

# REACH

A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees



## Final shipment of uranium sent to Ohio

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and Hanford contractor Fluor Hanford have made their final shipment of approximately 11.6 metric tons of uranium billets to DOE's Portsmouth Site in Ohio. The shipment left Hanford on Friday, May 4. The first of the 43 billet shipments left the Hanford Site in February.

With the May 4 shipment, Hanford successfully and safely met its public "scorecard" commitment to ship approximately 235 metric tons of uranium billets off site in fiscal year 2001. It also met a related Tri-Party Agreement target date.

"Completing these uranium shipments brings us an important step closer to cleaning up the Columbia River corridor," said Pete Knollmeyer, DOE-RL assistant manager for Nuclear Materials and Facility Stabilization. "The Department of Energy is meeting its commitment to move excess materials and waste off the Hanford Site."



Carpenters Jim Brown and Jim Fragola secure the last billet of uranium for shipment.

A billet is a uranium metal cylinder that can weigh up to 420 pounds. To prepare for transporting the billets, workers repackaged them into wooden boxes, sealed each box and then loaded them onto trucks approved by the Department of Transportation.

DOE-RL previously used the uranium billets for manufacturing fuel for Hanford's N Reactor, one of the nine deactivated plutonium production reactors along the Columbia River. The surplus billets have remained in storage facilities in the 300 Area since shutdown of the N Reactor in 1987. The Portsmouth Site serves as a central location where DOE is consolidating its surplus uranium for possible future resale or other disposition.

The billets are the second form of uranium to be dispositioned. In fiscal year 2000, DOE-RL and Fluor Hanford shipped 667 metric tons of uranium in the form of uranium trioxide, a powder, to the Portsmouth Site.

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## Final shipment of uranium sent to Ohio, cont.

The final billet shipment also included 2.3 metric tons of uranium dioxide. Between the trioxide, billets and dioxide, DOE-RL has shipped approximately 900 metric tons of uranium to Ohio.

Removal of the uranium is part of the DOE-RL overall cleanup objectives in Hanford's 300 Area. The Portsmouth Site is part of the Oak Ridge Uranium Management Group, which has the responsibility of managing DOE's surplus uranium. That responsibility includes interim storage and possible sale of the usable material. ♦



Nuclear chemical operator Randy Strickland loads the last billet box into a truck for shipment.

**The HANFORD**  
**REACH**



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