

THE HANFORD SITE

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Media Contacts:
Geoff Tyree, DOE, (509) 376-4171, geoffrey.tyree@rl.doe.gov

Self-guided Virtual Tours Give Public a New View of Hanford Cleanup

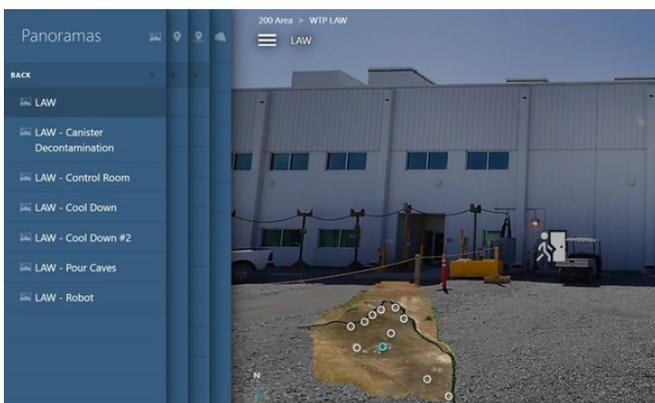
RICHLAND, Wash. – The U.S. Department of Energy, along with Hanford Site cleanup contractors, are unveiling a new public virtual tour platform of the 580-square mile site.

In the past, Hanford offered limited in-person public tours in the spring and summer months as a way to engage the public in the Hanford cleanup mission. Since public tours are currently on hold, Hanford Site leadership came up with the idea of a virtual tour with the intent of keeping the public involved in cleanup progress while upholding COVID-19 protocols.

Hanford's virtual tour website is designed to be self-guided and will be accessible to the public beginning January 14, 2021 from the top banner of the www.hanford.gov webpage. While on the tour, participants can "visit" up to 20 Hanford locations with 360-degree camera views, accompanied with descriptions to provide context of the various projects. The virtual tour requires the use of the Chrome web browser.

"Hanford cleanup is one of the great public works of our time. We are excited to have the tools to expand public awareness and appreciation of our important work with the virtual tour," said Brian Vance, manager of the DOE's Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection. "Some of the locations featured on the virtual tour would not have otherwise been accessible to visitors due to the nature of our work," he said. "By utilizing technology, the virtual tour provides a superior experience and promotes public engagement."

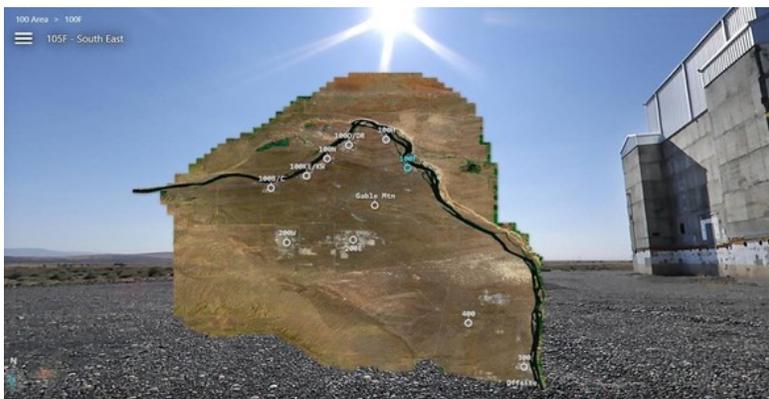
Some of the tour stops include Hanford's 324 Building, 200 West Groundwater Treatment Project, and various structures associated with Hanford's Direct Feed Low Activity Waste program including the Waste Treatment Plant and tank farms.



The new virtual tours webpage for the Hanford Site gives viewers panoramic images of multiple locations that play a part in cleanup efforts. This picture shows the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's Low Activity Waste Facility and has additional viewing options in the navigation panel.



People who visit the new Hanford Site virtual tours webpage can get 360-degree views of locations like the 200 West Pump and Treat facility. The virtual tourist can click on Information and Media icons to get additional details about the project.



A map of the 580-square mile Hanford Site shows virtual tourists the geography of past site operations and the current cleanup mission.

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 for more information about the Hanford Site.



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