THE HANFORD SITE

**For Immediate Release:**
December 4, 2023

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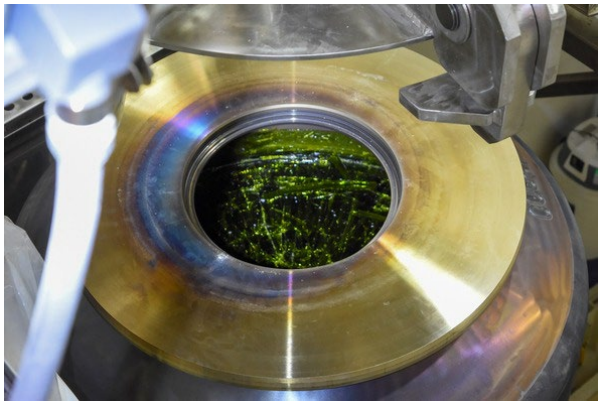
# First Test Glass Poured at Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant

**RICHLAND, Wash. –** Today, the U.S. Department of Energy is announcing the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant has produced the first container of clean glass as workers commission the first of two large melters in the plant's Low-Activity Waste Facility.

"With the first container of clean glass produced, we are entering the next era of risk reduction in the Hanford environmental cleanup mission as we work towards the start of tank waste immobilization," said Hanford Site Manager Brian Vance. "This achievement represents a significant step towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. We are excited about the positive impact this project will have on our community and the environment, and we remain committed to our mission."



*The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant reached another historic milestone as teams successfully poured, filled, and transferred the first container of clean glass in the plant's Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility. The first molten pool of glass was created during the commissioning process by heating up batches of glass beads, called frit, into the first of two state-of-the-art melters. The melters will transform Hanford's low-activity radioactive and chemical tank waste into a vitrified glass form safe for disposal.*

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Earlier this year, the Department and its contractor, Bechtel National, Inc., finished heating up the first of two melters in the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Low-Activity Waste Facility. The melters will transform Hanford radioactive and chemical tank waste into a vitrified glass form safe for disposal.

"We are honored to celebrate this milestone. It stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication and the hard work of our incredible partners and team," said Brian Hartman, Bechtel Senior Vice President and Project Director of the Hanford Vit Plant.

In August, the Department and Bechtel started making glass after workers poured the first batches of glass beads, called frit, into the melter. By early September, the first molten pool of glass was created in a commissioning process that led to filling the first container with clean glass recently at

the plant. This is a major step toward future immobilization of low-activity tank waste from Hanford's underground tanks in a glass form for disposal.

"Turning tank waste into robust and stable glass for final disposal is paramount to the protection of the Columbia River and the Pacific Northwest. Today we celebrate Energy completing the first test glass made by a state-of-the-art melter – the largest of its kind in the world," said Suzanne Dahl, Tank Waste Treatment section manager with the Washington Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program. "We look forward to completion of additional testing, and finally to vitrification of actual tank waste. Thanks to Energy and its contractors for our productive partnership involving the permitting and construction of this crucial facility."

Lessons learned from the first melter heat-up have been integrated into plans to heat up the second melter in the near future.

The frit for this project is provided by Richland-based Fluid Controls and Components Inc.

Information on the Vit Plant commissioning process is available on the Journey to Melter Heatup website. The plant facilities can be viewed using the self-guided Hanford Virtual Tour. Additional information regarding the Hanford Site is available at www.Hanford.gov.

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*The Department of Energy (DOE) is engaged in one of the great public works of this century at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington. Responsible for the federal government's cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of producing plutonium through the 1980s, DOE is transforming the site back into a 24/7 operations mode to treat tank waste from the production era. The DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) is responsible for the safe and efficient retrieval, treatment and disposal of the 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste stored in Hanford's 177 underground tanks. The mission includes building and commissioning the world's largest radioactive waste treatment plant, which will immobilize the legacy tank waste through vitrification. The DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on stabilizing and demolishing former plutonium production structures, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future, with an emphasis on supporting the tank waste mission. Hanford Site work is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 10,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov for more information about the Hanford Site.*

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