



Richland Operations  
Office



**For Immediate Release:**

March 16, 2015

**Media Contacts:**

Peter Bengtson, Washington Closure Hanford, (509) 372-9031, [Peter.Bengtson@wch-rcc.com](mailto:Peter.Bengtson@wch-rcc.com)  
Cameron Hardy, DOE, (509) 376-5365, [Cameron.Hardy@rl.doe.gov](mailto:Cameron.Hardy@rl.doe.gov)

## **Hanford Landfill Reaches 17 Million Tons Disposed**

*Waste disposal measures tremendous cleanup progress along Hanford's River Corridor*

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors have disposed of 17 million tons of contaminated material at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) since the facility began operations in 1996. The disposal record is a measure of the tremendous amount of progress being made at the Hanford Site.

The majority of cleanup waste at ERDF comes from the 220-square-mile River Corridor, located along the banks of the Columbia River. The low-level waste consists mainly of soil contaminated by the effluent of Hanford's nine plutonium production reactors, which operated from 1943-1987. In addition, ERDF also receives cleanup waste from other Hanford contractors.

"Reaching 17 million tons of material disposed at ERDF shows the excellent cleanup work being done at the Hanford Site," says Mark French, Federal Project Director for DOE Richland Operations Office.

Designed to be expanded as needed, ERDF consists of disposal areas called cells. Each pair of cells is 70 feet deep, 500 feet wide and 1,000 feet long at the base. There are currently 10 cells at ERDF. The first eight cells can each hold 2.8 million tons of material.

Super cells 9 and 10 can each hold 5.6 million tons. As each pair of cells reaches capacity, an interim cover is installed to prevent the infiltration of water. A permanent cap will be placed over the facility when Hanford cleanup is completed.

"The team at ERDF can be proud of their amazing safety record. They are a hard working team but their priority is safety," says Jeff Armatrout, Waste Operations Director for ERDF.

ERDF is managed by Washington Closure Hanford as part of the River Corridor Closure Project – DOE's largest environmental cleanup closure project. The landfill is the largest disposal facility in the DOE cleanup complex. It covers 107 acres at the base of the disposal trench – roughly the same area as 52 football fields – and currently has a capacity of 18 million tons. ERDF also accepts hazardous materials such as mercury, asbestos, beryllium, chromium and lead that can be treated onsite before disposal.

To view B-roll of ERDF, visit [http://youtu.be/Ssq-XxO\\_m0M](http://youtu.be/Ssq-XxO_m0M)

To view photos of ERDF, visit <https://www.washingtonclosure.com/photos/gallery/10/>

---

*The Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) manages the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington. Along with the DOE Office of River Protection (ORP), DOE-RL is responsible for the federal government's cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at Hanford for the nation's defense. Except for the tank waste mission managed by ORP, DOE-RL is responsible for cleanup of all remaining Hanford waste streams and is currently focused on cleaning out and demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and solid waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future. The office oversees Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,300 personnel. Visit [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov).*

*Washington Closure, which began work on the River Corridor Closure Project in 2005 for the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office, is more than 90 percent complete with its contract. It has completed field work in 178 square miles, having demolished 319 of 331 buildings and cleaned up 513 of 585 waste sites. Washington Closure also has transported, packaged and disposed of nine million tons of contaminated material in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, the landfill it operates in support of all Hanford contractors. All of the work has been accomplished while saving the taxpayers money. Thanks to cost efficiencies and safe performance, Washington Closure has saved taxpayers nearly \$250 million in cleanup costs and reinvested the savings toward additional work. Visit <http://www.washingtonclosure.com>*