

T Plant in the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site.



At the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state, the U.S. Department of Energy and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company manage T Plant, the oldest nuclear facility in the nation that is still operating with a current mission.

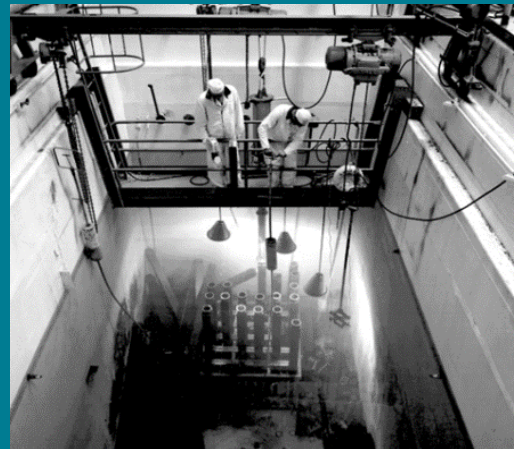
Background

When completed in 1944, T Plant was the world's first large-scale plutonium processing facility. A series of chemical processes at T Plant extracted plutonium from uranium fuel rods irradiated at Hanford's B Reactor. The plutonium processed at T Plant was used for the Trinity Test in New Mexico in July 1945 and to create the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945.

T Plant ceased plutonium processing operations in 1956 but later resumed service as a decontamination, repair and waste-handling facility. As a waste-handling facility, T Plant was used to treat waste, sample gases inside waste drums and repackage waste generated at the Hanford Site to ensure waste packages complied with state and federal regulations for transportation, storage and disposal.

Mission

Today, T Plant is providing safe and compliant interim storage for radioactive sludge from a fuel storage basin near the Columbia River at Hanford's K West Reactor. Removing that sludge from the basin and storing it approximately 12 miles away at T Plant significantly reduced risk to the nearby Columbia River. T Plant can be viewed using the self-guided [Hanford Virtual Tour](#).



T Plant also stored fuel removed from the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the world's first nuclear power plant, until it was moved to Hanford's Canister Storage Building in 2002.



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Crews performed extensive testing and training to prepare for receipt and storage of sludge containers.

