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QUARTERLY PUBLICATION COVERING HANFORD CLEANUP NEWS

HANFORD FORWARD

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SITE-WIDE

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CENTRAL PLATEAU

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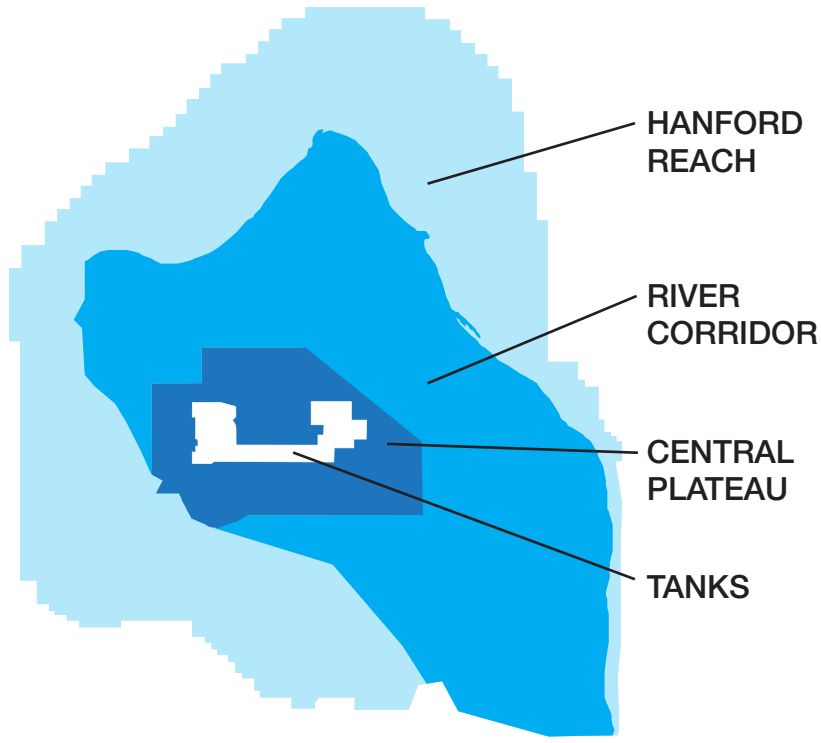
ABOUT HANFORD



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Richland Operations Office

The Richland Operations Office (RL) oversees cleanup along the Columbia River and in Hanford's Central Plateau, including groundwater and waste site cleanup, management of solid waste, spent nuclear fuel and sludge, facility cleanout, deactivation and demolition, environmental restoration, plutonium management, and all site support services.

CH2MHILL Plateau Remediation Company

CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) is the prime contractor for the safe, environmental cleanup of the Central Plateau at the Hanford Site. This task includes decommissioning and demolishing the Plutonium Finishing Plant that once stored secret stores of material for the nation's defense, cleaning up plumes of contaminated groundwater beneath the site, and removing highly radioactive "sludge" away from the Columbia River.

MSA – Mission Support Alliance

A joint venture between Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering and WSI, Mission Support Alliance (MSA) is responsible for safely and effectively managing and operating the infrastructure of the Hanford Site. MSA provides an array of services, including training, site security, roads and utilities, logistics and transportation, information resources, information technology and other services, enabling Hanford contractors to focus on their cleanup efforts.

WCH Washington Closure Hanford

Washington Closure Hanford manages the 220-square-mile River Corridor Closure Project for the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office at the Hanford Site. The project is the largest environmental cleanup closure project in the nation. Washington Closure, owned by URS, Bechtel and CH2M HILL, is responsible for demolishing 320 contaminated buildings, cleaning up an estimated 590 waste sites, placing two former plutonium production reactors and one nuclear facility in interim safe storage, and managing the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

United States Department of Energy | Office of River Protection

The Office of River Protection (ORP) is responsible for the retrieval, treatment and disposal of Hanford's 56 million gallons of radioactive tank waste, currently stored in 177 underground tanks in the central part of the site. In support of this mission, ORP manages the Tank Operations Contract and the Waste Treatment & Immobilization Plant Project.

Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc.

Advanced Technologies and Laboratories (ATL) International, Inc. is an award-winning technology, engineering, scientific, and project management services provider to the U.S. Department of Energy. ATL operates the 222-S nuclear laboratory that is fully compliant with the most stringent business, safety, health, quality, and technical requirements in the country. In 2008, ATL was awarded DOE's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star award for outstanding health and safety performance at the Hanford Site.

BECHTEL

Bechtel National Inc. (BNI) is the prime contractor and URS, Inc. is the major subcontractor, to design, construct, and commission the DOE Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) at the Hanford Site. This mammoth construction project is the largest of its kind in the world. When complete, WTP will be used to transform the 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical wastes being stored in underground tanks at Hanford into a stable glass form for permanent disposal.

washington river protection solutions

Maintaining the underground waste storage tanks at Hanford falls under the jurisdiction of Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS). This organization is responsible for storing and retrieving the approximately 56 million gallons of nuclear and chemical waste stored in these tanks at the Hanford Site. WRPS is owned by URS Corporation and Energy Solutions, with AREVA as the primary subcontractor.

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WCH is LIFTING the Vault

In Hanford's 300 Area, Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) workers are preparing to lift the 340 Vault. This 1,100-ton lift will be the largest lift along the River Corridor. After grouting support beams are applied and the shipping weight will be 1,538 tons. The vault is 41 feet long, 29 feet wide and 25 feet high. Preparations included demolition and removal of the last of the 340 Complex above-ground structures, excavation of the vault and haul road and removal of approximately 54,000 tons of soil that was shipped to Hanford's landfill, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).

The 340 Vault, located below grade, contained two 15,000-gallon stainless steel tanks used to retain highly contaminated waste from several laboratories, fuel fabrication facilities and test reactors. Work at WCH on the River Corridor creates challenges as conditions change and previously unknown hazards are discovered. Such was the case when workers were in the midst of preparing the 340 Vault for removal.

Workers were installing the final segment of four steel-walled pipes called "casings" (which are being used

for temporary support of the vault) in preparation for the lifting process, when higher than expected levels of contaminated soil were discovered. Utilizing lessons learned from when contamination was detected below the 324 Building B-Cell, radiation readings were immediately taken and work was safely stopped.

Seven soil samples were taken along both sides of the casings and sent to laboratories for analysis. WCH then used a hydraulic push unit to place close-end tubes underneath the vault, including four horizontal tubes and three angled tubes.

Radiation detectors were used inside the tubes to measure the extent and depth of the contamination, which was found to be relatively small in size and directly located under a sump in the vault's floor.

WCH submitted a revision of the *340 Vault Final Hazard Categorization* to DOE to restart the 340 Project. WCH has resumed excavation of the contamination underneath the vault using an auger and casing configuration and/or a remote excavator that was planned for soil removal in between the casings before the discovery of the contamination.

The 340 Vault is 40 feet long, 29 feet wide and 25 feet high. It has a lift weight of approximately 1,100 tons and a transport weight of 1,538 tons.

A worker surveys the Geoprobe™ tube for contamination after it was inserted using a hydraulic hammer unit.

Safety and Productivity *Go Mobile* at Hanford

From Mike Nelson's Hanford Site office, he can easily access all his computer applications and procedures needed for his job. However, as an MSA Safety Representative, his work often takes him out in the field. After receiving a tablet computer several months ago, Nelson is seeing his productivity increase dramatically. With the tablet, Nelson can access necessary safety information anywhere on the Hanford Site. "The most beneficial aspect of the tablet is the ability to facilitate communication," said Nelson.

MSA and the Richland Operations Office have led the mobility effort at Hanford to allow for more efficiency and productivity throughout the site. As the site encompasses 586 square miles, much of the work requires significant travel time from offices to worksites. Mobile computing increases worker productivity, allowing them to retrieve work orders, procedures, email, approval forms and other vital information while in the field. Removing the need to be physically in the office to access computer files lets employees get more done while in the field.

An important aspect of Nelson's job is accessing safety procedures, post-event reviews, and quarterly safety inspection checklists from the network or his personal computer drive. With the tablet, he has all his safety files in the palm of his hand, anywhere on the site. "Sometimes safety comes down to compliance, and it is very helpful to access procedures in the field so we can bring closure to safety issues as quickly as possible. I can access real-time information for making work decisions quickly, without needing to travel back to my office," said Nelson.

Tablet computing is changing the way Hanford employees think about how they approach their work. "I don't use my iPad because it's a cool thing or a 'gee-whiz' toy, I use it because it helps me do my job better and faster," says Jon Peschong, Deputy Assistant Manager for the River and Plateau for DOE's Richland Operations Office. "Mobility is an attitude. We have to embrace technology because it can do so much for us." Peschong warmly embraces technology as part of his work; he has a paperless office and takes his iPad wherever he goes, both at home and work.

Mike Nelson using his tablet computer to present a safety video.

Jon Peschong uses his tablet computer both in and out of the office.

As part of its leadership role for the Hanford Site Mobility Steering Committee, MSA's Information Management team is exploring several technology solutions including devices (e.g., smart-phones, iPads, Windows tablets), iOS and Windows operating systems, applications, network access and more.

We are finding that Hanford Site users have a variety of needs—no single solution fits all users. Some need email and easy-approval mechanisms from any location; others need cameras and ruggedness. However, **everyone needs secure access to his or her applications and data over the network.**

C-105 Dome Cut Paves Way For New Waste Retrieval Technology

For just the second time, crews have cut a hole in the top of an active radioactive waste storage tank at Hanford. Workers cut a 55-inch hole in the top of single-shell tank C-105 in June, allowing for installation of a first-of-its-kind retrieval technology known as the Mobile Arm Retrieval System (MARS) Vacuum.

The cut was made through 17 inches of concrete and rebar in less than two hours using a rotary core cutting system, which uses a laser-guided steel canister with teeth on the bottom to drill a circle into the tank dome.

The project was completed safely and successfully in a high-rad area without contamination or significant dose to workers.

“There was substantial effort by our federal and contractor teams to plan, prepare and cut the dome on this tank,” said Chris Kemp, DOE deputy federal project director for tank farm retrieval. “The resulting cut was safely completed in one shift with no incidents.”

Hanford workers prepare to cut a large hole in the top of underground waste Tank C-105.

The MARS Vacuum uses a limited amount of liquid to retrieve waste, making it a valuable tool in emptying Hanford’s aging, leak-prone tanks.

MAKING THE CUT

To gain access to the tank dome, crews had to excavate down seven feet to expose waste transfer lines, steam lines and the side walls of the central pump pit. These obstacles were removed to allow room for the coring tool to make the cut. As the cut was made and the concrete plug removed, crews installed a shield plate over the top of the hole to protect workers from radioactive “shine” from the tank.

This is only the second time a cut of this size has been made in an active radioactive waste storage tank. Washington River Protection Solutions, the tank operations contractor for the Department of Energy Office of River Protection, completed the first dome cut in December 2010 in order to install the sluicing version of MARS waste-retrieval equipment into Tank C-107.

MARS VACUUM

The MARS Vacuum is equipped with a waste vacuum system, rather than a sluicing system, to minimize the addition of liquid which in turn saves room in the receiving double-shell tank. The system uses recycled liquid waste in a closed loop to create a vacuum to suck up the waste. If it hits a hard layer of waste below the sludge in the tank, it will use a high-pressure water nozzle to break up the waste, with the water quickly vacuumed up.

During testing, the MARS Vacuum demonstrated it can remove sludge, rocks and sand, and the hard-packed waste found at the bottom of some tanks. The only drawback is that the more robust system will not fit down the 12-inch-diameter risers that provide the only access into many of the tanks, thus the need for the 55-inch hole.

Tank C-105 is a 530,000-gallon capacity tank that has been in operation since 1947. It currently holds about 132,000 gallons of waste.

The concrete “core” is removed from C-105 after workers cut a 55-inch hole in the tank dome.

Disposal Facility Reaches 15M Tons Disposed

The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF)—a massive landfill for low-level radioactive and hazardous waste at the Hanford site—has achieved a major cleanup disposal mark.

Since beginning operations in 1996, workers supporting the Richland Operations Office have disposed of 15 million tons of contaminated material in the facility, a volume of soil and debris that would fill Seattle's Safeco Field ballpark to its roof about four times over.

ERDF is operated by Washington Closure Hanford, as part of the River Corridor Closure Project, DOE's largest environmental cleanup closure project. The landfill accepts contaminated soil, demolition debris and solid waste from cleanup across the 586-square-mile Hanford site in southeast Washington state.

Matt McCormick, manager of Richland Operations Office, said disposing of 15 million tons of waste reflects the tremendous amount of cleanup accomplished over the past 24 years at Hanford.

"ERDF is a critical part of the Hanford cleanup mission. It provides a safe and compliant location to dispose of a variety of waste material, allowing us to accomplish our highest priority goal of preventing contaminants from reaching the Columbia River."

Matt McCormick, manager of
Richland Operations Office

LEFT PHOTO: The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility is a busy hub of activity, supporting cleanup, located in central Hanford. It recently reached a mark of 15 million tons of disposed material.

Matt McCormick, manager of the Richland Operations Office, commends a large group of Hanford workers for the 15-million-ton mark at a public event at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

Hanford was established by the U.S. government in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project. Its mission was to manufacture weapons-grade plutonium for America's defense program during World War II and throughout the Cold War.

ERDF, located in central Hanford, is the largest disposal facility in the DOE complex. It covers 107 acres at the base of the disposal trench—roughly the same area as 52 football fields—and has a capacity of 18 million tons. In addition to contaminated soil and building debris, ERDF accepts other hazardous materials such as mercury, asbestos, beryllium, chromium and lead that can be treated before disposal.

The majority of waste material disposed at ERDF—about 13.5 million tons—was generated in a section of Hanford called the River Corridor, a 220-square-mile stretch of land that runs along the Columbia River. The River Corridor was home to Hanford's nine plutonium production reactors, fuel development facilities and hundreds of support structures.

McCormick and Washington Closure president Carol Johnson praised a large group of Hanford workers.

"We have an exceptional workforce committed to safely and efficiently handling and disposing a variety of waste material. Everybody involved in the cleanup process, whether they are working to decontaminate and demolish buildings, dig up waste sites and burial grounds, or are involved in the disposal process, has contributed to this remarkable achievement."

Carol Johnson, Washington Closure president

Dennis Faulk, Hanford's Program Manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said, "Without ERDF, Hanford cleanup would look nothing like it does today."

ERDF is made up of disposal areas called cells, most of which were constructed two at a time. Each pair of cells is 70 feet deep, 500 feet wide and 1,000 feet long at the base — large enough to hold about three million tons of material. As each pair of cells reaches capacity, an interim cover is installed to prevent the infiltration of water. A permanent cap will be placed over the facility when Hanford cleanup is completed.

In February 2011, Washington Closure completed the fourth and largest expansion of the facility since it opened. The $100 million project, supported with funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, increased the facility's capacity by 50 percent. Recovery Act dollars also were used to construct three maintenance buildings and an operations center, and for new equipment to support disposal operations.

ERDF was designed to be expanded as needed. McCormick said the facility most likely will undergo its next expansion in 2018 and 2019.

CH2M HILL **EXCEEDS** Annual Goals for Groundwater **CLEANUP**

A view of the Columbia River that runs through the 586-square-mile Hanford Site. CH2M HILL is removing contamination and shrinking plumes to stop contamination from reaching the river using a combination of treatment systems, networks of wells, and barriers beneath the surface to stop contamination from reaching the river.

Deep below the surface of the Hanford Site, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company is cleaning up large areas of contamination ahead of schedule.

DOE's goal was to treat 1.4 billion gallons by the end of the fiscal year, which runs from October 2012 to September 2013. CH2M HILL met this key performance goal three months ahead of schedule in June and has removed more than 36 tons of contaminants so far this fiscal year. This goal was met ahead of schedule because the startup of a major new treatment facility has progressed more quickly than anticipated and the contractor has operated treatment facilities more efficiently.

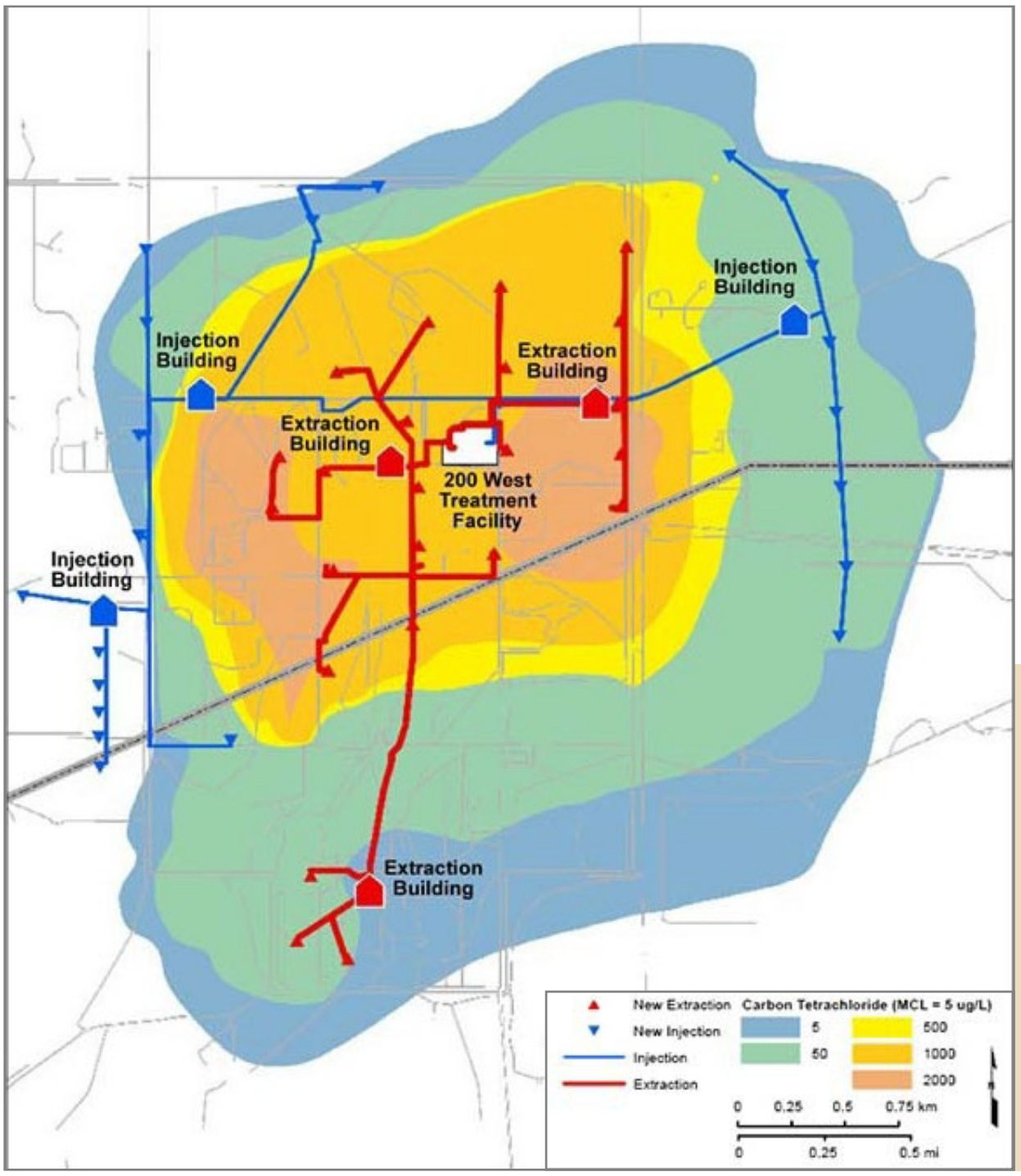
"In the last few years, DOE built three new groundwater treatment facilities, and now we are seeing the results," said Briant Charboneau, Federal Project Director, DOE Richland Operations Office. "We are reducing contaminant levels to concentrations that meet remediation goals for protecting human health and the environment, and several areas of contamination have been significantly reduced in size."

CH2M HILL also met and exceeded DOE fiscal year goals set for removing contamination, including:

- Removing 500 pounds of the contaminant hexavalent chromium from groundwater near the Columbia River
- Removing 3,500 pounds of the contaminant carbon tetrachloride from groundwater under the center of the site.

Since 2008, CH2M HILL has applied its global groundwater treatment expertise to Hanford's groundwater cleanup program and more doubled the amount of contamination being removed per year and nearly quadrupled the amount of groundwater being treated. Since cleanup began, Hanford contractors have treated approximately 8.3 billion gallons of groundwater and removed approximately 64 tons of contaminants, including nitrate, carbon tetrachloride, hexavalent chromium, uranium, and technetium-99.

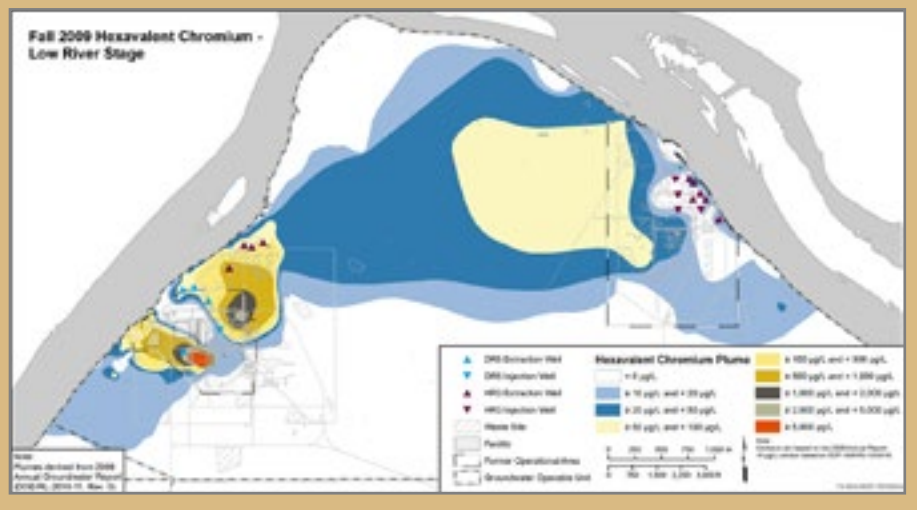
A worker prepares a sample of water removed from the soil along the river.

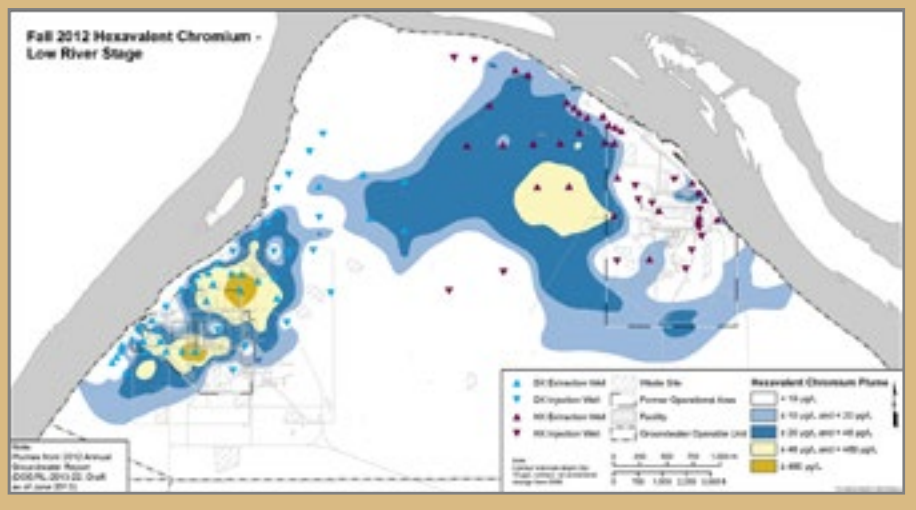


How did the contamination get there?

Contamination in Hanford's groundwater resulted from producing plutonium for the nation's defense beginning in the 1940s. Planned and unplanned releases of chemicals from the site's plutonium production facilities seeped into the soil and contaminated large areas beneath the surface, called plumes. Plumes across the site contain chemicals and radionuclides including carbon tetrachloride, hexavalent chromium, uranium, and technetium-99.

CENTRAL PLATEAU. The 200 West Pump and Treat System, well network and plume of contaminated groundwater beneath the center of the Hanford Site. This shows a plume of carbon tetrachloride, a solvent used in plutonium production processes. The plume covers a 4-square-mile area, equivalent in size to 1,900 football fields. Within this plume there are seven additional contaminants of concern, including radionuclides.





RIVER CORRIDOR (2009 AND 2012 PLUME MAPS)

Areas of groundwater contaminated with hexavalent chromium in 2009 (left) and 2012 (right) along the Columbia River (gray area on the map), after additional groundwater treatment facilities have been operating along the Columbia River. The contaminated areas, or plumes, are shown in color and have shrunk significantly since 2009 in concentration and area. The contaminant resulted from chemical used to limit corrosion in the reactor facilities.

CHPRC workers observe AMWTP workers putting on protective equipment.

AMWTP Roger Raymond, Industrial Hygiene Manager, demonstrates breathing equipment.

Hanford and Idaho Sites SHARE Lessons Learned on SAFETY

A team of CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company employees visited the DOE Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant (AMWTP) site in Idaho to observe equipment that may assist workers in entering highly contaminated areas of Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). PFP is one of the most complex and challenging nuclear decommissioning projects in the DOE complex.

"This is a positive example of how we partner with other DOE sites to share lessons learned and applied technologies to deliver cleanup as safely and efficiently as possible," said Jerry Massey, Special Projects Manager at PFP. "It is an important part of the DOE safety culture with employee involvement for us to find solutions to deliver our high-hazard mission to cleanup these legacy nuclear sites."

Earlier this year, AMWTP marked a **significant safety milestone** when its 620 employees worked more than 14 million hours without a lost-time injury and safely and compliantly shipped more than 50,000 cubic meters of transuranic (TRU) and mixed low-level radioactive waste to a permanent disposal facility.

AMWTP workers are using the MSA PremAire supplied-breathing air (SBA) system and a Level-B protective suit for entering highly radioactive and chemically contaminated areas, including areas with airborne contamination. The PFP team is considering use of the SBA and suit systems in particular for use in PFP's 242-Z Americium Recovery Facility and 236-Z Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF), where CH2M HILL is tasked with dispositioning highly contaminated pencil-shaped tanks.

CHPRC employees observe through remote video as AMWTP workers perform work wearing protective gear–supplied breathing air system and protective suites.

"Our workers are entering rooms where it takes a multi-person team to let just a few workers into the work area. This equipment has been used in similarly high-hazard areas to make that process easier while keeping our workers safe," Massey said.

The equipment can handle higher concentrations of airborne contamination and is equipped with cooling systems to reduce heat stress on workers as they work in multiple layers of protective equipment.

"It's awesome – they have a first class facility there. There are a couple of applications where we can use the suit at PFP. Having workers go and be involved was a good thing. By having workers go to Idaho, it showed CH2M HILL wants workers involved in safety," said Larry Monroe Jr., a Nuclear Chemical Operator at PFP.

The CH2M HILL crew shared with AMWTP tools and lessons learned from Hanford, including how workers modified a respiratory device for safer use without changing the form, fit, or function of the equipment – an accomplishment that received an award from the DOE Voluntary Protection Program.

The PFP crew returned to Hanford where they will continue to evaluate the equipment in partnership with DOE health and safety experts to determine its potential use at PFP.

University Students get EDUCATED about HANFORD

Few areas around the country evoke such strong intrigue as the Hanford Site. An integral part of the Manhattan Project, the U.S. government established the Hanford Site in 1943 to produce plutonium for one of the atomic bombs used in WWII.

With all of the nuclear activity during World War II and the Cold War cloaked in secrecy, it is no surprise that the now mostly decommissioned site still arouses questions and concerns from people regionally, nationally and internationally today.

Those who have not had the chance to visit the Hanford Site may still have questions about the site's safety, environmental aspects and cleanup. Fortunately, the Department of Energy (DOE) offers several tours for U.S. residents to visit Hanford facilities and gain a better understanding of the past and present mission. In 2012, more than 1,900 visitors toured the Hanford Site as part of the public tour program.

Along with public tours, DOE also offers a college program where students have the opportunity to witness real-world applications of the material they are learning in the classroom. Students tour projects and facilities, where they learn the methods, technologies, and science that are applied in Hanford cleanup.

In 2009, Oregon State University students were the first to request a tour of the site. Since then, students from over 10 universities across the Pacific Northwest have visited Hanford. Knowledgeable tour guides escort students throughout the tour providing a history of the site and information pertaining to Hanford's current cleanup mission and future cleanup activities. At the scheduled facility stops, experts provide in-depth briefings about the facilities and explain the efforts they are currently applying for cleanup and preservation.

The tour is rounded out with information on the history of the site and often a tour of the B Reactor National Historic Landmark.

Most recently, students with the Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry program at Western Washington University toured the Cold Test Facility, Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, Plutonium Finishing Plant, the Groundwater Pump and Treat project and the B Reactor National Historic Landmark.

University Students Get Educated about Hanford

John Britton, a senior communications specialist with WRPS, briefs a group of Western Washington University students on work performed at the Cold Test Facility.

"Our class of toxicology and environmental journalism students has been working this quarter modeling and documenting contaminated site cleanups," said Rebekah Green, an instructor with Western Washington University. "What better place to bring these students than Hanford, where they can see an ongoing cleanup processes steeped in a complex social and technical context?"

The DOE, its contractors and workforce are passionate about cleanup efforts. As the site progresses toward completing its cleanup mission, efforts for educating the public also remains a high priority.

Secretary Moniz Meets with Employees and Community and Tribal Leaders during Hanford Visit and Site Tour

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz tours the 200 West Pump and Treat System, which treats chemical and radionuclide contamination in Hanford's groundwater. Pictured, left to right, are Special Assistant to the Secretary Mark Appleton, Bob Popielarczyk of CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, Special Assistant to the Secretary T.J. Augustine, Secretary Ernest Moniz, EM Senior Advisor Dave Huizenga and DOE Richland Operations Office Deputy Manager Doug Shoop.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz recently visited the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. While there, Moniz met with site employees, and tribal and community leaders. He also received updates during tours of the Plutonium Finishing Plant, 200 West Pump and Treat System, tank farms, and the Waste Treatment Plant. Moniz last toured the site when he served as Under Secretary of Energy in the late 1990s.

"The Tri-City communities adjacent to Hanford have grown and flourished since my 1998 visit to the site and Hanford-generated expertise is attracting robust economic activity across the region."

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz

Local civic and elected leaders, and tribal communities around Hanford play a critical role in the success of DOE's cleanup efforts and have helped drive many of the positive economic developments in the area. Secretary Moniz had the opportunity to meet with some of the Hanford community leaders to get their feedback on DOE's approach to cleanup and better understand their priorities for the site and the community.

Secretary Moniz met with leaders from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Wanapum people. These groups have strong cultural ties to the area, and several of them have treaty rights at the site. DOE consults with tribes at Hanford under the DOE American Indian and Alaskan Native Government Policy because these tribes attach religious and cultural importance to the area.

Between 2010 and 2011, the Tri-Cities metro area was the fastest growing area in the United States – fueled primarily by the $1.9 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act investments at Hanford – and the Tri-Cities is ranked the top metro area nationally for job growth by *Forbes* magazine.

DOE Secretary Moniz greets Vice Chairman Leo Stewart of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation as other tribal leaders look on.

DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz greets David Reeploeg of Washington Senator Maria Cantwell's office.

Hanford Site VPP Team Receives National VPPPA Outreach Award

The Hanford Site Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Champions group received a National VPP Outreach Award from the National Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association (VPPPA) that is comprised of nationwide companies. Committee representatives accepted the award on behalf of the group on August 26 at the National VPPPA Conference in Nashville, Tenn., an event attended by OSHA, DOE, senior company representatives, and congressional representatives.

The VPP recognizes organizations in both the private and federal sectors who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and who maintain injury and illness rates better than national Bureau of Labor Statistics averages for their industry. In VPP, management and labor work cooperatively and proactively to prevent fatalities, injuries, and illnesses through a system focused on hazard prevention and control, worksite analysis, training, management commitment and worker involvement. VPP demonstrates the spirit of employee involvement in protecting the public, the workers, and the environment.

VPPPA chose the Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee as the best in the nation for outreach, acknowledging their exemplary leadership in using resources across company lines to mentor Hanford Site workers and promote the elements of safety, health and environmental compliance.

The Hanford Site VPP committee is a unique mix of contractors and regulators who work together to mentor and facilitate excellence in the safety and health arena and represent over 8,400 employees across the Hanford Site. The committee provides support to ensure a safe work environment for site employees.

Committee participation and involvement provides the vehicle for information exchange and for the development and enhancement of VPP activities. The committee serves as a means of bringing contractor companies together and encourages a free exchange of information and ideas for improvement. While attention to safety and health has been well established within the individual companies at Hanford, the site-wide committee model offers a setting where companies can work together with regulators to improve the overall safety and health of the Hanford Site, the DOE complex and the nation.

"I am proud to be a part of a group that fosters teamwork and willingly shares information across company lines. This is the true spirit and meaning of VPP."

Stacy Thursby, Environmental Safety & Health Senior Advisor with URS Professional Solutions/Washington Closure Hanford

Front Row Left to Right: Melissa Soto, Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc.; Barbra Williams, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC); Stacy Thursby, URS/Washington Closure Hanford (WCH); Jack Griffith, CHPRC

Back Row Left to Right: Jill Molnaa, CHPRC; Don King, WCH; Ronnie Feil, CHPRC; Nancy Isern, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Jeff Peterson, Washington River Protection Solutions LLC ; Scott Angerman, Mission Support Alliance (MSA); John Jeskey, MSA; Lanette Adams, MSA; Rocky Simmons, MSA; RJ Debevec, MSA