



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

Hanford Tank Farms Now Connected to Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

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Crews with EM tank operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions and subcontractor Apollo, Inc. fit the final sections of double-walled pipe in place, connecting the Hanford Site tank farms to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

RICHLAND, Wash. – Two major facilities critical to the tank waste treatment mission at the [Hanford Site](#) are now connected.

A video featuring the transfer line connection can be viewed [here](#).

EM tank operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions has finished construction of the pipeline that will carry treated waste from a Hanford tank to the

[Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant](#) (WTP) for [vitrification](#), or immobilization in glass.

“This is a significant step forward in our [Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste](#) Program to treat tank waste,” said Brian Vance, manager of the [Office of River Protection](#) and [Richland Operations Office](#). “The connection represents another example of this year’s progress and also demonstrates the strong commitment by the Department of Energy and our contractors to safely move our important site mission forward.”



Hanford Site leadership take part in a celebratory filling-in of a trench containing a 3,500-foot piping system that connects a tank farm to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP).

The new 3,500-foot pipe-in-pipe transfer line connects the plant to a double-shell tank in AP Tank Farm that will serve as a holding tank for liquid waste that has been treated by the **Tank- Side Cesium Removal** System to remove radioactive cesium and solids. Workers installed the cesium removal system next to the AP Tank Farm earlier this year and are conducting readiness reviews prior to starting to treat tank waste early next year.

“For the first time, tank farms are connected to the Vit Plant, providing the avenue for transferring treated tank waste to the plant for vitrification,” said John Eschenberg, WRPS president and CEO. “It’s exciting to be a part of putting the infrastructure in place to facilitate this critical mission.”



With the final sections of double-walled pipe in place, a Hanford Site tank farm is now connected to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP).

During hot commissioning and operations at the plant, the treated waste will be pumped in batches from the double-shell tank directly to the plant’s **Low-Activity Waste Facility** for vitrification and disposal.

“It’s exciting to see the physical connection from the **tank farms** to the Vit Plant,” said Valerie McCain, WTP project director and senior vice president for Bechtel National Inc., the contractor designing, building, and

commissioning the plant. “This final tie-in symbolizes the collaborative spirit at Hanford and how we are all committed to treating waste.”

Bechtel expects to heat up the first of two vitrification melters in the Low-Activity Waste Facility by the end of this calendar year as part of the plant commissioning process. Hanford is preparing to start vitrifying tank waste by the end of calendar year 2023.