CPCCo Central Plateau Cleanup Company

Central Waste Complex

September 2026

CPCCo is safely and compliantly storing radioactive and hazardous waste at the Central Waste Complex until it can be treated, repackaged and disposed of.

Background

The Central Waste Complex (CWC) is storage facility for radioactive and hazardous waste located in the central part of the Hanford Site. The complex has approximately 300,000 square feet of storage space — the equivalent of six football fields — and stores approximately 11,000 waste containers (mostly 55-gallon drums) in buildings and outdoor storage areas.

The waste is mixed low-level waste, transuranic (TRU) and TRU mixed waste. Mixed waste contains both chemical and radioactive constituents. TRU waste consists of tools, rags, protective clothing, sludges, soil and other materials contaminated with radioactive elements (mostly plutonium) and it requires disposal in a geologic repository. The wastes come from on-site sources, such as projects to retrieve waste from burial grounds, and deactivation and decommissioning work. Some waste originated from off-site sources, such as the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

Mission

The CWC stores chemical and radioactive waste until it can be shipped for treatment and/or disposal. Mixed low-level waste will be disposed of at an on-site permitted landfill and TRU waste will be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico beginning in 2028. CWC facilities can be viewed using the self-guided Hanford Virtual Tour.

Workers load a container of waste for shipment to a local treatment facility for repackaging.

In fall 2025, crews finished relocating more than 130 large waste containers from two outside storage areas, marking completion of a significant cleanup milestone a year ahead of schedule.