An aerial photograph of a river corridor, likely the Columbia River, with a purple outline highlighting the river's path. The surrounding area is a mix of agricultural fields and industrial or residential structures. The title 'RESTORING THE RIVER CORRIDOR' is overlaid in large blue letters.

# RESTORING THE RIVER CORRIDOR

## **Nuclear Energy Legacies**

**A cold trap that was part of a test loop once located in Building 335, and more recently stored in the high bay of the 337 Building, was prepared for shipping and sent to an offsite waste treatment center in March. The effort represented another step in removing potential environmental hazards out of the 300 Area and away from the Columbia River: the unit contained 200 pounds of sodium metal.**

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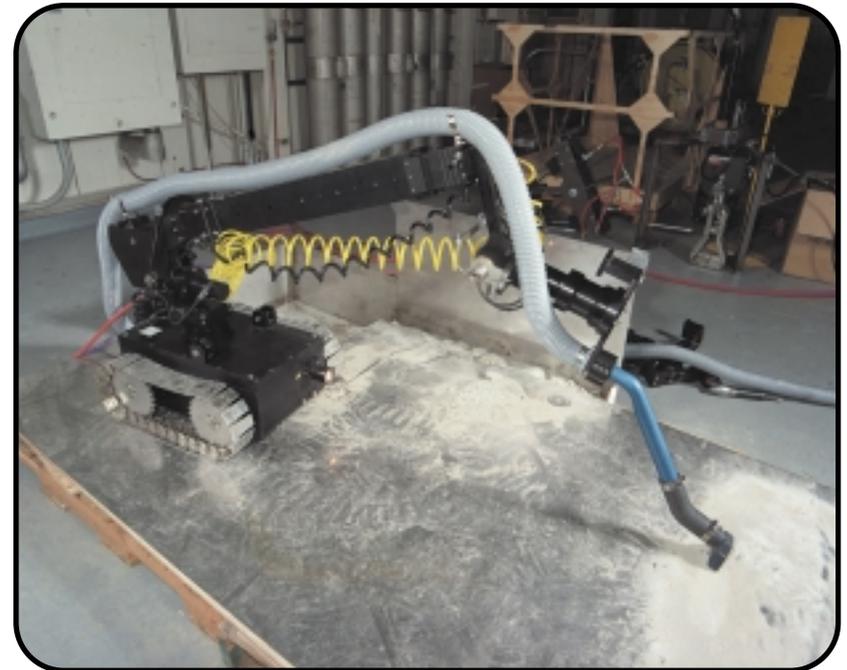
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## River Corridor Project

Removal of dispersible mixed waste and processing equipment from B Cell in the 324 Building is now complete. The cleanup met an interim target toward completion of Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-89-02. A new robotic crawler, another example of advanced technology being used for cleanup, shown here during tests of its vacuuming skills, successfully removed highly contaminated dirt, dust, loose chemical residues, vitrified glass and concrete-like materials from the B-Cell floor. B-Cell cleanup this quarter also included shipping the final six of 10 steel waste disposal boxes and four of 22 cylindrical grout containers to the Central Waste Complex.



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## River Corridor Project

A robotic work platform for 324 Building in-cell and pipe-trench cleanout was delivered March 15 and training initiated. The heavy-duty robot arm will replace the need for manned entries into highly radioactive areas. The robotic platform, selected and tested as a result of the technology teaming between Fluor Hanford, Numatec Hanford and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, can utilize a wide variety of tools such as shears, decontamination spray heads and inspection devices and will have sufficient length and dexterity to reach all interior surfaces of the hot cells and pipe trench.



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Workers successfully completed shipment of 220 billet boxes of excess uranium, or about half of the total to be shipped from the 300 Area to the DOE Portsmouth Site in Ohio. The team has also begun detailed planning to accelerate “skyline reduction” activities in the 300 Area, with the intent to demolish three structures there by the end of September.

## River Corridor Project



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## Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

Since January 1, five more loads of spent nuclear fuel have been removed from the K-West Basin, moving about 25 tons of irradiated uranium and 750,000 curies of radioactivity away from the Columbia River shore line.



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## Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

Project workers successfully dried five loads of spent fuel from the K-West Basin in the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility and shipped them to Hanford's central plateau, where they were placed in dry, interim storage in steel tubes beneath the Canister Storage Building.



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## Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

We successfully proposed major baseline changes and breakthrough initiatives to accelerate fuel movement out of the K-East Basin, improve processing in the K-West Basin and the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility, and gear up for additional handling capacity in the Canister Storage Building. In addition to process improvements, workers are being trained so that work can proceed on multiple shifts and, ultimately, around the clock.



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## Environmental Restoration Along the River

Demolition began in February on the fourth surplus production reactor at Hanford to undergo the “cocooning” process. The Bechtel Hanford team will demolish all but 20% of the existing D Reactor structure that, like the other Hanford surplus reactors, sits near the Columbia River. The graphite reactor block will be isolated or “cocooned” for 75 years. During that time, a permanent disposal plan will be developed and radiation will have decayed to manageable levels. In the background is DR Reactor, where the cocooning effort is about 90% complete.

