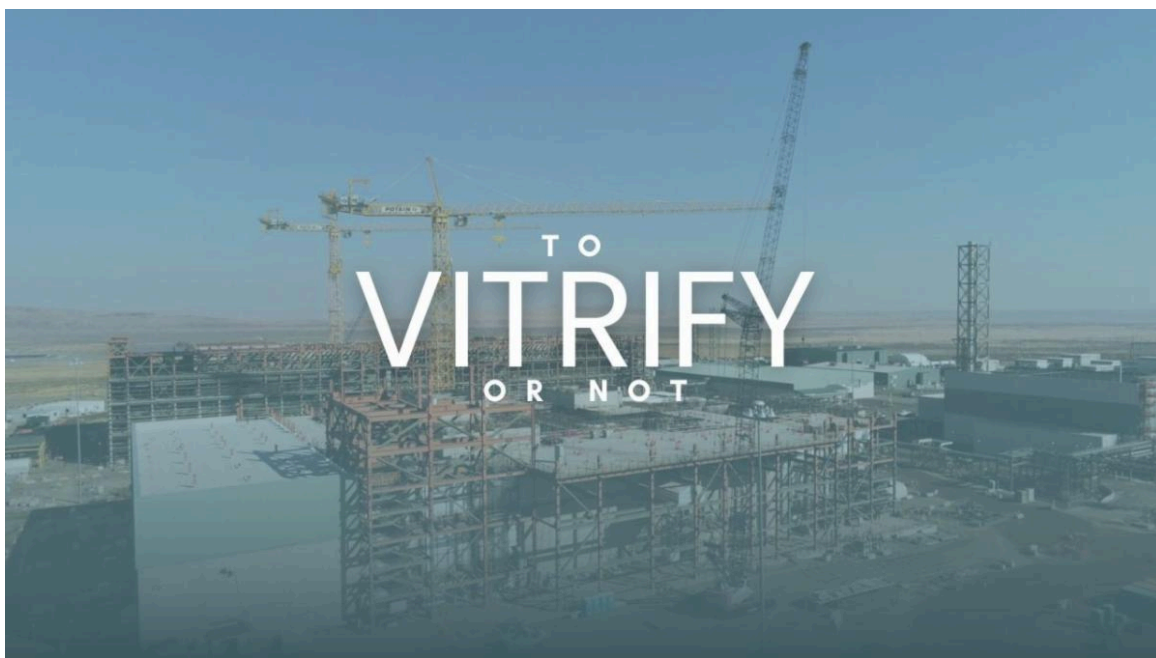


Hanford Cleanup & Community Updates

To Vitrify or Not to Vitrify

By Hanford Communities Staff | September 19, 2025



Recent weeks have seen plenty of speculation about Hanford's cleanup, with questions swirling over whether low-activity waste will begin processing at the DFLAW facility next month. Rumors arose after leadership changes at DOE and vague statements left stakeholders uncertain.

Now, the picture is clearer: DOE has approved the final step, Critical Decision 4, officially confirming that hot commissioning at DFLAW will move forward. With strong support from state and federal leaders, Hanford is on track to start vitrifying low-activity waste on schedule.

Read the full update on the latest developments at Hanford and what this milestone means for the cleanup mission.

[Read the Full Blog](#)



WA governor baffled by fed stance that could delay radioactive waste treatment

By Annette Cary | September 14, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson and Washington leaders are warning DOE that any delay to Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant startup will face a legal challenge. With jobs and public safety at stake, the state is pressing for operations to begin on schedule next month.

[Read the Article](#)



Update: \$30B nuclear waste plant can 'finally' start. WA leaders react

By Annette Cary | September 18, 2025

DOE has officially signed off on hot commissioning at Hanford's \$30 billion vitrification plant, clearing the way for radioactive waste treatment to begin by the Oct. 15 court deadline. Washington leaders call the milestone a hard-fought victory but remain wary after weeks of mixed signals from DOE about the project's future.

[Read the Article](#)

New Faces



Joel B. Bradburne was appointed Acting Assistant Secretary for DOE's Office of Environmental Management on Sept. 10, 2025. With more than 20 years of experience on DOE projects nationwide, he now leads efforts to safely clean up the environmental



Ray Geimer, who has more than 40 years of experience on DOE environmental cleanup projects and currently manages the Hanford 222-S Laboratory contractor, will take over as DOE Hanford site manager on Sept. 7. He succeeds Brian Harkins, who has been serving in the role since former

legacy of nuclear weapons production and research.

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manager Brian Vance resigned on April 24.

[Read the Article](#)



Conference Highlights Federal Business Opportunities at Hanford

By DOE-EM Staff | September 2, 2025

More than 200 attendees gathered in Richland for the first-ever Hanford Business Opportunities Exchange, where DOE leaders and contractors highlighted cleanup progress and upcoming federal contracting opportunities. The forum showcased Hanford's mission while connecting businesses to potential partnerships in the region.

[Read the Article](#)

Cleanup News

Hanford Reduces Risk With Removal of Legacy Radioactive Waste

By DOE EM Staff | September 16, 2025

Hanford is taking big steps to tackle decades-old radioactive waste stored in aging underground tanks. Recently, crews safely transferred over 430,000 gallons of waste from Single-Shell Tank A-101 to a newer double-shell tank, using remote-controlled equipment to minimize risk.



This marks the 22nd tank to undergo retrieval, with work set to continue on Tank A-102 this fall. These efforts not only reduce potential exposure but also move Hanford closer to safely treating and vitrifying waste at the Waste Treatment Plant.

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Hanford Communities | 7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Ste. A | Kennewick, WA 99336 US

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