

Cross-Site Waste Transfer Completed

RICHLAND, Wash., August 8, 1995 -- Westinghouse Hanford Company has successfully completed the transfer of 435,400 gallons of high-level radioactive waste from one part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site to another.

The transfer was completed on Tuesday, August 1, 1995. It was the first time waste has moved through what is known as the cross-site transfer line since 1989.

"The transfer, from the only available double-shell tank in the 200 West Area, frees up much-needed double-shell tank storage space which is essential to safe management of the waste," said Ami Sidpara, director, Tank Operations Office for the U.S. Department of Energy which owns the 560-square-mile Hanford Site north of Richland, Washington.

The waste was moved from double-shell tank 102-SY in the 200 West Area to another double-shell tank, 104-AP, located in the 200 East Area. The tanks are about seven miles apart. The 200 Areas are located near the center of the Hanford Site.

"The transfer of the waste gives us much-needed double-shell tank storage capacity in the 200 West Area, allowing us to accelerate the pumping schedule of the older, less reliable, single-shell tanks in that portion of the site," said John Lee, director of Tank Farm Transition Projects for Westinghouse Hanford Company.

Westinghouse Hanford Company is the management and operations contractor on the Hanford Site. The company is responsible for the safe management of more than 55,000,000 gallons of high-level waste stored in 177 underground tanks.

"Having this transfer capability is essential if we are to meet our goal to remove waste from the older, single-shell tanks before any more can leak," said Lee.

Many of the tanks date back to World War II and 67 are assumed to have leaked high-level liquid waste into the surrounding soil.

The cross-site transfer line will be used periodically as waste continues to be pumped out of single-shell tanks. A new cross-site transfer line is to be constructed in the near future. The old line, while sound, dates back to the 1950s. The new line will comply with all applicable regulations, including double-encasement, meaning it will be a pipe within a pipe to prevent possible leakage to the environment.

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For more information contact:

Mike Berriochoa at (509) 376-5742

Westinghouse Hanford Company Media Relations

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