

# HANFORD COMMUNITIES

## March 5, 2024 Hanford News & Updates

### Top Stories

#### Bill to avert U.S. government shutdown includes record \$3B Hanford nuclear site spending

By Annette Cary March 4, 2024

Sen. Patty Murray, R-WA, negotiates record spending proposal for Hanford nuclear waste reservation site in bill to avert partial shutdown.

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#### 10-year, \$45 billion contract awarded for Hanford nuclear waste cleanup in Eastern WA

By Annette Cary March 1, 2024

DOE awards H2C, owned by BWXT, Amentum & Fluor, the WA Hanford nuclear reservation site contract for vit plant, tank cleanup for 2nd time.

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#### Hanford historic B Reactor tours reopening for a short time. How, when to get a seat

B Reactor to have some tours this year of historic B Reactor at Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Hanford nuclear site.

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## PNNL researchers putting science and technology into Hanford nuclear site cleanup

By Steve Ashby February 26, 2024

For many in the Tri-Cities, “Waste Management” is name of the company that collects our household trash. But for a cadre of scientists and engineers at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, it embodies a critical effort to clean up the legacy of decades of nuclear weapons production at the nearby Hanford Site.



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## Why this is a Pivotal Moment for Hanford's Waste Cleanup

By Esmy Jimenez February 25, 2024

The Hanford site in Benton County is at a pivotal moment, set to finally transform the nuclear leftovers of a century past into glass that can be safely stored — a process called vitrification. Last October, the first of two melters used to actually vitrify the waste became active, with the second melter scheduled to launch this spring.

The project’s success — or failure — will ultimately influence the future of a dilemma that has long plagued the Northwest and the U.S.

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## Thoughts on Hanford

In February, our Nuclear Waste Program Manager departed for an exciting new role

# Three years of challenges and success with Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program

By David Bowen & Ryan Miller March 5, 2024

as Region Director of Ecology's Central Regional Office in Union Gap. Before David left for his new position, we sat down to reflect on his time in Tri-Cities the last three years leading our team regulating cleanup of the Hanford Site.

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## Cleanup News



### It Boils Down to This: Hanford Evaporator Readies for Restart After Improvements

By Kristin M. Kraemer February 14, 2024

The 242-Evaporator removes water from radioactive and chemical waste stored in underground tanks to create more storage space in them.

Since the facility last operated in 2019, EM Office of River Protection tank operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions installed 1,300 feet of new waste-transfer lines between the evaporator and a nearby underground tank-waste storage area, known as a tank farm

Hanford's evaporator has removed more than 81 million gallons of liquid from the site's waste tanks over the past four decades. The evaporator is scheduled to restart in summer 2024.

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### Crews Remove Contaminated Glove Box from Historic Hanford Facility

By DOE-EM Staff February 20, 2024

Crews with EM Hanford Site contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company recently removed a large glove box from the 231-Z Building, a critical step to prepare one of the site's oldest facilities for demolition.

Glove boxes were crucial to Hanford's plutonium production mission. They featured leaded windows and glove ports that allowed workers to safely perform various activities with radioactive and chemical materials.

The 231-Z Building is expected to be ready for demolition by the end of September, with demolition activities scheduled to begin in 2025.

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## Grant Opportunities



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

## Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$366 Million to Lower Energy Costs and Enhance Energy Security in Rural and Remote Communities Across the Nation

By DOE Staff February 27, 2024

President Biden's Investing in America Agenda Supports 17 Projects Across 20 States and 30 Tribal Nations and Communities, Bringing Clean Energy, High-Quality Jobs, and Energy Justice to Every Pocket of America

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## What We're Listening To

On this episode of Let's Talk About Hanford, we're welcoming Becky Burghart from the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.



## Let's Talk About The National Park Service's job at Hanford

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## Upcoming Events

## Hanford Cleanup Priorities Hybrid Public Briefing and Comment Period

## March 6 - April 5, 2024 \*\*\* Public meeting March 6, 2024\*\*\*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites you to a hybrid (both physical and virtual attendance options) public briefing on Hanford Site cleanup priorities. DOE will provide an overview of Hanford's current projects, followed by regulatory agencies the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Washington State Department of Ecology providing their perspectives.

A Q&A session will follow the briefing. The agencies will listen and consider the values and priorities expressed by the public. All public comments must be submitted in writing.

The briefing will be held March 6 at 5:30 p.m. PT in the Gallery Room of the Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Drive, Richland, WA 99352.

### More Information About Comment Periods



*The Hanford Advisory Board was created to inform and involve stakeholders and the public with Hanford Site cleanup decisions.*

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- March 5 from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. PT, Richland Public Library: Land Use, Infrastructure, Waste Disposition and Safety Committee
- March 5 from 12:30 to 4:15 p.m. PT, Richland Public Library: Cleanup and Risk Mitigation Committee
- March 6 from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. PT, Washington State Department of Ecology (Richland): Community Outreach and Engagement Committee
- March 6 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. PT, Washington State Department of Ecology (Richland): Tank Waste Stewardship and Treatment Committee



### March 6 to April 5

*30-day Hanford Site cleanup priorities public comment period*



### March 21st

Richland Library, conference rooms A and B, for refreshments and networking starting at 5:30, followed by the presentation at 6:00.

We have all heard of J. Robert Oppenheimer and Enrico Fermi, but what about Leona Woods Marshall Libby, Lilli Hornig, Floy Agnes Lee, Frances Dunne, or the Calutron Girls?

From the discovery of nuclear fission to the creation of nuclear weapons, women played many critical and often overlooked roles in the secret government program that helped end World War II.

This presentation will highlight the accomplishments of women scientists and engineers during the Manhattan Project, including who those women were and what they did.

Hanford Advisory Board

Public Comment Periods

The Real Barbenheimer

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