

HANFORD COMMUNITIES

Hanford Cleanup & Community Updates



Hanford Tank-Side Pretreatment System Resumes Operations

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management

Hanford's Tank-Side Cesium Removal System is back in operation after a six-month pause, once again pretreating radioactive tank waste before it is sent to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

The system removes radioactive cesium from tank waste as part of preparations for vitrification. During the pause, crews completed maintenance, equipment upgrades and training while space became available in Tank AP-106 to receive additional pretreated waste.

The current processing campaign is expected to produce about 230,000 gallons of pretreated waste for treatment and disposal, supporting continued progress on Hanford's tank-waste mission.

Cleanup Progress: Waste Retrieved From 24th Single- Shell Tank

Source: U.S. Department of
Energy Office of Environmental
Management and Tri-City Herald

Hanford crews have completed waste retrieval from Tank A-106, marking the 24th single-shell tank where retrieval work has been completed.

Over seven months, workers transferred approximately 79,000 gallons of radioactive and chemical waste from the aging tank into a newer double-shell tank for continued safe storage. The work is part of an effort to accelerate retrieval from Hanford's older single-shell tanks and prepare more waste for treatment.

DOE has asked the Washington State Department of Ecology to determine whether retrieval from A-106 meets regulatory requirements for completion. Work is expected to move next to Tank A-103.



Read the DOE Update

Read the Tri-City Herald Article



Hanford Restarts Certification of Transuranic Waste for Permanent Disposal

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management

Hanford has restarted certification of transuranic waste for eventual shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Transuranic waste includes items such as clothing, tools, debris and soil contaminated with plutonium and other human-made radioactive elements. About 11,000 containers of contact- and remote-handled transuranic waste are currently stored at Hanford's Central Waste Complex.

The certification process verifies that individual containers meet transportation requirements and WIPP waste-acceptance criteria. Hanford is scheduled to resume shipments of contact-handled transuranic waste to WIPP by September 30, 2028.

[Read the DOE Update](#)

Public Involvement: Hanford Sitewide Permit Draft Rev. 9A

Source: Washington State
Department of Ecology

Public comment remains open on Draft Revision 9A of the Hanford Sitewide Permit, one of the primary regulatory tools governing treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste at Hanford.

The proposed renewal covers 52 waste sites and facilities, and Ecology's 120-day public

A New Approach to Cleanup Planning

By Hanford Communities | August 26,
2026

DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Washington State Department of Ecology have adopted a new milestone framework under the Tri-Party Agreement designed to better align cleanup schedules with current conditions, funding and program needs.

The new approach includes annual reviews to evaluate progress and establish near-term enforceable deadlines, along with more

comment period continues through Oct. 27, 2026.

Public hearings began Sept. 22, with in-person hearings scheduled in Portland, the Seattle area, Hermiston and Richland, followed by a virtual hearing Oct. 7. Comments may also be submitted electronically or by mail.

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comprehensive reviews every five years. A Hanford Communities blog post looks at how the framework works and what it could mean for cleanup progress and the Tri-Cities.

[Read the Blog](#)



ERDF at 30: Supporting Cleanup Across Hanford

By Hanford Communities | September 19, 2026

For 30 years, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility has provided a permanent disposal location for qualifying wastes generated during Hanford cleanup.

Since operations began in 1996, the 107-acre engineered landfill has received more than 19 million tons of low-level radioactive, hazardous and mixed solid waste. Waste disposed of at ERDF has come from cleanup activities including facility demolition, contaminated-soil removal and remediation of waste sites across Hanford.

A new Hanford Communities blog post looks at ERDF's first three decades, its environmental protections and the Super Cell 11 expansion being built to provide additional disposal capacity for future cleanup work.

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