

# HANFORD COMMUNITIES

## April 19, 2024 Hanford News & Updates

### Top Stories

#### **WA, feds to release Hanford radioactive waste plan after 4 years of closed-door talks**

By Annette Cary April 17, 2024

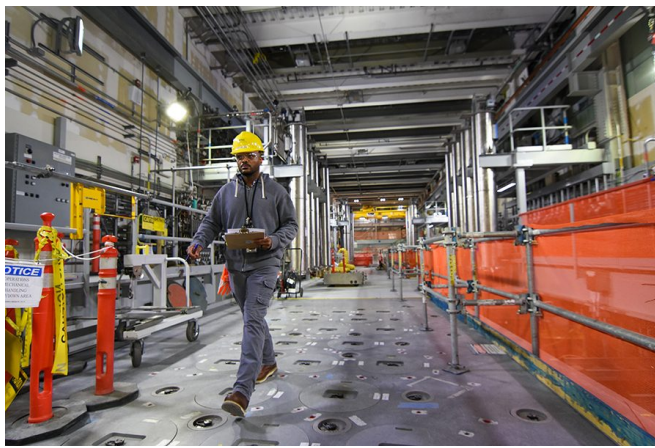
Nearly four years after Washington and federal officials began renegotiating plans and treatment deadlines for 56 million gallons of radioactive waste at the Hanford nuclear site, the Department of Energy and its regulators are ready to release a new draft plan.

The Department of Ecology proposed negotiations in June 2019 — nearly five years ago — saying that DOE was unlikely to meet major deadlines for emptying radioactive and hazardous chemical waste from leak-prone underground tanks and for treating the waste for disposal.

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#### **Hanford remains key economic driver as new technologies emerge**

By Robin Wojtanik April 15, 2024



One out of every 10 people in the Tri-Cities is employed by a job connected to federal funding, whether through the Hanford site, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory or with a subcontractor. This 13,000-person employment cluster's impact on industries throughout the community remains significant.

"It has a way of uplifting everybody else, from Realtors who sell houses to residential contractors to build houses to car dealerships to hotels to movie theaters," said Nickolas Bumpaous, president of the Central Washington Building Trades Council and business manager for UA Local Union 598 Plumbers & Steamfitters.

In the last four years, the national lab alone has added 1,000 new jobs to its workforce.

"They are generally higher income jobs and obviously that has a real kind of trickle-down effect throughout the economy," said Karl Dye, president and CEO of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC). "Those are among some of the most valuable jobs, if you will, because they create additional jobs throughout the community."

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## 300-ton Eastern WA melter reaches peak temperature to turn radioactive waste into glass

By Annette Cary March 26, 2024

The Hanford site vitrification plant being built to treat radioactive waste now has two massive melters heated to full temperature of 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit. The next step will be to begin running nonradioactive simulants through the Waste Treatment Plant, or vitrification plant, in a test of creating glass over the next several months.

The plant is expected to begin in 2025 to glassify some of Hanford's least radioactive waste held in underground tanks. It will mix radioactive waste with glass forming materials to make a stable glass for permanent disposal of the waste.

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## Award of 10-year, \$45 billion Hanford contract challenged for a 2nd time by losing bidder

By Annette Cary March 31, 2024

Losing bidder challenges 2nd award of \$45B contract at Hanford nuclear reservation site in Washington to BWXT, Amentum, Fluor company.

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### Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business: Hanford Edition

In this special Hanford standalone special section that's inserted into the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business' April edition, we take a closer look at Hanford's profound influence on our community. We will provide updates from regulators and contractors, and the latest on cleanup efforts.

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## Cleanup News



### Hanford Lab Prepares for More Hot Work and Tank-Waste Treatment

By DOE-EM Staff March 26, 2024

Upgrades are under way to prepare the 222-S Laboratory for the next evolution in the Hanford Site cleanup mission, treating tank waste under the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) Program.

Operated by contractor Navarro-ATL, it's the primary onsite lab for analyzing radioactive



### Hanford Completes Offsite Shipment of Sodium Waste

By DOE-EM Staff April 2, 2024

Recent completion of a project at the Hanford Site marked a significant accomplishment, as crews from EM contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo) loaded and shipped 15 drums of sodium waste from the site's former research reactors for offsite treatment.

samples to support Hanford's risk-reduction and tank-waste operations.

"Multiple contractors and facilities are working as a single enterprise to prepare for treating tank waste 24/7 and progressing risk-reduction projects," said Delmar Noyes, EM assistant manager for Tank Waste Operations. "Our One Hanford team remains committed to delivering strong taxpayer value by advancing projects that reduce risks to our workforce, our community and the environment."

The lab was built in the 1950s to support plutonium production and was converted to a high-level waste laboratory in the 1990s, following the Cold War.

Navarro-ATL is upgrading radiation containment rooms called "hot cells" that protect lab personnel while they receive and analyze radioactive waste samples. Navarro-ATL analyzes air, liquid, soil, sludge and biological samples at the lab.

The waste has been stored since 2012 near Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF), a former sodium-cooled nuclear research and test reactor that operated from 1982 to 1992.

FFTF was shut down in 1993 and eventually placed in long term surveillance and maintenance after deactivation and decommissioning activities were completed in 2009. Sodium is challenging to manage and treat, in large part because it is corrosive and flammable.

The waste was sent to an offsite facility, where it will be treated and repackaged to meet state and federal standards for return to the Hanford Site and safe disposal.

When returned to Hanford, the drums will be disposed of in low-level burial grounds near the Central Waste Complex in Hanford's 200 West Area.

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## What We're Watching



### Understanding Hanford What's Left to Do, Episode 5

On this episode of our Understand Hanford series, we conclude the Hanford story by delving into the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management's (DOE-EM) role in managing the monumental cleanup task. Discover what remains to be done, including the complex process of retrieving and treating stored waste as well as future uses for Hanford land.

[Watch Here](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Hanford 2,000-Gallon Test Bed Initiative Demonstration RD&D Permit Hybrid Public Briefing and Comment Period

March 11 - April 25, 2024

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing a draft research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) permit for the 2,000-gallon Test Bed Initiative (TBI) Demonstration. The permittees are the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy) and Washington River Protection Solutions, LLC.

The draft permit is available for public review from March 11 through April 25, 2024.

#### Proposed permit

This draft RD&D permit would authorize the proposed 2,000-gallon TBI Demonstration to test the feasibility and efficacy of deploying an in-tank pretreatment system (ITPS) in Tank SY-101 in the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site. The system would separate and pretreat about 2,000 gallons of low-activity tank waste. The pretreated waste would then be shipped offsite for grouting and disposal at permitted facilities outside the state of Washington.

#### Public meeting

The Tri-Party Agencies are holding an informational meeting for this public comment period 5:30 p.m. PT on March 20, 2024. We will have presentations from Ecology and Energy, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting will be held at the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, Washington 99352.

2,000 Gallon TBI Demonstration Comment Period

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