

# First high-level waste canisters shipped for testing

Bechtel National, the contractor managing construction of the Waste Treatment Plant for the Department of Energy Office of River Protection, reported that six prototype canisters for its High-Level Waste Vitrification Facility have been shipped from the manufacturer in Vancouver, Wash., to the Duratek Pilot Melter site in Maryland.

American Boiler Works of Vancouver fabricated the canisters. They will be tested at the Pilot Melter site using molten test glass, under conditions similar to future vitrification of waste here at Hanford.

“We’re verifying our analysis and simulations,” said Phil Schuetz, area project manager for Hanford’s High-Level Waste Vitrification Facility. “Part of that is monitoring the cool-down rate to verify when the canisters can be handled.”

The tests will also verify that the canisters don’t distort due to the high-temperature glass mixture. There are stringent requirements on the dimensions of the canister to facilitate acceptance and storage at a national repository.

One of the filled canisters will be transported to Hanford, where it will undergo a “drop test.” The canister will be dropped from a height of 23 feet onto a rigid concrete mat to verify its strength and durability. ■



**Six high-level waste canisters were shipped from fabricator American Boiler Works in Vancouver, Wash., on July 31. The canisters are being delivered to Duratek’s Pilot Melter site in Maryland.**