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THE HANFORD SITE

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Subcontractor Selected to Support Safe Storage of Seventh Hanford Reactor Building

RICHLAND, Wash. – U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo) has awarded two construction subcontracts worth about \$9.5 million to Richland-based DGR Grant Construction Inc. to progress critical risk-reduction work along the Columbia River at the [Hanford Site](#).

DGR Grant is tasked with constructing a safe-storage enclosure over the [K East Reactor](#) to place the reactor into interim safe storage, including preparing the foundation and installing supporting infrastructure. The enclosure will protect the reactor building while the radioactivity in the reactor core decays over the next several decades, making it easier and safer to complete disposition of the reactor in the future.

“Awarding this contract is a major step toward the completion of work in Hanford’s K Reactor Area,” said Bob Krebs, CPCCo project manager for the safe-storage enclosure. “We look forward to working with the Department of Energy and our cleanup partners to safely execute this critical risk-reduction project.”

Groundbreaking on the foundation for the storage enclosure is scheduled to begin in September. Construction of the steel structure is slated for early 2022 with completion expected in 2023.

“Work on placing the K East Reactor in interim safe storage progresses our mission to protect the public and the Columbia River,” said Mark French, RL project and facilities division director.

The [K East Reactor](#) operated from 1955 to 1971 and will be the seventh of Hanford’s nine former reactors to be placed in interim safe storage. The K West Reactor will be the eighth. The ninth, the [B Reactor](#), has been preserved as the world’s first full-scale nuclear reactor and is part of the National Park Service’s [Manhattan Project National Historical Park](#).

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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 for more information about the Hanford Site.



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