

Annual surveillance completed on other surplus facilities

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The team surveyed KE, KW and N Reactors and about 80 related N Area and K Area facilities. When N Reactor was deactivated in 1998, most of the hazardous and radioactive materials were fixed or removed from the reactor. Excess equipment and supplies were relocated, electrical power was shut off and doors to the facility were locked.

"Our annual surveillance of N Reactor and other facilities found them in a stable, safe condition," said Bechtel Hanford field supervisor Don Eckert. "We are planning to remove asbestos from vent ducting on the roof of the 109-N building to abate that potential hazard."

N Reactor made national headlines when President John F. Kennedy visited Hanford for the groundbreaking on Sept. 26, 1963, less than two months before he was assassinated. N Reactor operated from 1963 to 1987 and was the only dual-purpose reactor in the DOE complex, producing plutonium for defense and steam to generate electricity.

Project workers also successfully completed annual surveillance on deactivated KE and KW Reactors, except for the facilities that are part of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Program managed by Fluor Hanford. KE Reactor was operated from 1955 to 1971, and KW Reactor was operated from 1955 to 1970.

"With the exception of the roofs, the interiors of these facilities were in the same condition as they were a year ago," Eckert said. "We have completed repairing the KE Reactor roof and will repair the KW Reactor roof this summer."

The team is also mitigating hazards at B Reactor and enhancing its appearance to ensure public safety at the designated historic landmark. And the team performs other activities to protect people and the environment, including planning and conducting mock-up training to help reduce worker time and exposure in radioactive environments and stabilizing waste sites to prevent the potential spread of contamination. ■