

The logo for DOE NEWS. The letters 'DOE' are in a large, blue, serif font, and 'NEWS' is in a smaller, blue, serif font to the right. Above the 'DOE' text are several horizontal blue lines of varying lengths, suggesting a stylized background or a graphic element.

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Carrie Meyer, DOE  
(509) 376-2048 or (509) 528-9760

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Geoff Tyree, Fluor Hanford  
(509) 372-1145

**HANFORD SITE SCHEDULES JUNE PUBLIC TOURS**  
*Web registration begins at noon, PDT, on Wednesday, May 16*

The Department of Energy is holding another series of bus tours of the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State in June.

Due to overwhelming response for past tours, those wanting to participate in the June tours are encouraged to sign up online as soon as possible beginning at noon, May 16, when web registration opens.

On June 13 and 14, visitors will be driven from Richland, Wash. through the Hanford Site on a route that is designed to follow the process used to produce plutonium for the nation's defense and explain current cleanup efforts, including:

- Hanford's 300 Area, just north of Richland, where fuel was manufactured for irradiation in Hanford's reactors
- The original Hanford town site
- Production reactors along the Columbia River, known as Hanford's 100 Area, where nuclear fuel was irradiated. Activities in that area today are primarily focused on 'cocooning' former reactors and cleaning up waste sites. This portion of the visit will

include a walking tour of B Reactor, the world's first large-scale plutonium production reactor.

- Hanford's central plateau, where irradiated nuclear fuel was processed to recover plutonium. This is where most of the waste that resulted from processing is located, along with a number of current activities to clean up the waste. The bus will drive through the Waste Treatment Plant construction site, where millions of gallons of tank waste will be immobilized in glass using a technology called vitrification.

All tours will begin and end at the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center, located at 2890 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, Wash. Tours will begin at 7:30 a.m.; 10 a.m.; and 12:30 p.m. on June 13 and 14. The tours are free of charge and will last approximately 4 hours.

Visitors must sign up in advance of the bus tour at the following web page: <http://www5.hanford.gov/public tours/>. Requests to participate will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at noon, PDT, on Wednesday, May 16, 2006. After all available tour slots have been filled, interested participants are encouraged to continue to check the web site for available slots, as registered participants may cancel up until 72 hours before a tour.

Tour participants must be U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old, and able to show valid photo identification on the day of the tour. The tour will include a security check before entering the Hanford Site. A listing of prohibited articles is located at <http://www.hanford.gov/?page=327&parent=317>.

For more information on Hanford tours, visit the Department of Energy's Hanford tour web page at: <http://www.hanford.gov/?page=324&parent=317>.

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*Note to media: To cover the tours, contact Carrie Meyer at (509) 376-2048, or [Carrie\\_C\\_Meyer@rl.gov](mailto:Carrie_C_Meyer@rl.gov). Special arrangements must be made in advance with Hanford Site security to allow cameras and recording devices on a tour (other visitors will not be allowed to bring cameras or recording devices). A limited number of media seats are available and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.*

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