



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HANFORD

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Richland Operations
Office



Washington State University to manage Hanford's Manhattan Project and Cold War-era artifacts and archives

New subcontract emphasizes care, access, and research

RICHLAND, Wash. – The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office (RL), through site contractor Mission Support Alliance (MSA), has begun a new partnership with Washington State University Tri-Cities (WSU-TC) that will provide compliant, expert care of the Hanford Site's Manhattan Project and Cold War Collection of artifacts and archive materials. Through a subcontract with MSA, WSU-TC will provide professional curatorial and archivist services, as well as a repository for the collection that will meet federal storage requirements in a community-based facility.

“This collection contains Hanford’s most significant and unique objects from the Manhattan Project and Cold War era,” said Colleen French, National Park Program Manager for DOE-RL, who is responsible for the collection. “Hanford’s collaboration with WSU-TC will ensure expert care of the collection and make it available to the community, students, researchers, and the visiting public. As we look ahead to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, WSU-TC will be an educational partner with unique capabilities and expertise. With this collection, they will develop a fundamental understanding about Hanford history that will be a real asset as interpretive and educational programs are developed for students of all ages.”

WSU’s subcontract with MSA runs through September 30, 2015 and includes four one-year option periods. WSU-TC will provide professional curatorial services to inventory and track the collection, clean and stabilize objects, and make portions of the collection available for public display and loans to other qualified museums; provide professional archivist services to identify and interpret historic items for researchers, institutions, and the public; and provide a repository for the collection that complies with federal requirements for temperature, humidity control, security, fire protection, lighting, etc. WSU-TC will use its expert knowledge of the artifacts and archives collection to help tell Hanford’s story through display, interpretation, and educational programs.

WSU-TC will incorporate information about the historic collection into its undergraduate and graduate student offerings and leverage its academic programs to allow students to do research on and interpretation of the collection, thus providing additional information and context to the public and for Manhattan Project National Historical Park programs.

“We are honored to take on this responsibility, and have lots of ideas for how to use the collection to expand the public’s understanding of one of the most transformative periods in human history,” said Michael Mays, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Washington State University Tri Cities. “This sets the stage for the history of the Hanford Site to become a signature program for WSU-TC and yet another draw for visitors to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.”

“We are pleased to be working with a partner of this caliber, and to be able to move the Hanford Collection out of storage and into the public domain. The real value of the collection lies in its interpretive and educational potential; areas in which the University holds specific expertise,” said Bill Johnson, president of MSA.

Over the last several years, DOE and MSA have been picking up the artifacts tagged for preservation during environmental cleanup in Hanford facilities. That work is now complete with the exception of a handful of items still in the Plutonium Finishing Plant, where pickups will be timed with the demolition of the facility, and several large buildings in the Central Plateau, where cleanup has not yet begun.

The Manhattan Project and Cold War Collection has more than 1,600 objects, including hand painted signs, office furniture from the Manhattan Project, first-of-their-kind equipment developed for Hanford’s plutonium production work, control room panels, and personal objects from the 1943-1945 Hanford Construction Camp such as Coke bottles, whiskey bottles, and ceramic decorations/toys. The collection also contains more than 3,000 historic photographs from the Manhattan Project and Cold War years at the Hanford Site.

The Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) manages the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington. Along with the DOE Office of River Protection (ORP), DOE-RL is responsible for the federal government's cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at Hanford for the nation's defense. Except for the tank waste mission managed by ORP, DOE-RL is responsible for cleanup of all remaining Hanford waste streams and is currently focused on cleaning out and demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and solid waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future. The office oversees Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,300 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov.

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Lockheed Martin](#), [Jacobs Engineering](#) and Centerra Group, has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward. <http://msa.hanford.gov/msa>



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