

Celilo Mercury Containment and Abatement

This project is intended to address the mercury contamination issues at the Celilo Converter Station. The Celilo Converter station was originally constructed to use mercury arc valves for power conversion. Because mercury is a hazardous material, processes were put in place to limit operation and maintenance related to the mercury arc valves to certain portions of the building. Although limited, those areas became contaminated through years of arc valve maintenance work. In 2004, the last of the mercury arc valves was removed as part of the Celilo modernization project. Subsequent surveys were performed to determine the extent of mercury contamination at Celilo. Laboratory samples confirmed the contamination in the arc valve maintenance areas and identified additional contaminated areas. In total, approximately 16,000 square feet of space was determined to be contaminated.

This project will complete the mercury containment and abatement work at Celilo. Each contaminated room will be cleaned by an abatement contractor. Equipment will be cleaned, removed, or replaced depending on feasibility of cleaning. Some restoration will be performed to maintain the rooms after the abatement is completed. Once the mercury is removed or encapsulated, all areas of the building will be available for operation and maintenance activities. In addition to mitigating health/safety issues, the clean up will provide access to much needed space for maintenance and other activities. This work ensures compliance with all current regulatory standards, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements regarding safe Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) in the workplace.