

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP)

Timeline of Contamination Spreads, Surveying of Areas and Workers, and Safety Controls

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<p>Friday 12/8/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ During demolition of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP), located in the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site's Central Plateau, elevated readings were found on contamination-monitoring lapels worn by two employees performing remote-operated water suppression at the southeast corner of the PFP demolition zone.
<p>Saturday 12/9/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ An elevated reading was detected on a lapel monitor worn by one employee performing waste removal activities in a tent within a controlled Contamination Area (CA).○ Radiological Control Technicians (RCTs) performed surveys in the tent for the water-suppression station. No contamination was detected.
<p>Tuesday 12/12/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elevated levels were found on lapel monitors worn by four employees conducting waste removal and remote water suppression; the levels on three of the monitors then decayed to less-than-detectable measurements because the material detected was naturally occurring radon.
<p>Wednesday 12/13/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ When notified of the lapel monitor detections, CHPRC management stopped demolition work (enter time in PST). A short time later a Hanford Atomic Metal Trades worker called a stop work.○ Whole body radiological surveys were performed on workers at the water suppression tent, while RCTs performed additional surveys to determine if there was any contamination. No contamination was detected.○ Surveys of the tent and water supply system did not detect any contamination.○ Surveys were performed along a southern fence line and detected contamination on a dumpster, water box, and a man lift.○ On swing shift, the RCTs continued surveys and discovered removable contamination at the northeast equipment area in a controlled radiological buffer area.○ Management expanded the contamination area to include areas where elevated lapel monitor readings had been recorded.○ Upon completion of surveys, one RCT discovered contamination on one of his boots. The boots were tagged as radioactive material. The RCT was given a whole body survey, which yielded no additional contamination detection.
<p>Thursday 12/14/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Additional surveys were performed in occupied trailers and on vehicles at PFP. All trailers and vehicles were cleared with no additional detections.○ Management extended the Contamination Area.○ Stop Work lifted by worker and management based on additional radiological controls
<p>Friday 12/15/17</p>

- Final demolition on walls of PFP's Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF) began at 9:30 a.m., with all established safety controls, and was completed at 4:00 p.m.
- No radiological monitoring systems indicated abnormal conditions outside the established control areas.
- Swing shift workers surveyed areas following demolition of PRF and found contamination at a stationary, passive monitoring point (known as a cookie sheet), located northeast and outside of established control areas.
- Additional surveys were performed in that area; they detected contamination at/on the following (workers then secured them):
 - Hood of one vehicle
 - Jersey barrier
 - Near mobile office trailers
 - On the stairs of an office trailer
 - Dumpster near an office trailer

Saturday 12/16/17

- Scheduled day off. No activities took place.

Sunday 12/17/17

- CHPRC project management was notified that the swing crew had discovered contamination on 12/15/17
- CHPRC initiated an occurrence report to notify DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) of levels detected on Friday swing shift.
- CHPRC called a stop work on demolition activities
- RCTs conducted surveys at posted office trailers and measured no contamination. They conducted large-area surveys to east, south and north of PFP, and of parking areas and PFP's mobile office village. No removable contamination was found outside posted contamination area.
- PRF debris was covered with soil for stabilization. A fixative known as soil cement was applied on top of the soil.
- Heavy winds were reported in the area throughout Sunday night and early Monday morning.

Monday 12/18/17

- A second layer of soil and soil cement were placed on the PRF debris.
- Two vehicles that had been parked near a trailer on Friday, 12-15, were discovered, surveyed, and found to have contamination on hoods.
 - Both were decontaminated and released from the area
- Additional surveys were performed around and between mobile trailers at PFP.
 - Several spots of non-removable contamination were found and marked as areas to affix and cover.
- The shift manager directed all PFP employees to stay in offices while surveys of the trailer village were performed.
- A spot of removable contamination was found outside of a trailer during surveys.
- RCTs went trailer-to-trailer, conducting surveys of workers and insides of trailers, and in a nearby parking lot. No contamination was found.
- They surveyed paths between trailers and parking areas.
- Personnel were released, and all personal vehicles leaving the site were surveyed.
- Surveys were resumed in trailer areas.
- Soil cement was applied to areas around trailers and toward PRF debris pile.
- Crews were directed to begin twice-per-day checking of all cookie sheets.

- Information on the situation was provided to employees and the media.

Tuesday 12/19/17

- Surveying of areas around PFP, entry and exit roads, main roads, and trailer areas
- PFP project employees were relocated temporarily to another mobile office.
- So far, 173 workers have requested a bioassay, which requires a fecal sample.
- As of Tuesday, five employees who drove their vehicles home had been offered surveys of their homes.
- Soil cement was again applied around trailers at PFP, up to the PRF debris pile, and to the third-story filter rooms of PFP's Main Processing Facility, which is also under demolition.

Wednesday 12/20/17

- Surveys continued in the vicinity of the PFP
- Two additional employees have requested home surveys, which are pending.