THE HANFORD SITE

618-10 Burial Ground Project

Fact Sheet – August 2021

Aerial view of the 618-10 Burial Ground project, including 316-4 and 600-63 Waste Sites.

The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company completed remediation of the 618-10 Burial Ground and associated waste sites in June 2018. Retrieving and remediating the burial ground was critical to eliminating a significant hazard on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state.

Background

The 618-10 Burial Ground operated from 1954 to 1963. The 7.5-acre burial ground received low- to high-activity radioactive waste generated from Hanford's 300 Area laboratories and reactor fuel development facilities.

During the years of operation, waste was disposed of in 12 waste trenches as well as 94 vertical pipe units (VPU). Eighty VPUs are made up of five bottomless 55-gallon drums that were welded together end-to-end and corrugated steel pipes. There are 14 VPUs that are constructed of heavy-gauge steel piping, which are more complex to remediate.

High-activity wastes were normally disposed of in the VPUs, while trenches received low- to moderate-activity wastes. Waste containers ranging from the size of juice cans to buckets were dropped into the VPUs, which extend as far as 20 feet below grade.

The burial ground and waste sites are located 6 miles north of the city of Richland, 4 miles from the Columbia River, and 400 yards from Hanford's main highway. If left alone, the burial site poses a threat to groundwater, the environment and human health.

Vertical pipe unit array.

Vertical pipe unit remediation.

618-10 Remediation

Cost: $284 million

Duration: 2010-2018

Contents:

- 2,254 drums of various wastes.
- Miscellaneous wastes such as gloveboxes and process equipment.
- 94 vertical pipe units containing remote-handled waste.
- All but a few drums were mixed low-level waste and disposed of at Hanford's onsite Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.