

ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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To: ALL HANFORD SITE EMPLOYEES

Subject: UPDATE ON PLUTONIUM FINISHING PLANT (PFP)

Access to the PFP and an area surrounding the facility at the Hanford Site continues to be controlled by contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) after specks of low-level contamination were found outside the demolition zone.

Workers are using vehicle-mounted and hand-held radiation detectors to survey areas around the plant and are dealing with specks of low-level contamination as they are detected by covering them with a product called soil cement, which covers the specks of contamination so they won't become airborne.



This photo shows vehicles with radiation detectors that are used to survey for radiological contamination in the vicinity of Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant

After specks of low-level contamination were found outside mobile office trailers at the plant during follow-up surveys Monday, Dec. 18, employees were asked to stay in their offices until surveying of the area could be completed. No contamination was found inside the office trailers.

No contamination was found on personnel exiting the office trailers. CHPRC finished releasing PFP personnel from their office trailers at the plant by 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18.

Personnel and their vehicles were surveyed for radiological contamination as they left the plant. Approximately 100 vehicles were surveyed for contamination on their way out of the plant. In all, surveys detected low levels of contamination on the exteriors of four government vehicles and the exteriors of four personal vehicles parked near the plant. Contamination was detected inside one of the government vehicles. The vehicles are being decontaminated and released.

Two of the personal vehicles belong to CHPRC employees who may have had specks of contamination on the outside of their vehicles before they drove home over the weekend. CHPRC is asking those employees if they would like their homes surveyed for contamination.

Demolition work was suspended on Sunday, Dec. 17, and remains on hold. Activities at the site are focused on contamination surveys and contamination controls. Workers have applied soil cement to areas near mobile offices, including the roof of one mobile office building and the ground between the mobile office area and the demolition zone. The contractor is restricting access to areas where contamination specks were detected and is arranging for office and work space for personnel further away from the plant.