



# DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HANFORD

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## **DOE Celebrates Grand Opening of Hanford Workforce Engagement Center**

RICHLAND, Wash. – Senior Department of Energy (DOE) officials and members of Washington State’s Congressional delegation joined local community leaders and workers from the Hanford site today in cutting the ceremonial ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center (HWEC).

HWEC staff provide assistance to current and former Hanford workers and their families who have questions or concerns about occupational health and compensation programs. The center is a first-of-its kind across the DOE complex.

“I want to thank the DOE and contractor management here at Hanford, the site workforce and the labor unions here for their unique partnership that made this center a reality,” Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management Anne White said. “I hope today marks a new era of collaboration that results in these programs working more effectively and efficiently for the benefit of Hanford workers, past and present.”

DOE contractor Mission Support Alliance led the efforts to set up the center, collaborating with DOE, other Hanford contractors and two unions – the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and the Central Washington Building and Construction Trades Council.

“I know the critical contributions the workers here at Hanford have always made to the nation. The key to their success---and the success of the entire EM program---is safety,” White said. “The safety of the workers at DOE sites is paramount for me and the entire Department.”

Additional speakers at the ribbon cutting included Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.); a representative of Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.); Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) DOE Richland Operations Office Manager Doug Shoop, DOE Office of River Protection Manager Brian Vance, Central Washington Building Trades Council President Mike Bossé, and Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council President Jeff McDaniel.

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*The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the federal government’s cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. Except for a tank waste mission managed by the DOE Office of River Protection, the DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on cleaning out and demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future. The office oversees Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,000 personnel. Visit [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov).*



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