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Registration Starts Soon for Hanford's Two Annual Public Tour Programs

Visitors Can Register for Tours Focused on Cleanup or History

RICHLAND, Wash. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will open online registration for both of its public tour programs in early March. The Hanford Site public tours focus on environmental cleanup while the B Reactor tours focus on Hanford's role in the top secret Manhattan Project during World War II.

All tours begin and end at the B Reactor Tour Headquarters at 2000 Logston Blvd. in Richland, off Hwy. 240 and will last approximately 4.5 hours. There is no cost to participate.

Hanford Site Cleanup Tours

Registration for the site tours begins on March 3 at 6 p.m. All tour slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis through the online registration system at <http://www5.hanford.gov/publictours/>. This driving tour of the site includes stops at the Cold Test Facility, Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility and the Plutonium Finishing Plant. They also include a brief stop at the B Reactor. Throughout the drive across the site, guests will learn about the site – from inception, through its plutonium production era during World War II and the Cold War, and the progress of today's cleanup mission. For these tours, participants must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age.

Tour Dates and Times

April 8*, 9 and 10; May 6, 7*, 8*, 20*, 21, and 22; June 3, 4*, 5*, 17, and 18; July 29, 30 and 31; August 12, 13, 14, 26, 27, and 28.

*Denotes tour dates with only an 8 a.m. tour; all other dates have tours at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

B Reactor/Hanford History Tours

Registration for the Manhattan Project B Reactor Tours begins on March 4 at 12:01 p.m. These tours provide visitors with both guided tour and exploration time at the B Reactor National Historic Landmark, and immerse visitors in the history of the Hanford Site prior to and during World War II.

Visitors will see the front face of the reactor, fan ventilation rooms, water valve pit, water process laboratories, accumulator room, the reactor's control room and the base of the front face stairway which gives a better view of the reactor's cooling water risers and cross-header valves.

This year's return to Richland is via the Hanford Site river route. Visitors will pass the old town sites of White Bluffs and Hanford where the original residents of this area lived prior to World War II. Historic facilities including the old Hanford High School and White Bluffs Bank may someday be part of a National Park Service site honoring the Manhattan Project along with B Reactor.

Tour slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis through an online registration system at <http://manhattanprojectbreactor.hanford.gov/>, or by calling 509-376-1647 or stopping by the B Reactor Tour Headquarters.

Families with children above the age of 12 are invited to sign up for the tour slots. Middle school and high school class tours can be arranged by calling the B Reactor Tour Headquarters at 509-376-1647. Visitors are encouraged to bring cameras. Citizens from all countries are welcome on the Manhattan Project B Reactor tours.

Tour Dates and Times

April 1, 2, 3*, 5, 15*, 17*, 19*, 29 and 30[#]; May 1, 3[#], 13, 14, 15*, 17, 28[#] and 31; June 10, 11, 12*, 14, 24[#], 25 and 26*; July 8[#], 10*, 12, 21[#], 22, 23, 24* and 26; August 2, 4[#], 5, 6, 7*, 9, 16, 18[#], 19, 20, and 23*; and September 2[#], 3, 4*, 13[#], 16, 17 and 18*.

*Denotes tour dates with only an 8:15 a.m. tour; [#]Denotes tour dates with only an 11:15 a.m. tour
All other dates have tours at 8:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Since DOE began its public access program in 2009, almost 40,000 visitors from all 50 states and 68 countries have visited the B Reactor National Historic Landmark at Hanford.

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