



Results

Resources ~

Home







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Measure 3.1.b: Supplemental - Increase completion of the Hanford tank waste treatment plan from 63% to 86% by 2016.



**Results Washington** 

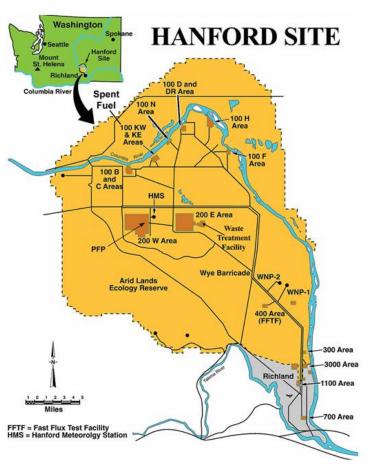
# CONSTRUCTION OF HANFORD'S WASTE TREATMENT PLANT

**Department of Ecology** 

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## The Largest Federal Cleanup Site in the United States

- 586-square-mile site.
- 72 square miles of groundwater contaminated above drinking water standards.
- 177 underground storage tanks.
  Some tanks are 70 years old, and have leaked over 1 million gallons.
- The most effective and safe way to treat the mixed hazardous and radioactive tank waste, and address the threat it poses to human health and the environment, is to vitrify it (turn it into glass).
- The vitrification process will be done in the Waste Treatment Plant, which is under construction.

G3: 3.1b Hanford Tank Waste Treatment

### **Building the Underground Waste Storage Tanks**

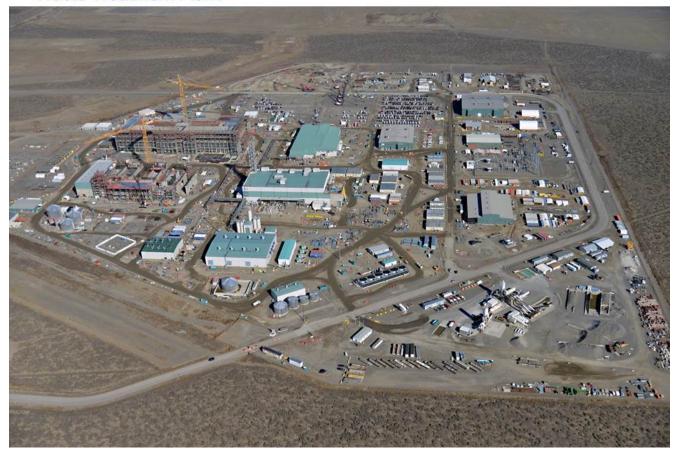






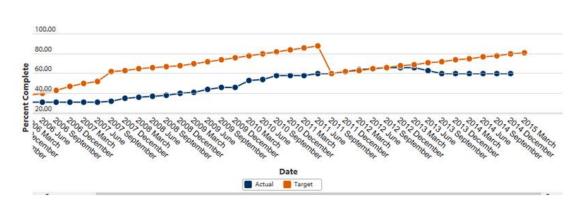
- 177 underground storage tanks, some are 70 years old.
- Tanks hold a total of 56-million gallons of high-level nuclear waste from the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel.
- 149 of the tanks are single-walled construction.
- Over a million gallons of waste has leaked or spilled from those aging tanks.

#### Waste Treatment Plant



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### Current State: Off Target



- · Goal: 86% completed by 2016
- Current Result: 63% Completed
- Not meeting the annual target and will not meet the 2016 goal

# Problem: Technical Issues and Construction Delays Have Halted Construction of Key Facilities



- Waste Treatment Plant consists of 5 key facilities.
- Technical problems have arisen on 2 of the critical facilities – Pretreatment and High-Level Waste Treatment.
- U.S. Department of Energy unilaterally stopped construction on those facilities in 2012.
- Entire Waste Treatment Plant is off the 2010 judicially mandated completion date of 2019.

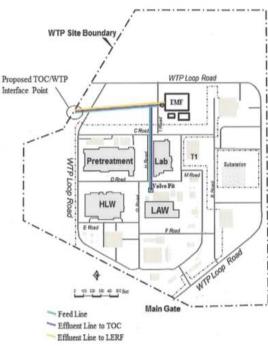
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#### Opportunity: Work with U.S. Department of Energy to begin Direct Feed Low Activity Waste Treatment



- Complete the permitting of Direct Feed Low Activity Waste treatment to allow start up of the facility by 2022 to treat a portion of the waste.
- Resolve any remaining technical issues on the Low-Activity Waste and Laboratory facilities to allow construction to be completed.



#### Strategy: Complete Litigation to Revise Schedule for Completion

- Assist the federal court judge with technical understanding of current problems and challenges.
- Provide the court with a revised schedule for full completion.
- Work with the U.S. Department of Energy to resolve technical issues to allow construction to be completed on High-level Waste Facility and restarted on Pretreatment Facility.



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#### Assistance Needed

- Continue to support the litigation to develop new schedules for startup of the Waste Treatment Plant.
- Assist with communication to Congressional delegation about the importance of continued funding for the Waste Treatment Plant and retrieval of aging tanks.
- Assist with communication to stakeholders and residents about the importance of Hanford cleanup.



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