



U.S. DEPARTMENT  
*of* **ENERGY** | Office of Environmental  
Management

*Hanford Site*

**For Immediate Release:**

February 20, 2026

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**Hanford Topples Manhattan Project Era Exhaust Stack, Accelerating Remediation and Restoration**

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Hanford Site and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo) are advancing the Hanford mission with safe and successful demolition of the 175-foot-tall K West Reactor exhaust stack. This achievement represents another step towards cocooning the last of nine Hanford reactors to be placed in safe, long-term storage. The high-visibility demolition reflects prioritization of sequenced work that delivers tangible risk reduction and demonstrates responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

“This project demonstrates how we are using careful planning and expert technology to expedite legacy cleanup actions,” said Hanford Site Manager Ray Geimer. “Safely removing this structure is an important step in clearing the area around the K reactor for the next phase of demolition where heavy equipment will access and demolish the old K West fuel storage basin that is connected to the K West reactor building. In doing so, we are clearing the path for the final stages of decommissioning the K West Reactor, which supports an overarching strategy to expedite decommissioning, reduce long-term surveillance and maintenance requirements, and eliminate threats to the environment.”

“Our team is focused on execution and mission completion,” said CPCCo President Bob Wilkinson. “Successfully bringing down this structure allows us to accelerate the timeline for cocooning K West, demonstrating our commitment to being responsible stewards of the land and continuing our drive to reduce sitewide risk.”

With the stack removed, crews can finalize the enclosure of the reactor core, effectively “shrinking” the area requiring active oversight along the Columbia River. By removing these aging structures, Hanford continues to transition from its Manhattan Project and Cold War legacy toward a safe and prosperous future.

Watch a video of the demolition [here](#).

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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 Hanford Field Office 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 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 Hanford Field Office is also 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](http://www.hanford.gov) for more information about the Hanford Site*

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