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DOE News Release

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Department of Energy Releases Hanford Documentary Online
New Employee Directed Documentary

RICHLAND, Wash. – The U.S. Department of Energy’s Richland Operations Office is releasing a documentary about the Hanford Site: “The Area: A Journey through the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.” The documentary is available at www.youtube.com/hanfordsite.

The video is produced from the perspective of a new Department of Energy (DOE) employee, Cameron Salony. In the documentary, Salony explores the history and issues of Hanford by interviewing local tribal members, a representative of the Hanford Advisory Board, former and current workers, Hanford management and representatives of regulatory agencies. The video includes a tour of the B Reactor, a National Historic Landmark, as well as footage of environmental cleanup activities.

“This is history that took place in our back yard. Workers used cutting-edge technology to build the site in the ‘40s, and now we’re using today’s technology to take it down,” said Salony, who also directed the video. “It’s a story that needs to be told, and I’m just happy that I get to be a part of it.”

Salony produced the film in 2010. To date, the documentary has been shown to audiences in the Tri-Cities, Wash.; Portland, Ore.; and Logan, Utah. Today’s release marks the first time the documentary has been posted on the Internet for public viewing.

Documentary Summary

A recent graduate from Utah State University (Cameron Salony) accepts a job with the Department of Energy at Hanford. He soon finds that his new workplace is a former site of plutonium production during World War II and the Cold War, but today is part of the world’s largest environmental cleanup. However, he soon realizes the history runs even deeper at Hanford, as he meets with members of local tribes whose ancestors inhabited the region thousands of years before settlers began moving into the area in the 1860s. Eventually the government would take the land from both the Native Americans and the settlers for war purposes in the 1940s. Today, some of the best-educated scientists and engineers in the country are working together to clean up what remains after 45 years of plutonium production in an effort to restore the land. Join Cameron as he explores the history and issues of Hanford and interviews local tribal members, a citizen’s advisory board member, former and current workers, Hanford management, regulators and more.

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