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# DOE NEWS

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Colleen French, DOE, (509) 373-5985  
Geoff Tyree, Fluor Hanford, (509) 372-1145  
Todd Nelson, Washington Closure Hanford,  
(509) 372-9097

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**2006 MARKED BY SUBSTANTIAL HANFORD CLEANUP PROGRESS**

Richland Operations Office Recaps Key Work Completions

The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office and contractors Fluor Hanford and Washington Closure Hanford made significant progress in 2006 toward safely cleaning up the Hanford Site.

Key accomplishments for 2006 include:

- Vacuuming an estimated 55 cubic yards of radioactive sludge from the floors of Hanford's K East Basin and beginning transfer of the sludge out of the basin in preparation for draining and removing the leak-prone pool.
- Treating approximately five cubic yards of radioactive sludge from a less contaminated area of the K East Basin. The sludge was mixed with specially-formulated cement for disposal.

- Reducing contamination in Hanford's groundwater by treating a significant plume of chromium next to the Columbia River, near the H Reactor.
- Applying new technologies to groundwater cleanup, including a chemical barrier to prevent radioactive strontium from reaching the nearby Columbia River.
- Retrieving nearly a third of Hanford's estimated 75,000 drum-equivalents of radioactive waste from trenches —meeting two annual Tri-Party Agreement (compliance) milestones a month early.
- Passing 300 shipments of transuranic waste out of Washington State. Hanford has now made 306 shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico since shipments began in 2000 -- containing the equivalent of approximately 9,500 drums of radioactively contaminated waste.
- Removing the liquid sodium from the Fast Flux Test Facility's cooling systems and spent fuel pools – a total of 260,000 gallons of the reactive metal – and completed removing 375 nuclear fuel assemblies from the facility's spent fuel pools.
- Tearing down the first of nine highly contaminated buildings at the Plutonium Finishing Plant—with 17 of 63 original buildings in the 15 acre complex demolished or removed.
- Cleaning up 45 waste sites and burial grounds in the River Corridor.
- Demolishing 68 facilities in the 100 and 300 areas at an average of 50 percent less than the budgeted cost, saving nearly \$40 million.

- Disposing of 525,000 tons of contaminated material in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, bringing the total disposed to nearly seven million tons since operations began in 1996.

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