

THE HANFORD SITE

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Construction Underway on Test Bed Initiative to Advance Hanford Tank Waste Mission

RICHLAND, Wash. – Hanford Site workers are installing equipment to demonstrate how an alternative treatment technology could safely accelerate cleanup of radioactive tank waste.

The Test Bed Initiative (TBI) Demonstration will treat approximately 2,000 gallons of tank waste and ship it to commercially licensed facilities in Texas and Utah that will immobilize it in grout and dispose of it.

“The TBI Demonstration does not impact our preparations to immobilize tank waste in glass and supports the Department’s goal to consider additional options for safely and efficiently treating low-activity waste at the site,” said Brian Vance, the Department of Energy’s top manager at Hanford.

DOE and its contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions, are installing a control room, shipping totes, and other equipment to begin the TBI Demonstration. Workers will install and test the equipment through September, with treatment operations set to take place by the end of the year. The Department plans to ship the treated waste in fiscal year 2025 after laboratory testing ensures it meets requirements.

Using this approach will safely treat low-activity waste from Hanford tanks and dispose of it outside Washington state in a manner that would reduce risks to workers, the public and the environment consistent with industry standards.

The TBI Demonstration is consistent with recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences to address potential barriers and to consider more modular capabilities as the Department ramps up the Hanford tank waste mission.

The demonstration expands on previous treatment of three gallons of waste for off-site grouting, demonstrating the ability to treat some of Hanford’s low-activity waste using commercial, licensed, permitted facilities.

The Washington State Department of Ecology issued a Research, Development, & Demonstration permit for construction to begin July 18. Any proposal to treat, stabilize, and dispose offsite of more than the 2,000 gallons would be evaluated in separate regulatory reviews and evaluations.

You can learn more about system and demonstration project [here](#)

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The Department of Energy (DOE) is engaged in one of the great public works of this century at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington. Responsible for the federal government’s cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of producing plutonium through the 1980s, DOE is transforming the site back into a 24/7 operations mode to treat tank waste from the production era. The DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) is responsible for the safe and efficient retrieval, treatment and disposal of the 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste stored in Hanford’s 177 underground tanks. The mission includes building and commissioning the world’s largest radioactive waste treatment plant, which will immobilize the legacy tank waste through vitrification. The DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on stabilizing and demolishing former plutonium production structures, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future, with an emphasis on supporting the tank waste mission. Hanford Site work is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 13,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov for more information about the Hanford Site.



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