

HANFORD GETS AHEAD

Hanford vitrification plant utilities, infrastructure completed ahead of schedule, under budget

More than one year ahead of schedule and 29 percent under budget, CH2M HILL Hanford Group has completed construction of the infrastructure (electricity, water, and roads) for the future vitrification plant at the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford site in the state of Washington.

Hanford's 177 underground tanks contain 53 million gallons of

radioactive and chemical wastes from the production of plutonium for national defense. The waste will be retrieved from the aging tanks and incorporated into a stable glass form in large melters in the vitrification plant. Construction of the vitrification plant on Hanford's Central Plateau is scheduled to begin in 2002.



CH2M HILL Hanford Group employees worked to install the vitrification plant utilities and infrastructure in record time and under budget.

Tanks removed from watch list

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of River Protection announced that the final 24 Hanford high-level waste tanks have been removed from the Wyden Congressional Safety Watch List.

"Our employees have worked hard to improve the conditions in these tanks, not only to remove them from the watch list, but also to make them

available for normal operations," said Fran DeLozier, president and general manager of CH2M HILL Hanford Group. "We're proud of this accomplishment and of our efforts to improve safe storage of waste in the Hanford tanks."

Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon authored a law in the early 1990s requiring the DOE to "watchdog"

the most dangerous underground radioactive waste tanks at the Hanford Site. The law required identification of tanks having the potential for release of high-level waste from uncontrolled increases of temperature and pressure.



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Green Tip



For maximum efficiency, set your refrigerator to 38-42°F (3-6°C) and your freezer to 0-5°F (-15 to -18°C).

Microwaves use half the energy of conventional ovens.

