CPCCo
Central Plateau Cleanup Company

324 Building Disposition Project

September 2026

Background

The 324 Building, located in Hanford's 300 Area, supported research on radioactive materials from 1966 to 1996. Demolishing the building and remediating contaminated soil below the facility — designated the 300-296 Waste Site — is a high priority for the Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo), due to the facility's proximity to the Columbia River and city of Richland.

Demolition operations were postponed in 2010 after workers detected significant contamination in the soil under one of the building's "hot cells," which shielded workers from radiation while they used remotely operated equipment to conduct research. The contamination likely came from a spill of radioactive materials from one of the hot cells called B Cell.

While stabilizing the 324 Building in 2022 before excavating the contaminated soil through the floor of B Cell, CPCCo crews detected additional soil contamination. A 2023 analysis by CPCCo and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory confirmed the area of contaminated soil is wider and deeper than previous measurements indicated.

Future

The 324 Building remains in a safe and stable configuration. The contaminated soil beneath the structure has remained stable for decades, and underground monitoring shows the contamination has not migrated toward groundwater.

Due to the larger volume of contaminated soil under the building and the additional challenges of maintaining an aging facility, CPCCo is revising demolition and remediation plans to use an approach that is safer for workers and the community and still protective of the Columbia River.

Working with the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, CPCCo is resequencing the work. Crews are currently performing stabilization activities – including grouting four radioactive hot cells – as they prepare to deactivate and eventually demolish the building.

Following demolition, workers will construct a containment superstructure over the remaining foundation and remediate the contaminated soil below.

CPCCo continues to monitor the soil and groundwater to ensure worker and public health and safety.

The 324 Building can be viewed using the self-guided Hanford Virtual Tour.

The 324 Building supported key projects, such as various waste treatment experiments and President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" initiative.

Workers operate the system used to deliver fixative inside of B Cell. While the floor of B Cell has been grouted, fixative was applied to the ceiling and walls to prevent contaminants from becoming airborne during demolition.

Workers remove a sample from the ventilation ducting as part of an extensive characterization effort in support of deactivation activities.