



# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 17, 2004

## **CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS TO MARK COMPLETION OF PLUTONIUM STABILIZATION**

Long considered one of Hanford's most challenging and critical projects, the stabilization and packaging of Hanford's remaining plutonium is nearly complete.

This week, the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and contractor Fluor Hanford finish work on the plutonium left over from Hanford's production era -- greatly reducing the risk to workers and the surrounding environment, and eliminating the first of Hanford's three urgent risks (along with spent nuclear fuel and liquid tank waste).

Reporters are invited to enter the heavily-guarded Plutonium Finishing Plant complex for what could be the final time before the material leaves the Hanford Site. DOE and Fluor will provide "B Roll" tapes of the final stabilization and packaging work, and interviews with ceremony speakers will be available.

**WHO:**

U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings  
Keith Klein, Manager, DOE-RL  
Ron Gallagher, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fluor Hanford  
Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and  
Washington State Department of Ecology

**WHEN:**

Friday, February 20, 2004

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**WHERE:** Meet in the Federal Building at 9:00 a.m. for badging. Due to security concerns at the Plutonium Finishing Plant, all visitors will be required to have picture badges. Pictures will be taken at the Federal Building, followed by a brief visitor orientation video. Picture ID is required.

*Note: Please wear close-toed leather shoes (no steel toes) and as little jewelry as possible. All visitors are required to enter the facility through metal detectors.*

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