



By the Numbers Hanford Site

The Hanford Site sits on 580 square miles of desert in southeastern Washington state, adjacent to the Columbia River. From 1943 to 1987, chain reactions inside Hanford's nine nuclear reactors changed uranium's chemical composition by exposing it to extra neutrons, producing plutonium that went into nuclear weapons used during World War II and was stockpiled during the Cold War.

Hanford's last reactor was shut down in 1987, but 44 years of plutonium production at the site generated millions of tons of solid waste and contaminated soil, as well as billions of gallons of contaminated liquids. In 1989, the Energy Department's mission to cleanup waste at Hanford began.

29B

gallons of contaminated groundwater have been treated in facilities along the Columbia River and in the center of the Hanford Site.

9 reactors

will be cocooned or preserved at the Hanford Site. Six reactors have been cocooned, a seventh is being cocooned, and an eighth will be cocooned. B Reactor has been preserved as part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

1,354

waste sites, including hundreds along the Columbia River's south shores, have been remediated – or cleaned of pollution and contaminants – to ensure continued protection of human health and the surrounding environment.

1,936

radioactive capsules stored at the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility will be moved to safer and stable dry storage.

951

facilities, many contaminated, have been demolished, including the Plutonium Finishing Plant.



18.7M tons

of soil and debris disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, an engineered and regulated landfill, covering an area of 107 acres – ~52 football fields.

18

underground waste tanks have been emptied using multiple retrieval technologies, with more than 3 million gallons of waste retrieved.

380K gallons

of liquid waste from Hanford's large underground tanks has been treated and is staged for vitrification, or immobilization in glass, when the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant begins operations.

100%

- or about 2,300 tons - of the site's spent fuel, a type of radioactive waste, has been removed from areas along the Columbia River and placed in safe, secure dry storage.

