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**Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Hanford
Expands 2016 Tour Season**

RICHLAND, Wash. – In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will open registration for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park’s 2016 public tour season at the Hanford, Wash., sites on Monday, April 4, at 8:00 a.m. PDT.

Hanford is one of the three primary Manhattan Project locations created during World War II for the top-secret mission to beat the Germans in the race to develop a nuclear weapon. More than 50,000 people came to Hanford to design, engineer, construct and operate a massive industrial complex to produce plutonium in nuclear reactors for the nation’s defense. The Park, which also has sites at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Los Alamos, N.M., preserves and interprets the complex story of the Manhattan Project and the dawn of the atomic age. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park was authorized December 19, 2014 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act and was established November 10, 2015. You can learn more about the park at <http://www.nps.gov/mapr>.

There will be two tour programs that provide access to the park sites at Hanford in 2016. Both are free and open to visitors of all ages and nationalities. Cameras, cell phones, and other recording devices are welcome on the tours. Additional capacity has been added for 2016, with tours running from Monday through Saturday from April 18 through November 19. A total of about 14,000 seats will be available during the season.

One tour will focus on Hanford’s B Reactor National Historic Landmark and offers visitors the chance to stand face to face with the world’s first full scale nuclear production reactor. Built in just 11 months, the B Reactor started operations in September 1944 and produced the plutonium used in the Trinity Test in July 1945 and the “Fat Man” atomic weapon dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, to help bring an end to the war in the Pacific, with Japan surrendering on August 14, 1945. The tour, which lasts about four hours, includes transportation to and from the B Reactor and a walking tour of the facility.

B Reactor Tour Dates for 2016:

- April 18-23, and 25-30
- May 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-26 and 31
- June 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-25, and 27-30

- July 6-9, 11-16, 18-23, and 25-30
- August 1-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22-27, and 29-31
- September 6-10, 12-17, 19-24, and 26-30
- October 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, 24-29, and 31
- November 1-5, 7-12, and 14-19

Registration for this tour will open at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 4. Visitors will be able to reserve up to six seats per registration. To register for a tour and learn more about requirements and safety considerations, please visit the tour website, at <http://manhattanprojectbreactor.hanford.gov/>. You may also register or inquire about tours for schools or large groups by calling the tour office, at (509) 376-1647.

The second tour explores the history of the mid-Columbia Basin area of Eastern Washington prior to the eviction of homeowners and tribes in 1943 and furthers visitors' understanding of the development of successful agricultural operations along the Hanford Reach. The tour lasts about four hours and includes bus transportation, interpretation and a short walking tour at the following Manhattan Project National Historical Park resources:

- Bruggemann Warehouse, the last remaining building from an irrigated farm, orchard, and fruit packing/shipping facility operated from about 1900 through 1943.
- Hanford High School, which was built in 1916 and served two generations of Hanford students. The school was one of the most significant public buildings in the Hanford/White Bluffs area and was also used for administrative and storage purposes during the Manhattan Project.
- The First Bank of White Bluffs, which is the last remaining building in the historic pre-war Town of White Bluffs, Washington. Constructed around 1907-1909, it served as the only financial institution for the pre-War towns of White Bluffs and Hanford.
- A view of the 1908 Hanford Irrigation District (Allard) Pump House and its adjacent irrigation canal headwall, which fundamentally changed the landscape and created opportunity for new producers and support industries in the towns of Hanford and White Bluffs

Pre-War Historic Sites Tours for 2016:

- April 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30
- May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 26
- June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, and 30
- July 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30
- August 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27
- September 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30
- October 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29
- November 2, 3, 4, and 5

Registration for this tour will open at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 4. Visitors will be able to reserve up to six seats per registration. To register for a tour, and learn more about requirements and safety considerations, please visit the tour website, at <http://tours.hanford.gov/historicTours/>. You may also register or inquire about tours for large groups by calling the tour office, at (509) 376-1647.

In November 2015 the National Park Service convened a forum of scholars and experts from across the country and from the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that represent a wide range of expertise on the

Manhattan Project story, including scientific, historical, political, social, environmental, and ethical perspectives. That report is available here https://www.nps.gov/mapr/upload/MAPR_Scholars_Forum_Report-2-2.pdf. Both tours have begun to incorporate the themes identified in the forum, and tour docents at Hanford have received interpretive training from National Park Service staff that will continue to improve the visitor's experience.