

# THE HANFORD SITE

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**Media Contacts:**  
Jenna Kochenauer, WRPS, 509-372-2325, [jennifer\\_l\\_kochenauer@rl.gov](mailto:jennifer_l_kochenauer@rl.gov)

## Hanford Tank Farms Now Connected to Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant



Crews with U.S. Department of Energy tank operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions and subcontractor Apollo, Inc. fit the final sections of double-walled pipe in place, connecting the Hanford Site tank farms to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

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**RICHLAND, Wash.** – Two major facilities critical to the tank waste treatment mission at the [Hanford Site](#) are now connected.

A video featuring the transfer line connection can be viewed [here](#).

U.S. Department of Energy tank operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions has finished construction of the pipeline that will carry treated waste from a Hanford tank to the [Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant](#) (WTP) for [vitrification](#), or immobilization in glass.

“This is a significant step forward in our [Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste](#) Program to treat tank waste,” said Brian Vance, manager of the [Office of River Protection](#) and [Richland Operations Office](#). “The connection represents another example of this year’s progress and also demonstrates the strong commitment by the Department of Energy and our contractors to safely move our important site mission forward.”



*Hanford Site leadership take part in a celebratory filling-in of a trench containing a 3,500-foot piping system that connects a tank farm to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP). From left, Tom Fletcher, WTP operations, Office of River Protection (ORP); Val McCain, Vitrification Plant project director, Bechtel National Inc.; Brian Vance, manager, ORP and Richland Operations Office; David Bowen, Nuclear Waste Program manager, Washington State Department of Ecology; John Eschenberg, president and CEO, Washington River Protection Solutions; and Delmar Noyes, Tank Farms Projects, ORP.*



*With the final sections of double-walled pipe in place, a Hanford Site tank farm is now connected to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP). U.S. Department of Energy tank operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions has finished construction of the pipeline that will carry treated waste from a tank to WTP for vitrification.*

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The new 3,500-foot pipe-in-pipe transfer line connects the plant to a double-shell tank in AP Tank Farm that will serve as a holding tank for liquid waste that has been treated by the [Tank-Side Cesium Removal](#) System to remove radioactive cesium and solids. Workers installed the cesium removal system next to the AP Tank Farm earlier this year and are conducting readiness reviews prior to starting to treat tank waste early next year.

“For the first time, tank farms are connected to the Vit Plant, providing the avenue for transferring treated tank waste to the plant for vitrification,” said John Eschenberg, WRPS president and CEO. “It’s exciting to be a part of putting the infrastructure in place to facilitate this critical mission.”

During hot commissioning and operations at the plant, the treated waste will be pumped in batches from the double-shell tank directly to the plant’s [Low-Activity Waste Facility](#) for vitrification and disposal.

“It’s exciting to see the physical connection from the [tank farms](#) to the Vit Plant,” said Valerie McCain, WTP project director and senior vice president for Bechtel National Inc., the contractor designing, building, and commissioning the plant. “This final tie-in symbolizes the collaborative spirit at Hanford and how we are all committed to treating waste.”

Bechtel expects to heat up the first of two vitrification melters in the Low-Activity Waste Facility by the end of this calendar year as part of the plant commissioning process. Hanford is preparing to start vitrifying tank waste by the end of calendar year 2023.

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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 11,000 personnel. Visit [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov) for more information about the Hanford Site.*



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