



# DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HANFORD

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## **New Public Tour to Focus on Hanford Historic Sites**

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – The history of Hanford Site lands prior to the Manhattan Project will be the focus of a new public tour program offered by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Richland Operations Office. The program will run from May to October of 2015 and will include 40 tours.

“With the completion of cleanup in most of the River Corridor, it is time to expand the public’s access to Hanford’s history,” said Colleen French, National Park Program Manager for DOE’s Richland Operations Office. “These tours will showcase the hard work, innovation, and perseverance of the families who lived here before the government’s occupation of the land. Their struggles, accomplishments and, ultimately their loss of the land to the Manhattan Project effort, are an important part of the Hanford story.”

The tours will include stops at the Bruggemann Warehouse, the river-rock covered building that is the last structure from the large pre-1943 farm and orchard of the Bruggemann family; the

Hanford High School, built in 1916 in the town of Hanford; the White Bluffs Bank, the last remaining structure from the town of White Bluffs; the White Bluffs Ferry Crossing at the Columbia River, which played a key role in early transportation; and the headwall of the canal system that finally succeeded in bringing precious water to the family orchards and farms. While at the canal, visitors will also have a peek at the 1908 Hanford Irrigation District Pump House, which raised river water more than 50 feet to start its flow into the canal and out to the irrigators.

Hanford will be part of the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which will also include facilities at the Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Los Alamos, N.M., Manhattan Project sites. The Bruggemann Warehouse, Hanford High School, White Bluffs Bank, and Hanford Irrigation District Pump House are eligible for inclusion in the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park authorized by Congress in December 2014. Congress directed that the B Reactor National Historic Landmark would be in the park.

Congressional authorization for the new park requires DOE and the National Park Service (NPS) to craft an agreement that outlines DOE's responsibilities for facility management and historic preservation, and NPS's responsibilities for interpretation and education. A DOE/NPS team is already at work on the agreement. The NPS will help with the interpretation of the new Hanford tour stops and will also provide training to the docents who will lead the tours.

In addition to the pre-Manhattan Project history, tour participants will learn about the cleanup work going at the site today to address legacy waste and contamination, and will get an update on key risk-reduction projects. The tours will last approximately 4 hours and will leave from the B Reactor Tour Headquarters, at 2000 Logston Boulevard in Richland. The tours are open to people from all countries. Children over the age of 12 may participate but must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (there is no exception to this rule).

The schedule for the new tours calls for two tours, each holding 24 passengers, to be held on the following dates in 2015: May 26; June 2, 4, 16, and 17; July 2, 16, and 30; August 13 and 27; September 10 and 24; and Oct 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20 and 21.

Registration for the new historic tours will open on May 12, at 8:00 a.m. Seats can be reserved online, at <http://manhattanprojectreactor.hanford.gov/>; in person at the B Reactor Tour Headquarters, 2000 Logston Boulevard, Richland; or by phone at (509) 376-1647.

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*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).*



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