

*A multicanister overpack containing spent nuclear fuel is delivered to the Canister Storage Building.*



*The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company are safely and compliantly managing interim storage of spent nuclear fuels at the Canister Storage Building at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state.*

## Background

The Canister Storage Building (CSB) plays an important role in Hanford’s cleanup mission by providing interim storage of spent nuclear fuel.

The CSB is a 42,000-square-foot facility on Hanford’s Central Plateau. It is composed of three belowgrade concrete vaults, each capable of holding 220 carbon-steel tubes. The tubes, each 40 feet long and 28 inches in diameter, have been placed vertically in Vault 1. Multicanister overpacks — 2-foot-by-14-foot stainless steel containers containing spent nuclear fuel — are safely stored in the tubes until a final disposal decision is made. Vault 1 stores more than 400 multicanister overpacks, containing approximately 2,300 tons of irradiated spent nuclear fuel, mainly from Hanford’s N Reactor and the Shippingport reactor in Pennsylvania. The irradiated fuel was cleaned and relocated to the CSB to provide safe interim storage in a single location. Vaults 2 and 3 are available for future storage, if needed.

Adjacent to the CSB is an interim storage area, which also contains irradiated fuel packaged in various containers. The irradiated fuel will be repackaged and ultimately sent to a national geological repository.

## Mission

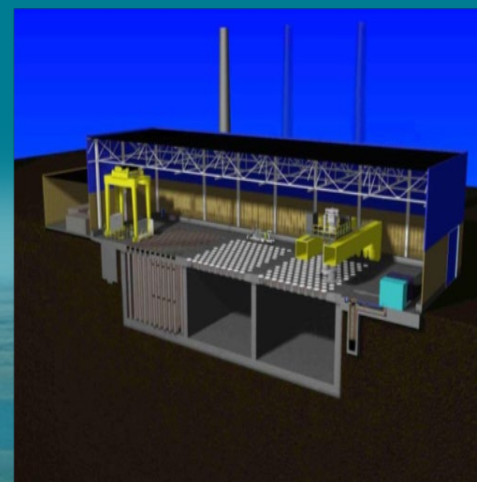
The CSB and interim storage area will continue to safely store spent nuclear fuel until a national geological repository is available for final disposition.



*A crane inside the Canister Storage Building was used to place multicanister overpacks into belowgrade concrete vaults.*



*Workers handle an empty multicanister overpack, used to store irradiated spent nuclear reactor fuel.*



*Rendering of Canister Storage Building belowgrade vaults.*

