

244-AR canyon team ready for cleanup operations

Operations personnel have successfully completed a readiness assessment to remove liquid waste from the 244-AR facility so the facility can be stabilized. Independent auditors conducted the readiness review under the guidance of the Department of Energy Office of River Protection. Crews are making some final preparations to set the stage for liquid waste retrieval activities.

The 100-foot-long, concrete-walled 244-AR vault was used during its operating years to ensure safe waste transfers between the PUREX and B Plant processing facilities and the Hanford tanks.

Sodium hydroxide was added to the waste from the processing plants to make it less acidic, so it wouldn't corrode the steel walls of tanks.

The 244-AR cleanup project will focus initially on consolidating the 19,000 gallons of waste in four tanks and a sump into one tank, which will take about a week. Sodium hydroxide will then be added to make the waste compatible with the double-shell tank system. Once compatibility is verified, the neutralized waste will be transferred to the double-shell tanks. A determination by DOE will then be made on the residual solid waste before the 244-AR facility is closed.

"We are getting ready to safely and efficiently stabilize this facility," said Dennis Rewinkel, 244-AR Project manager for CH2M HILL Hanford Group. "The first step is to remove as much liquid waste as possible to prevent the facility from potentially posing an environmental threat." ■



Hanford crews are getting ready to remove liquid waste from the 244-AR facility so the facility can be stabilized.