

# SNF Project removes 200th Multi-Canister Overpack

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In mid-March, Fluor Hanford's Spent Nuclear Fuel Project sent its 200th Multi-Canister Overpack of irradiated fuel to the Canister Storage Building. With the shipment of the 201st, the project passed the halfway mark in total fuel removed from the Columbia River shoreline. MCO No. 201 brought the total amount of fuel removed from the K West Basin to 1,053 metric tons (over 2.3 million pounds) out of approximately 2,100 metric tons of fuel that were in the K Basins when the process of removing fuel began.

The K Basins are twin concrete structures, each approximately 8,400 square feet, that have held irradiated uranium fuel from Hanford's N Reactor since the 1970s. An amount equivalent to the original amount of fuel in the K West Basin has been taken out of the pool, dried and placed in dry storage in the Canister Storage Building on the Hanford Site's central plateau. Fuel from the K East Basin continues to be sent to the K West Basin for processing.



**An MCO inside a shipping cask is lifted out of the K West Basin.**

"We're elated to have turned the corner and removed more than half of the fuel," said Norm Boyter, Fluor Hanford vice president for the SNF Project. "Our workers have worked diligently, safely and carefully to reach this point, and I'm proud of every one of them. The Columbia River becomes safer every day that the SNF Project removes another MCO."

The fuel transfer system that moves fuel from the K East to the K West Basin has transferred more than 75 loads of fuel since it began operating in November 2002. It takes about two loads to fill one MCO. The loads transferred thus far represent about 20 percent of the fuel that was in the K East Basin.■