

DOE NEWS

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HANFORD SITE SCHEDULES ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TOURS *Online registration opens at 12 noon, Aug. 1*

The Department of Energy is holding another 18 bus tours of the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State. Tours are scheduled for Sept. 5-6, Oct. 24-25 & 31, and Nov. 1, 2007.

Online registration starts at noon on Aug. 1 for the September tours, Oct. 1 for the Oct. 24 & 25 tours; and Oct. 2 for the Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 tours.

During the tours, visitors will be driven through the Hanford Site on a route designed to follow the process used at Hanford to produce plutonium for the nation's defense, including:

- The original Hanford town site;
- Hanford's 300 Area, where fuel was manufactured;
- The 100 Area, along the Columbia River, home to 9 plutonium production reactors including B Reactor, the world's first;
- Hanford's Central Plateau, where irradiated nuclear fuel was processed to recover plutonium;

- 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 each tour day. 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, Aug. 1, 2007. Registrants will be limited to two tour tickets.

Even after all available tour slots are 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. No exceptions will be made. 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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Members of the media: contact Carrie Meyer, Department of Energy Public Affairs, at (509) 376-2048 or Carrie_C_Meyer@rl.gov to sign up for the public tours, rather than reserving seats through the web registration process (photography in accordance with security requirements is arranged for media on certain tours).

A limited number of media seats are available.
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