

# ANNOUNCEMENT

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**RL No.:** 18-0038

**Issued:** 01/31/2018

**To:** ALL HANFORD SITE EMPLOYEES

**Subject:** UPDATE ON PLUTONIUM FINISHING PLANT (PFP)

DOE representatives met with the Washington State Department of Health (Health) to get clarification on its environmental monitoring data and to discuss any issues Health may have about the spread of contamination from the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) or about other Hanford Site operations. Health posted the letter on its "[Hanford and Public Health](#)" web page, and the letter is posted on the PFP web page on [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov).

DOE sent a message to Hanford Site employees last week about environmental monitoring data collected in 2017 by DOE and Health, some of which was preliminary. Health has since clarified that the elevated levels of contamination near the K Reactors that DOE reported in last week's message were detected in November and December were, in fact, detected earlier in the year. Specifically, the plutonium that Health's air monitors detected at the K Area was from composite analysis of samples gathered from January to June 2017.

Composite analysis is done by combining samples from a monitoring station over a period of time, in this case six months, before analyzing them to see if any isotopes of radioactive materials were detected. DOE reviewed its composite sample results from all of its air monitoring stations in the K Area for all of 2017, including those for the first six months of 2017 when Health detected plutonium. DOE's monitoring stations did not detect the contamination that Health detected.

DOE will provide to Health as soon as possible the information requested in its recent letter, and DOE will move forward with completing the requested analyses as soon as data is available. DOE will also work collaboratively with Health to examine the processes and procedures that were in place during the demolition of the PFP in order to determine how those processes and procedures can be improved to ensure a safe environment for site workers and the public.

We will continue to update you on recovery actions at PFP and continue to post information on our PFP web page on [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov).