valid photo identification on the day of the tour. The tour will include a security check before entering the Hanford site.

Two additional tour dates in the fall will be announced later this summer. For more information on Hanford tours, visit the Department of Energy's Hanford tour web page at:

<http://www.hanford.gov/information/sitetours/> .

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*Note to media: To cover the tours, contact Geoff Tyree at (509) 372-1145 by noon, June 20. Special arrangements must be made in advance with Hanford Site security to allow cameras and recording devices on the tour (other visitors will not be allowed to bring cameras or recording devices). A limited number of media tour slots are available and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.*