

# Hanford Site Cleanup By the Numbers

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 were 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 current mission at Hanford — cleaning up the waste — began.

**6** of Hanford's nine reactors have been "cocooned" or demolished down to the reactor building and covered with steel and cement. With this process, the radioactivity in the reactors will continuously and safely decrease over many decades, making the reactor cores easier and safer to dismantle in the future.

**2** more reactors will be "cocooned" in coming years, with the final- B Reactor - remaining as a National Historical Landmark.

**100%**

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

**12.5K** cubic meters of waste stored underground have been removed for disposal.

**879** facilities, many contaminated, have been demolished.

**1,314** waste sites, including hundreds along the Columbia River's south shores, have been remediated — or cleaned of pollution and contaminants — to ensure future protection of human health and the surrounding environment.

**7.5M** gallons of pumpable liquid waste have been removed and transferred from underground single-shell tanks to safer double-shell tanks, completing the interim stabilization project for the 149 single-shell tanks. These tanks vary in size from 55,000 to 1 million gallons each.

**18M** tons of soil and debris disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF), the Hanford Site's engineered and regulated landfill, which covers an area of 107 acres — about the size of 52 football fields.

**>2.8M** gallons of chemical and radioactive thick sludge and saltcake waste have been retrieved from 16 single-shell tanks and one double-shell tank, reducing the risk to workers and the environment.

**17B** gallons of contaminated groundwater have been treated in facilities along the Columbia River and in the center of the Hanford Site.