

HANFORD COMMUNITIES

March 27, 2025 Hanford News & Updates

CERCLA vs. RCRA *Guest Blog*

By WA Dept. of Ecology Staff March 27, 2025

THE ROLE OF THE REGULATORS

CERCLA

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

- Cleanup of Past Releases
- EPA oversight
- Long-term & remedial response

VS

RCRA

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

- Prevention and Cleanup
- WA Ecology oversight
- Ongoing Activities

CERCLA and RCRA regulate hazardous waste cleanup and management at Hanford to ensure safety and environmental protection.

Curious about the key differences between CERCLA and RCRA and how they shape hazardous waste management at Hanford?

These two critical environmental laws guide cleanup efforts, ensuring both short-term responses and long-term solutions. Learn how the Washington State Department of Ecology collaborates with the EPA to oversee cleanup, maintain compliance, and engage the public in the process.

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Eastern WA Nuclear Site Top Manager Resigns. No. 2 Hanford Leader Already is Gone

By Annette Cary March 26, 2025



Hanford's top Department of Energy leader, Brian Vance, has announced his resignation, effective April 24, following the recent departure of his deputy, Brian Stickney. Vance, who has led Hanford cleanup efforts since 2017, highlighted major achievements under his leadership, including progress on the vitrification plant and critical environmental cleanup milestones.

DOE has begun the process of selecting a new site manager, reaffirming its commitment to the ongoing cleanup mission. Stickney is retiring after 16 years with DOE, citing pride in the progress made at Hanford.

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Hanford Crews Clear Contaminated Equipment From Key Risk-Reduction Project

By DOE EM Staff, March 18, 2025



Crews are wrapping up work at the former K West Reactor, clearing out equipment and materials left after last summer's major cleanup. The project removed nearly 1 million gallons of radioactive water from the spent-fuel basin, reducing risks near the Columbia River. Now, teams are safely disconnecting hoses, removing pumps and filters, and getting the site ready for future demolition.

It's all part of Hanford's ongoing mission to clean up and protect our environment. Work is on track to finish this spring!

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Hanford Plant Receives Emissions Treatment Chemical

By DOE EM Staff, March 18, 2025

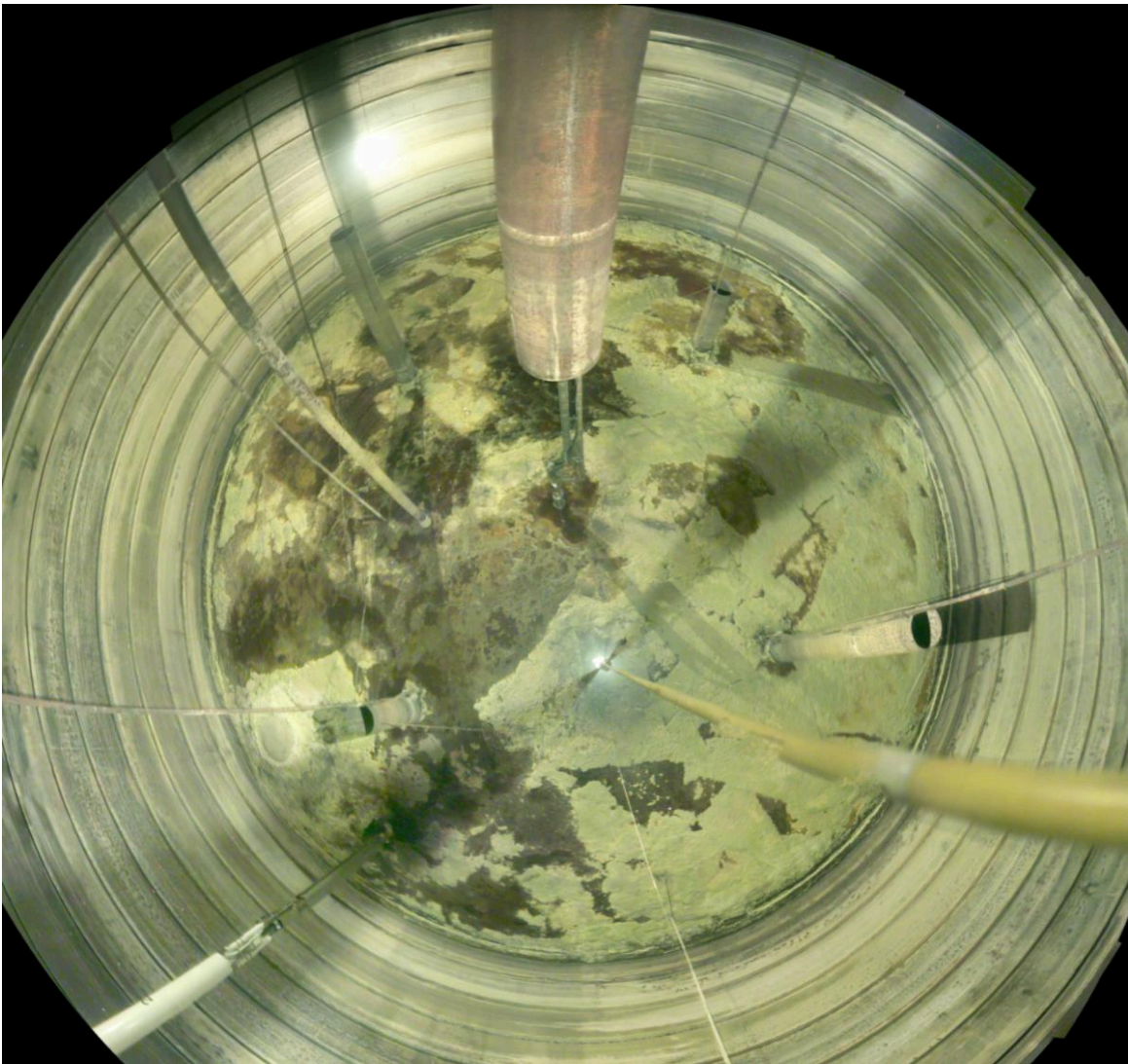
Important supplies have arrived at Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant! The site recently received over 3,500 gallons of sodium hydroxide, a key chemical for safely treating hazardous gases during the vitrification process.

As Hanford's underground tank waste is mixed with glass-forming materials for long-term disposal, this chemical helps ensure emissions meet state environmental and health standards. It's also used to simulate tank waste during melter testing.

Strict safety measures are in place for handling and storage, keeping workers and the environment protected as this critical cleanup work moves forward.



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Hanford Workers Begin Removing Radioactive Waste From 23rd Underground Tank

By DOE EM Staff March 4, 2025

Crews have started removing radioactive and chemical waste from Tank A-102, a million-gallon underground storage tank.

This tank holds about 41,000 gallons of solid waste, which is being safely transferred to newer double-shell tanks for secure storage until it can be treated for disposal. Teams replaced old equipment and built new infrastructure to support this work, using remotely operated systems to break down the waste with pressurized water.

Hanford's cleanup mission is complex, but each step brings us closer to reducing risks and protecting our environment for the future.

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Hanford nuclear history connects Tri-Cities with Japanese universities

By Non-Stop Local News, Christopher Wright March 18, 2025



A groundbreaking exchange program is connecting the Tri-Cities with universities in Japan, exploring their shared nuclear history. Through a partnership with Columbia Basin College, WSU Tri-Cities, and Japanese institutions, students engage in lectures from experts and participate in cultural exchanges.

This collaboration draws parallels between Hanford and Fukushima, fostering discussions on cleanup efforts, energy initiatives, and historical impacts. Students not only gain knowledge but also develop leadership and cross-cultural communication skills.

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Open Comment Periods

Hanford Cleanup
Priorities

Perma-Fix Northwest
Draft Permit Renewal

March 3 to April 4

Jan. 27 to March 31

Make a Public Comment

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