



### Tri-Party Agreement

U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# FACT SHEET

## HANFORD'S 300 AREA

### WHAT IS HANFORD'S 300 AREA?

Hanford's 300 Area was home to the fuel manufacturing operations as well as the experimental and laboratory facilities. The 300 Area is a few miles from the city of Richland and adjacent to the Columbia River.

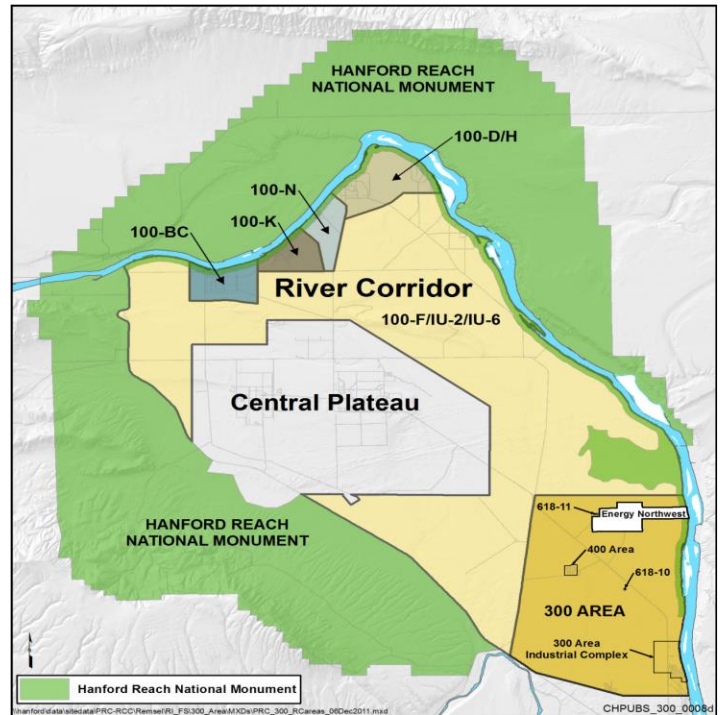
During Hanford's plutonium production mission, large amounts of raw uranium were sent to the 300 Area to be manufactured into fuel assemblies called "rods". These fuel rods were ultimately placed into the 100 Area reactors where a nuclear chain reaction would change the uranium into plutonium. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory continues to use a few of the 300 Area buildings today, but the majority of the industrial complex and its structures have been or are set to be demolished.

### HOW IS CLEANUP DONE?

The 300 Area consists of contaminated facilities, soil and groundwater. Historic disposal practices resulted in contaminated soil sites which eventually travelled to groundwater.

Cleanup involves tearing down contaminated facilities. Contaminated soil sites and debris are usually dug up and safely disposed. This cleanup approach is known as **RTD: Remove, treat, and dispose**. Soil and debris from cleanup activities are disposed of at Hanford's landfill, the Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility (ERDF), which is located near the center of the site, an area known as the Central Plateau.

Cleanup of contaminated groundwater, particularly uranium contamination, in the 300 Area has not yet occurred. This is part of an important upcoming cleanup decision.



Location of Hanford 300 Area



Aerial view of Hanford 300 Area from 1976



## HOW MUCH CLEANUP HAS BEEN COMPLETED?

The images on the left show the major changes to the 300 Area landscape. Numerous buildings have been demolished and contaminated soil removed. As of 2012, cleanup in the 300 Area includes:

- Demolishing 133 buildings
- Cleaning up 102 waste sites



## HOW MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Continued demolishing of buildings and cleanup of contaminated soils is still needed for the 300 Area. Cleaning up contaminated groundwater in the 300 Area is the next major cleanup action. This cleanup action will be determined in a final cleanup decision on which you can provide input!

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED

The public can provide input on what cleanup decisions the Tri-Party Agreement agencies select. Before a cleanup plan is selected, a document called a Proposed Plan, is issued for public review and comment. Your input on the Proposed Plan is factored in to the decision-making process. If you want to be aware of upcoming Proposed Plans and other Hanford decisions, join the electronic mailing list. You will receive information on upcoming public involvement opportunities and updates on Hanford activities. Join the Hanford email list at <http://listserv.wa.gov>.

Information on upcoming events is also available on the following online calendars:

**Hanford Events Calendar:** [www.hanford.gov/pageaction.cfm/calendar](http://www.hanford.gov/pageaction.cfm/calendar)

**TPA Public Involvement Calendar:** [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm)