Central Plateau

Restore the River Corridor - Transition the Central Plateau - Prepare for the Future

Five Canyons

884 Waste sites

Approximately 900 other facilities

177 Underground tanks

337 Wells

Scope

The Central Plateau covers approximately 75 square miles near the center of the Hanford Site, consisting mainly of the 200 East and West Areas and a buffer zone.

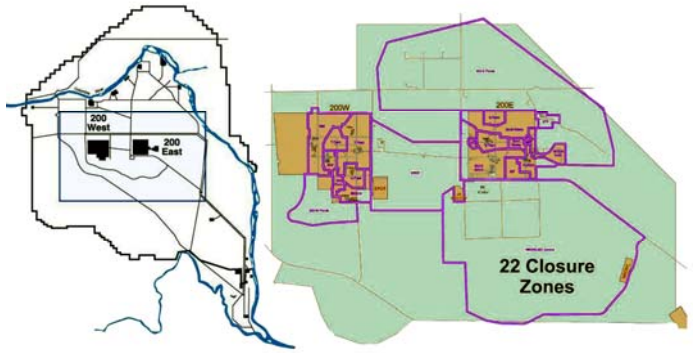
The Central Plateau area was devoted to reprocessing spent nuclear fuel and managing waste.

About 900 facilities, including five large chemical processing facilities, called canyons, were built on the plateau to support processing of irradiated fuel from the plutonium production reactors and for treatment, storage, and disposal of waste. The buried solid waste, contaminated soil and groundwater, and underground storage tanks containing waste on the Central Plateau are the legacy of the production mission.

The objective of the Central Plateau Project is to remediate waste sites and to decommission and demolish excess facilities in a manner that is protective of the environment, safe for the worker, and mindful of taxpayer dollars. This addresses the DOE 2006 Strategic Plan, Strategic Theme 4 – Environmental Responsibility: Protecting the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the environment legacy of nuclear weapons production

The project scope dispositions and integrates nearly 2,500 remediation/closure elements located within the Central Plateau. Remediation of five canyons, 884 waste sites, and approximately 900 other facilities will be integrated with the closure of 177 underground waste tanks and 337 wells conducted under separate projects.

Central Plateau Closure Zones



Completion of the project will follow the completion of DOE's River Protection Office Waste Treatment Plant Project Operations, planned for 2042. A significant interim milestone is remediation/closure of most canyons, waste sites, structures, and wells by 2024.

Significance

The project integrates all Central Plateau work scope (including waste sites, structures, groundwater, vadose zone, infrastructure, and tank farm closures) supporting DOE's 2006 Strategic Plan, Strategic Theme 4 - Environmental Responsibility.

Other remediation activities are being done along the Columbia River Corridor. Those activities are discussed on the Soil Remediation fact sheet.

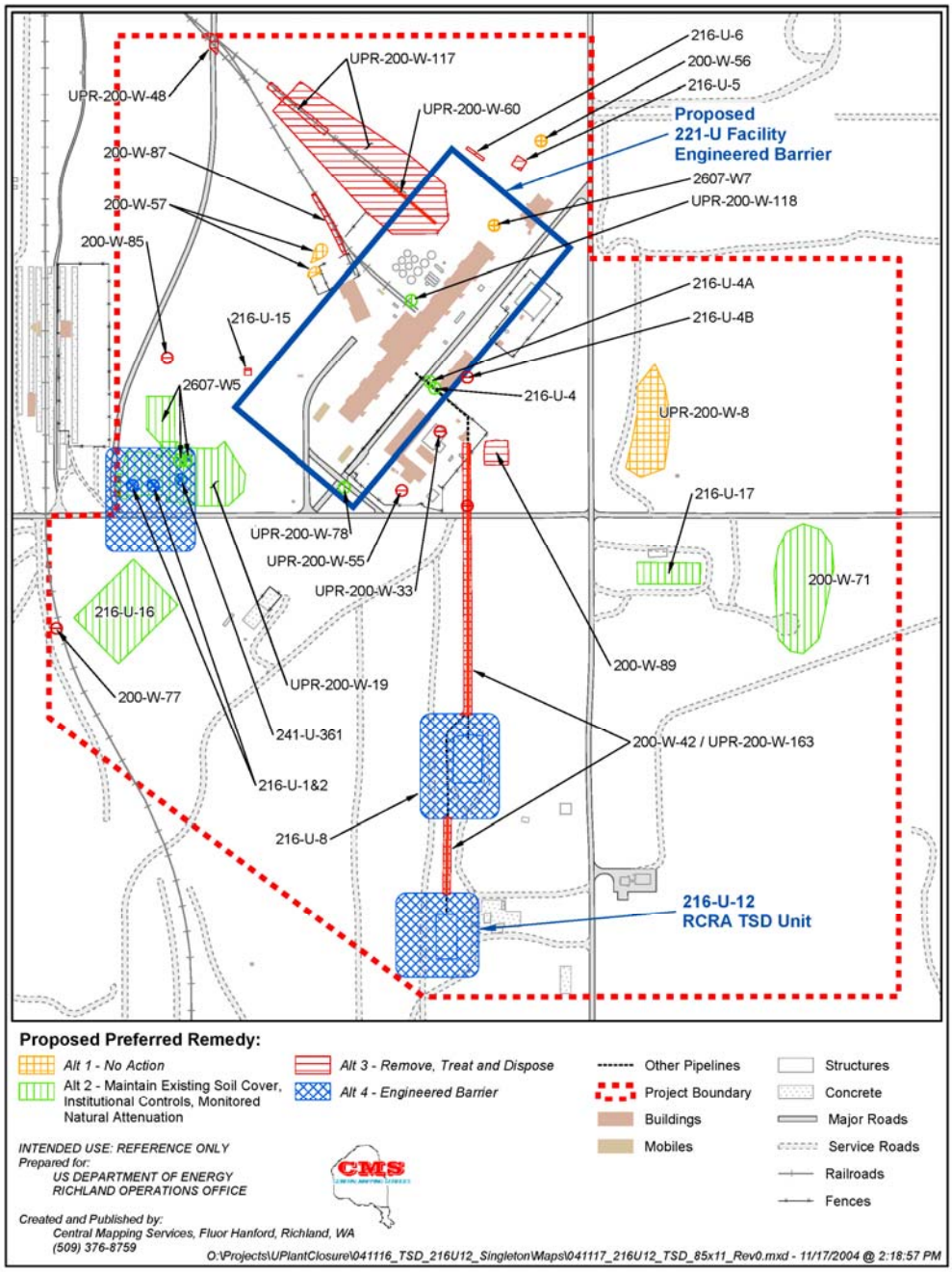
Strategy

The project completion strategy groups nearly 2,500 Central Plateau closure actions into 22 geographic zones. Each zone includes work scope associated with waste sites, structures, groundwater, vadose zone, infrastructure, and tank farm closures. The project will remediate waste sites and structures consistent with approved decision documents. Upon completion of the project

work scope, the remediated zone will be transitioned to long -term stewardship. The following actions are underway:

- Remediate high risk waste sites with potential groundwater impacts first – mitigate "urgent risk" first.
- Gain regulatory Records of Decisions for waste site and structure remediation – reduce project uncertainty by refining work scope and improving baseline validity.
- Complete U Plant Zone prototype remediation – gain implementation and performance knowledge/ experience to apply to baseline for the remainder of Central Plateau scope.
- Minimize mortgage costs pending remediation – reduce "minimum safe" costs.
- Evaluate innovative remediation approaches that maximize unique Central Plateau attributes (e.g., waste disposal in canyon facilities, in-situ stabilization) – potential cost reduction with adequate environmental protectiveness.
- Continue geographic zone closure implementation planning for remediation – optimize integration, acquisition, and baseline execution.

U Plant Zone prototype



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