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**DEMOLITION OF HANFORD NUCLEAR FACILITY COMPLETE**

The U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and contractor Fluor Hanford, Inc. have completed demolition of the first of three plutonium concentration facilities at Hanford, using a first-of-its kind process.

The 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility operated at Hanford from 1956 to 1964, processing solutions containing plutonium. The multi-story building was highly contaminated – both because of the nature of the work performed there and various incidents over the years, including a 1963 fire that spread significant amounts of radioactivity through the facility.

During the “free air” demolition, crews applied a fixative to the walls to glue contamination in place so that the facility would not have to be decontaminated prior to demolition. A large fogger machine maintained a mist of water over the site to control dust and prevent the spread of contamination.

“This is one of those unique projects where we could see the day-to-day progress. It’s important that we’re able to share our data and lessons learned with other sites because we’re all aiming for the same goal – safe environmental cleanup,” said Steve Veitenheimer, DOE-RL Project Manager.

“This accomplishment is an important step in cleanup and demolition of surplus facilities on Hanford’s Central Plateau,” said Nick Ceto, Program Manager for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Hanford Project Office.

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## DEMOLITION OF HANFORD...

The majority of the building's rubble was low-level waste, and went to Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility for disposal. Some concrete pieces were more heavily contaminated with plutonium and were packaged for shipment as transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

"We worked extensively with our employees to figure out how to bring down this highly contaminated facility safely," said Fluor Hanford's Mike Lackey, Vice President of Deactivation and Decommissioning. "There wasn't a single OSHA-recordable injury during the demolition, and there were no skin contaminations during the more than 4,000 employee entries into the work site. We're proud of our safety record and of this accomplishment, and we think this approach can be applied to future demolition projects at Hanford."

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