

# SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

## Expectation:

Protect the Columbia River by safely moving more than 2,100 metric tons of deteriorating spent nuclear fuel from aging, wet storage near the river to safe, dry, interim storage on Hanford's central plateau.

## Fuel Movement Preparations:

- Continued operational tests in the K West Basin as part of a phased approach to demonstrate equipment and systems performance and build worker proficiency prior to moving fuel out of the Basin in November.
- Received and accepted the first 18 multi-canister overpacks (MCOs) and the first 60 steel-and-copper baskets. The MCOs and baskets will hold the spent fuel during movement out of the K Basins, drying, and interim storage in the Canister Storage Building.
- Successfully completed integrated testing in the first of two process bays of the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility and transferred the bay to the Operations organization for training.



*During successful integrated testing, workers check equipment in one of the bays of the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility.*

# SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

## Fuel Movement Preparations: (continued)

- Transferred the Canister Storage Building from construction to operational status.
- Working in collaboration with regulatory agencies, shipped the first load of debris from the K Basins to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. This advances the Hanford Site vision by moving nuclear waste away from the Columbia River shore to the central plateau.
- Established a Web Site to deliver timely information about the Project to the public ([www.hanford.gov/doe/snf/](http://www.hanford.gov/doe/snf/)).

## Safety and Compliance Update:

- Project workers completed one million hours without a lost-workday injury for the second time in a year.
- With DOE and regulator agreement, formalized major baseline schedule changes as Tri-Party Agreement milestones. The new schedule accelerates sludge removal from the Basins and calls for fuel removal from K West and K East Basins to be done in sequence. The changes will enable the full Project to be complete a year earlier than originally planned.



*The Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's safety record is especially impressive in light of the unique, difficult work conducted in radiation zones. An example is the April installation of a 15-foot immersion pail in the K West Basin.*

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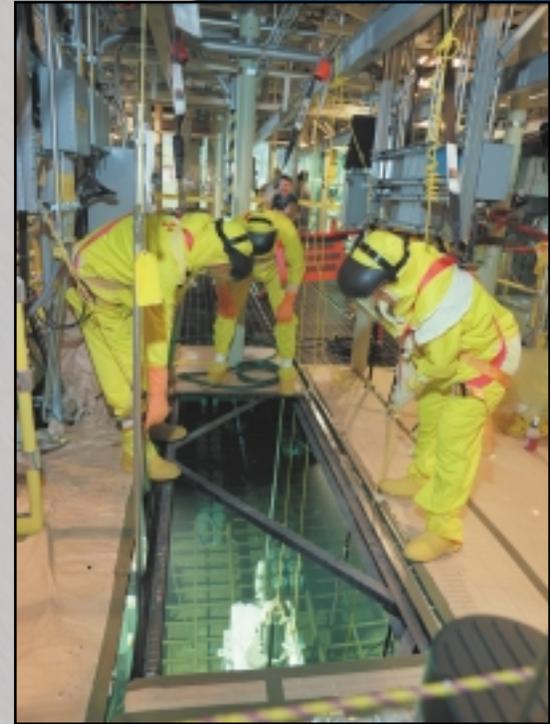
# SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

## Safety and Compliance Update: (continued)

- Obtained DOE approval of more than 4,000 pages of safety documentation crucial to Project operations.
- Received verification by the U.S. Navy Crane Center (NCC) of safe practices in the Project's crane program. The NCC evaluated our use of five cranes vital to the success of operations at the K West Basin, Cold Vacuum Drying Facility and Canister Storage Building.

## What's Next:

- Conduct a readiness assessment and hot testing of the fuel retrieval and integrated water treatment systems in the K West Basin.
- Complete a management self-assessment and operational readiness reviews leading to the start of fuel movement out of the K West Basin this November.
- In concert with Fluor Hanford's Waste Management Project, continue to prepare T Plant for compliant storage of sludge from the K Basins.



*Workers observe the decapper through the water of the K West Basin during cold testing of equipment. The decapper is used in the first step of fuel retrieval, the in-basin process of uncapping the aging spent-fuel canisters and then washing, sorting and repackaging the fuel in new storage containers.*