CPCCo
Central Plateau
Cleanup Company

Groundwater Cleanup

September 2026

CPCCo manages the 200 West Pump & Treat Facility at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington, the largest of Hanford's six groundwater treatment plants.

Background

During Hanford's plutonium production mission, significant amounts of solid and liquid wastes were discharged to the environment as planned and unplanned releases. These discharges caused large areas of contamination in the groundwater, called plumes. In the 1990s the Hanford Site implemented a groundwater cleanup program with a focus on removing radioactive and chemical contaminants to protect the nearby Columbia River.

Progress

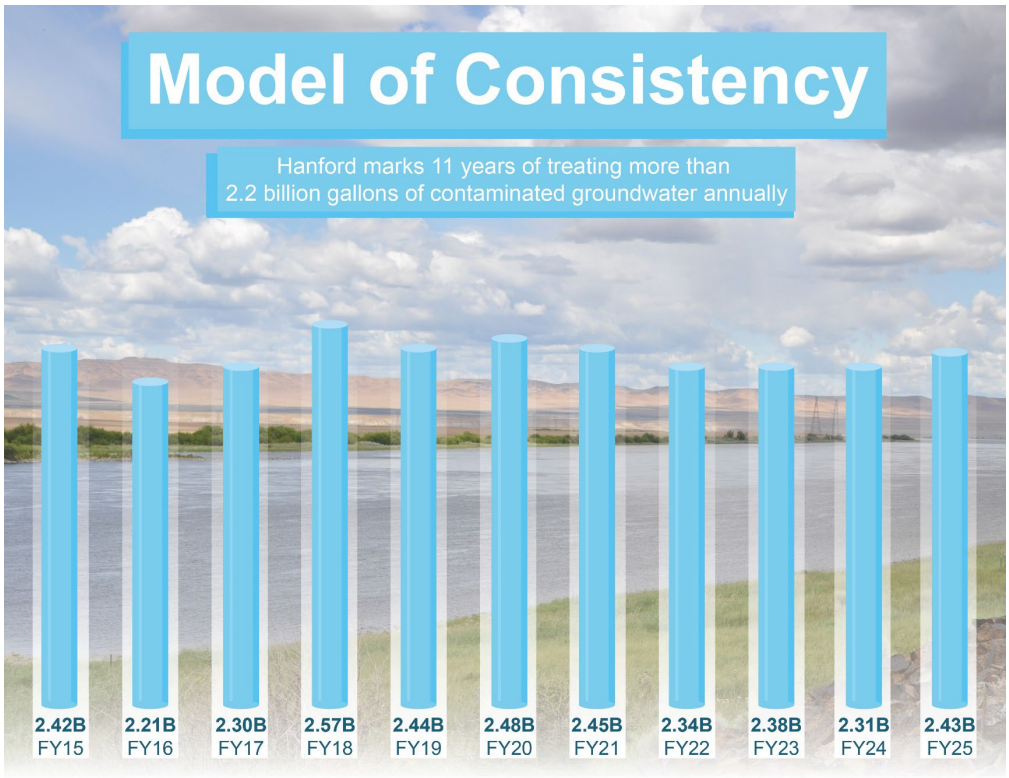
Hanford's groundwater program has expanded over the years as it continually seeks more efficient and cost-effective solutions to improve cleanup. Today the Site's robust program includes a network of more than 4,000 wells and other infrastructure, which support six pump-and-treat systems.

The 200 West Pump and Treat Facility — the Site's largest — is on the Central Plateau in the center of the Site, with five smaller facilities along the Columbia River. These systems operate 24/7 to collectively treat more than 2 billion gallons of groundwater annually. In fall 2026, Hanford marked 12 consecutive years of treating more than 2 billion gallons of groundwater. To date Hanford has treated nearly 40 billion gallons of groundwater and removed more than 680 tons of contaminants, significantly reducing plumes.

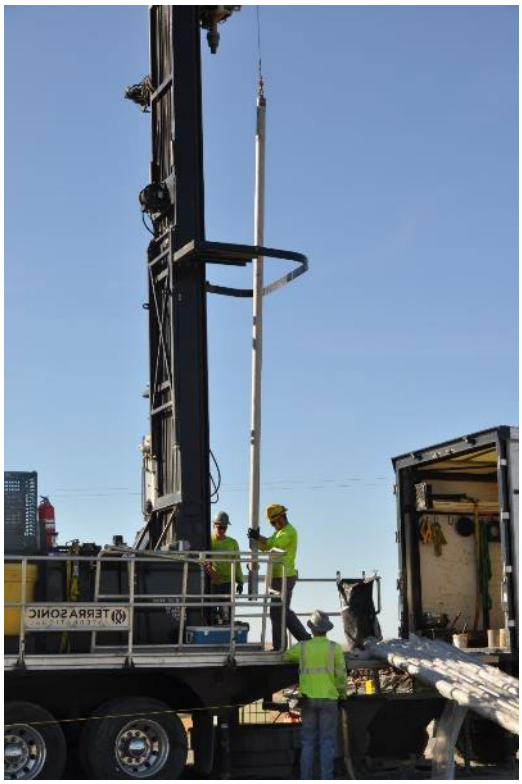
A third air stripper tower installed at the 200 West Pump & Treat Facility began operating in 2026. Operation of a third tower allows the facility to increase flow rate, accelerating the removal of contaminants on the Central Plateau.

Workers collect thousands of soil and groundwater samples annually along the Columbia River and on the Site's Central Plateau.

Groundwater Cleanup



Hanford has treated more than 2 billion gallons of groundwater annually since 2015.



Well drilling on Hanford's Central Plateau.

Expansion Project

Over the past two years, the Hanford Site has completed a significant expansion of the 200 West Pump and Treat Facility. Equipment upgrades have allowed the facility, which began operations in 2012, to increase its flow rate to more than 3,750 gallons of groundwater per minute, a 50% increase over its original design capacity of 2,500 gallons per minute. The expanded capacity allows the facility to treat an additional 475 million gallons annually.

The project required installing more than 10 miles of specialized plastic piping to connect the facility to a dozen new groundwater extraction wells.

The expansion optimized well-network capability to decrease plume sizes and concentrations. This more effectively increases the removal of radioactive and chemical contamination from groundwater under the Site's Central Plateau.

Contaminants targeted by the pump-and-treat systems primarily include carbon tetrachloride, chromium, technetium-99 and uranium.

Future

Groundwater treatment will continue to support Hanford cleanup activities to protect the Columbia River over the next several decades.

Improvements in treatment technology have resulted in substantial progress in removing groundwater contaminants, meeting remediation targets and potentially shortening the time required to meet overall cleanup goals.

Groundwater sampling will continue to help inform decisions about future well placement and configuration, to maximize treatment.

The 200 West Pump and Treat Facility can be viewed using the self-guided Hanford Virtual Tour.