

THE HANFORD SITE

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Hanford Stabilizes Last Reactor Fuel Storage Basin

RICHLAND, Wash. – Workers at the [Hanford Site](#) recently finished filling the last large concrete basin at the K Reactor Area with cement-like grout. The basin stored reactor fuel rods from the plutonium production mission.

Crews with U.S. Department of Energy [Office of Environmental Management](#) (EM) contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo) placed about 6,500 cubic yards of the grout in the [K West Reactor](#) Basin. That's enough to fill two Olympic-size swimming pools.

Crews started placing grout after [pumping out](#) contaminated water from the 1.2-million-gallon basin in July. The grout surrounds contaminated debris left in the basin and stabilizes it for future demolition.

“Our Hanford team continues to safely and efficiently complete projects that reduce risks to groundwater and the Columbia River as the cleanup mission progresses,” said Andy Wiborg, EM’s acting deputy assistant manager for River and Plateau cleanup.

The basin measures 125 feet by 67 feet. It contained 16 feet of water to provide radiation shielding for workers.

Crews filled the basin in three layers. The first foot covered contaminated debris on the floor. The second layer is 14 feet of controlled density fill, which is less dense than concrete. Workers placed a 9-inch layer of grout on top to complete the work.

Drivers delivered about 750 truckloads of grout during the project. To shorten the time it took to go back and forth between deliveries, CPCCo built a grout plant nearby to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

“Finishing grouting of the basin is a critical step in our mission to clean up the K Reactor Area,” said CPCCo Project Manager Mike Kruzic. “I’m proud of our team’s focus and commitment to safety throughout this complex project.”

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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 13,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov for more information about the Hanford Site.



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