



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION CONFIRMS A DECREASE OF LIQUID LEVEL IN HANFORD SINGLE-SHELL TANK

RICHLAND – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) and its Tank Farms operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) have determined that liquid levels in Hanford single-shell tank (SST) T-111 are decreasing. The specific cause of the liquid level decrease in Tank T-111 has not been determined.

Monitoring wells in the T Tank Farm, where Tank T-111 is located, have not identified significant changes in concentrations of chemicals or radionuclides in the soil. DOE is continuing to monitor its network of monitoring wells in the area of T Tank Farm and is evaluating possible next steps.

This tank was classified as an assumed leaker in 1979. In February 1995, interim stabilization was completed for this tank. In order to achieve interim stabilization, the pumpable liquids were removed in accordance with agreements with the State of Washington.

Data indicates the current rate of loss of liquids from the tank could be in the range of 150 to 300 gallons over the course of a year.

Tank T-111 is a 530,000-gallon capacity underground storage tank built between 1943-44, and put into service in 1945. T-111 currently contains approximately 447,000 gallons of sludge, a mixture of solids and liquids with a mud-like consistency. There are a total of 177 tanks at the Hanford site.

The cleanup of radioactive and chemical tank waste at Hanford and protection of the environment, public and workers remains a top priority for the Department and its Environmental Management mission. The Department will continue to work closely with the State of Washington, Congress and other key stakeholders to address this situation and continue progress on this important mission at Hanford.

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