River Corridor

Expectation:

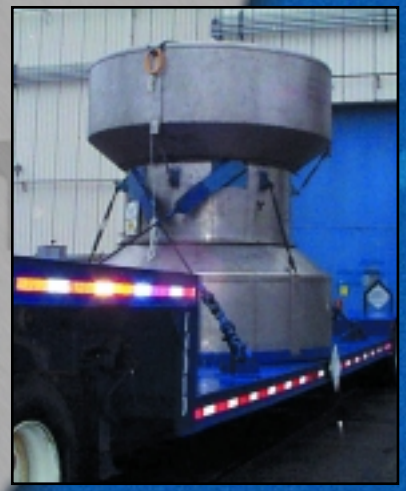
Safely deactivate contaminated facilities, including several near the Columbia River, to reduce risk to workers and the environment while decreasing cost to taxpayers.

Technicians use a 30-ton crane at the 324 Building to lower a grout container cask onto a truck for shipment to the low-level waste burial grounds in the 200 Area. The container is filled with remnants of a two-story-tall rack from B Cell, the largest and most contaminated cell in the facility.

324 Building Cleanout:

- Technicians removed the final two-story equipment rack from the wall inside B Cell, the largest, most contaminated cell in the facility. All of the 17-foot rack has been cut into smaller pieces with a plasma arc torch using remote manipulators.

- Remnants of the large racks from B Cell are being packaged in grout containers. This quarter, two containers were packaged, loaded into a 56,000-ton cask assembly, and moved to compliant storage in the 200 Area. The shipment demonstrated that the 324 Building team has successfully resolved some difficult waste characterization, packaging and shipping issues. Two of the 17 shipments scheduled for the first campaign are complete. These shipments support removal of waste and equipment from B Cell by November, an important Tri-Party Agreement milestone.



- We worked with our regulators to resequence some of the cleanout work; they approved the new, more efficient schedule in January.

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327 Building Deactivation:

- Thanks to aggressive cost cutting, we are on track with a "stretch" initiative to move legacy waste to safe storage, even though the work was not specifically funded this year.
- About 30 percent of the approximately 370 sample cans of radioactive materials stored in the building's under-floor carousel have been retrieved and removed.
- Reclassification of certain low-level waste from the facility from Category 3 to Category 1 will cut disposal costs 75 percent.

Hot cells line a corridor in the 327 Building. Three of the facility's eight hot cells are now clean.

Other Project Achievements:

- As part of the National Facility Deactivation Initiative, we provided deactivation expertise to the Savannah River Site and helped the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory install planning and estimating software, called POWERtool, developed at Hanford for decontamination and decommissioning projects.
- Our closedown of the Waste Acid Treatment System, once used to treat and store waste acid from nuclear fuel fabrication, was named Project of the Year by the local Project Management Institute chapter. The innovative effort is considered a model for similar Resource Conservation and Recovery Act closures.

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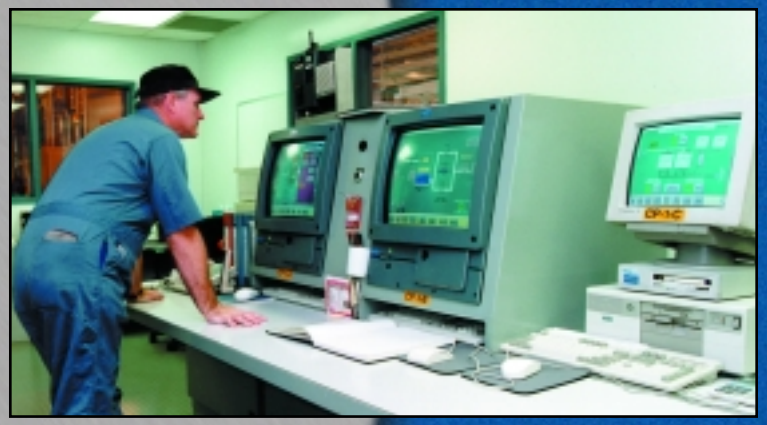
310/340 Facilities:

- The 310 Treated Effluent Disposal Facility and the much older and currently closed 340 Facility are where all process wastes from the 300 Area flow for treatment. Planning has been done to enable accelerated closure of the 340 Facility if funding is made available. The first critical deactivation task would be to remove the residual heels in two storage tanks, significantly reducing the facility's maintenance and surveillance costs. *(See also Page 17, Site Services.)*



From inside the modern control room, an operator monitors treatment of wastewater at the 310 Treated Effluent Disposal Facility.

What's Next:

- Develop a 300-Area Accelerated Closure Project Plan, including schedules and cost estimates.

- A contract for an off-the-shelf robotic arm that will be used to complete deactivation of B Cell was awarded to Cybernetix, a recognized expert in the manufacture of remote-controlled components. The robotic system is expected to accelerate the cleanout and shutdown of the 324 Building.