An aerial photograph of a plateau, likely the Hanford Site, showing a river winding through the landscape and several large, rectangular industrial structures. The title 'TRANSITION THE PLATEAU' is overlaid in large blue letters.

TRANSITION THE PLATEAU

Central Plateau Planning & Integration

A number of breakthrough initiatives have been developed for completion of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project and deactivation of the Plutonium Finishing Plant. After reviews by project management, these initiatives have been provided to DOE to assist with site-wide planning that will transition the central plateau to a place for long-term waste management and storage. DOE has already approved the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's alternative fuel transfer strategy, which is to transfer K East Basin spent fuel to the K West Basin for preparation before shipment to the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility. The Project has begun implementing this breakthrough initiative. (See page 13.)

Fast Flux Test Facility

In April, the Secretary of Energy suspended the portion of the Nuclear Infrastructure Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement related to the deactivation of the FFTF. The Secretary commissioned a team to review the decision to permanently shut down the facility.

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Fire Services Consolidation

One element of the long-range central plateau transition plan is to consolidate the 100- and 200-Area fire stations in the 200 Area, where long-term waste management activities will occur. To support that goal, the Central Fire Station was remodeled. DOE and the Hanford Fire Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April to mark completion of the renovation, which expanded the station's firefighter dormitory and relocated the Emergency Services Dispatch Center and shift supervisors' offices to the Central Fire Station. In the top photo, Hanford firefighter Gary Bumgarner, chief steward, Local 24, International Association of Firefighters, shows employee-suggested equipment innovations to John Wood, Fluor Hanford vice president for Hanford Site Operations, during an open house at the station.



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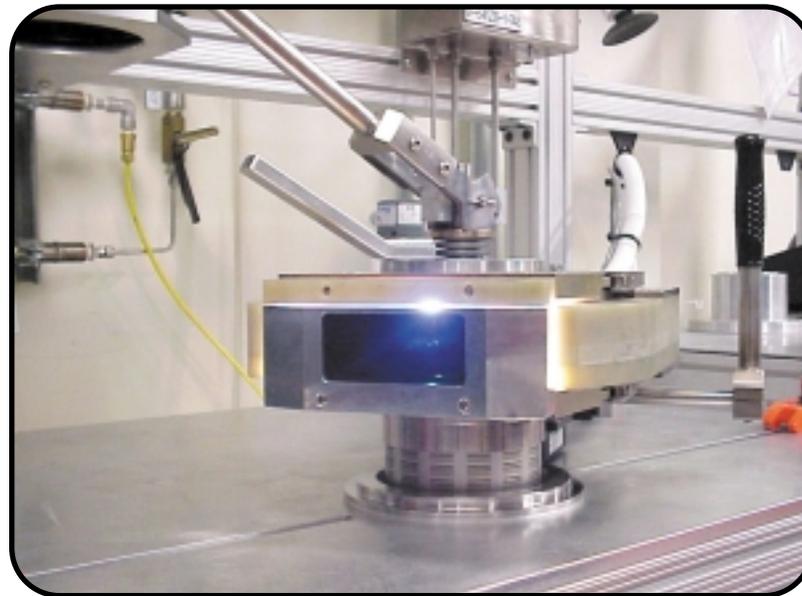
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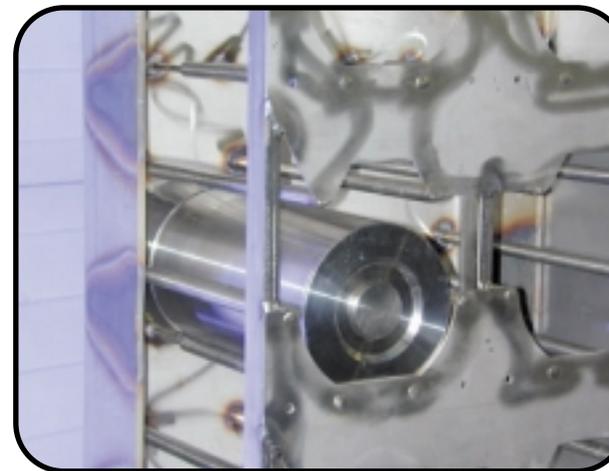


Nuclear Material Stabilization

Startup operation of the Outer Can Welder on April 10 made Hanford the first DOE site to fully comply with the new triple-container national standard for safe, long-term storage of plutonium. Through June, the new equipment produced 211 compliant containers as packaging of stabilized material continues at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP).



Twenty new racks were installed in May in the PFP vault to store the compliant containers, which are larger than previous storage containers because of the new triple-canister system.



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Technology for Nuclear Material Stabilization

Fluor Hanford, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and DOE have teamed to apply an innovative PNNL technology to remotely monitor the new triple-container canisters being used for safe storage of plutonium. PNNL's radiofrequency tag, originally developed for the Department of Defense, is linked with a pressure monitor developed by Vista Engineering Technologies, a local firm. The integrated system will provide continuous monitoring of pressure, temperature and safeguards information for each canister. Cost savings and avoidances are projected to exceed \$10 million while the canisters are stored at the PFP until shipped to DOE's Savannah River Site starting around 2016. Full-scale deployment at PFP is scheduled for this fall.



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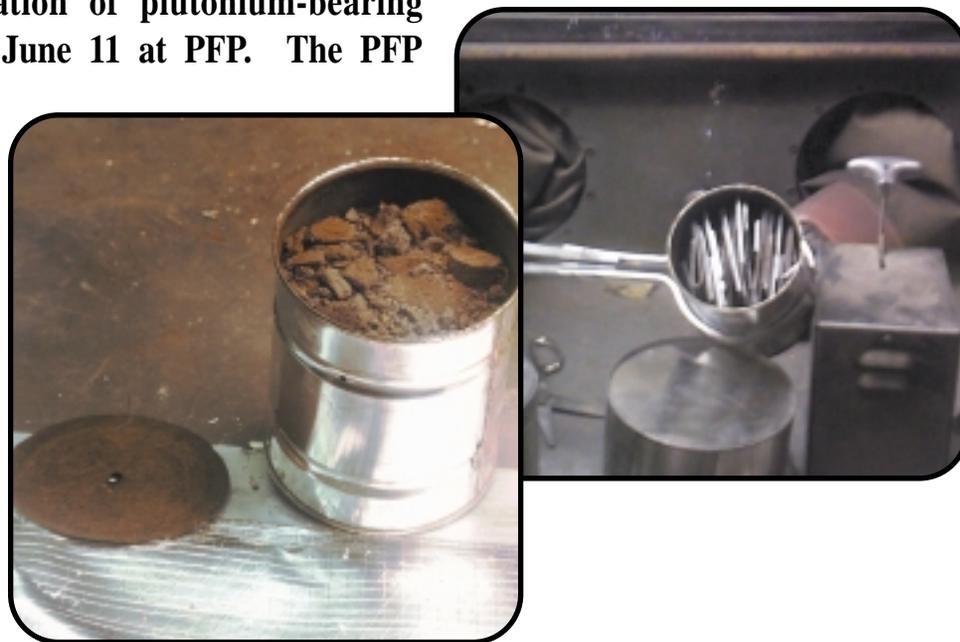
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Nuclear Material Stabilization

Stabilization of plutonium-bearing alloys began June 11 at PFP. The PFP Residues Project team completed the packaging of metallic alloys, such as the alloy plates shown far right, and residue alloys, similar to those in the canister shown near right, just eight days later, on June 19.



Another group of PFP workers began processing and packaging Hanford plutonium ash April 9. They shipped the first batch of the packaged ash to the Central Waste Complex on May 17. This activity is currently scheduled for completion by the end of this calendar year.