

High-level radioactive material is safely stored in the Canister Storage Building.



The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company are safely and compliantly managing interim storage of waste at the Canister Storage Building.

Background

The Canister Storage Building (CSB) is a 42,000-square-foot facility in Hanford's 200 East Area, which provides interim storage for about 2,300 tons of highly radioactive irradiated fuel from several Hanford facilities. The fuel was cleaned, packaged, dried, and relocated to the CSB to provide safe interim storage in a consolidated location.

Mission

The CSB is composed of three below-grade concrete vaults, each capable of holding 220 carbon steel tubes. The tubes, each 40 feet long and 28 inches in diameter, are placed vertically in the vaults. Inside the tubes are about 400 containers of irradiated fuel. These containers – called multi-canister overpacks, or MCOs – are safely stored in the tubes until a final disposal decision is made.

Currently, only one of the three vaults is being used to store the MCOs. Annual operating costs for safe storage of the nuclear materials is about \$6 million.

Future

Following the designation of a national repository, the irradiated fuel will be repackaged and sent off the Hanford Site for permanent storage.



A crane inside the 42,000-square-foot Canister Storage Building is used to lift multi-canister overpacks from belowgrade concrete vaults.



Workers handle an empty container, called a multi-canister overpack, used to store irradiated reactor fuel.



For more information:
www.hanford.gov
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