



# By the Numbers ★ Hanford Site

Updated May 2020

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.

## ~1B gallons

**of contaminated groundwater** treated annually by active groundwater remediation systems operating along the River Corridor.

## 18

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

## 18.3M tons

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

## 7 of 9

**of Hanford's reactors have been "cocooned" or preserved.** Six reactors have been demolished down to the walls around the reactor cores. Radioactivity in the cores will safely decrease over many decades, making it easier and safer to dismantle the reactors in the future. B Reactor has been preserved as a National Historic Landmark and is part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.



## By 2023

**the Hanford Site** will begin treating tank waste. By the end of that year, tank waste systems, site wide infrastructure, and facilities at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant will be online to begin treating low-activity tank waste.

## 915

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

## 23B

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

## 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.

## 1,353

**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.



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