



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Richland Operations
Office



CH2MHILL

DOE/CHPRC News Release

August 11, 2014

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**WORKERS CREATING DEMOLITION ZONE AT HANFORD'S
PLUTONIUM FINISHING PLANT**

Administration building and other support buildings removed ahead of main facility demolition

Over the last few weeks, the look of Hanford's main plutonium plant has changed as crews have removed or demolished eight buildings surrounding the Plutonium Finishing Plant at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington state.

The buildings once supported operations in the plant that produced nearly two-thirds of the country's plutonium through the late 1980s. Workers removed the buildings to create a large demolition zone surrounding the plant's main buildings. The zone will allow the safe staging and operation of heavy equipment during final facility demolition.

"We're getting ready to demolish all of the facilities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant," said Bryan Foley, deputy federal project director for the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office. "Taking down and removing these office buildings and support structures provides a change in the skyline at the plant that brings us closer to completing this important cleanup project."

Since 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors have demolished or removed 61 buildings that once supported Plutonium Finishing Plant operations. The eight buildings removed over the past month include building 270-Z, which once housed Plutonium Finishing Plant administration offices.

"This is one of the most hazardous facilities at Hanford and the team is safely taking the facility apart from the inside out," said Mike Swartz, CH2M HILL's vice president for the Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project. "As we prepare to demolish the facility, we're ensuring that there is enough space around the main buildings to bring in heavy equipment and stage demolition debris – all to allow demolition progress to continue safely and compliantly."

The Plutonium Finishing Plant was the primary facility for producing plutonium at Hanford from the 1940s to the 1980s. Since 2008, DOE and CH2M HILL have been preparing the facility for demolition by cleaning out and removing hundreds of pieces of contaminated equipment from the plant and preparing some equipment for removal during demolition. About 70 percent of the facility is ready for demolition.

Note:

- Photos are available by clicking on this link: <http://go.usa.gov/PpDd>.

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The Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office is responsible for several major cleanup projects on the Hanford Site, including cleanout and demolition of the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing

Plant, demolition of excess facilities, excavation of contaminated soil and solid waste, and treatment of contaminated groundwater, as well as Hanford Site infrastructure. The office oversees approximately \$1 billion in annual funding for Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,300 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov.

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