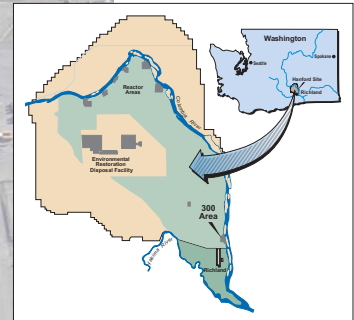


Update on River Corridor's 324 Building B-Cell Contamination

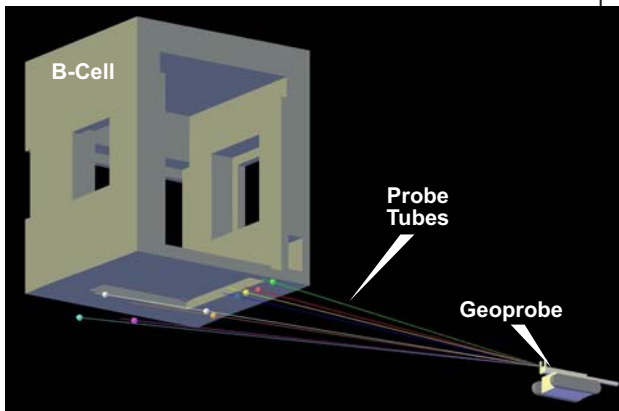
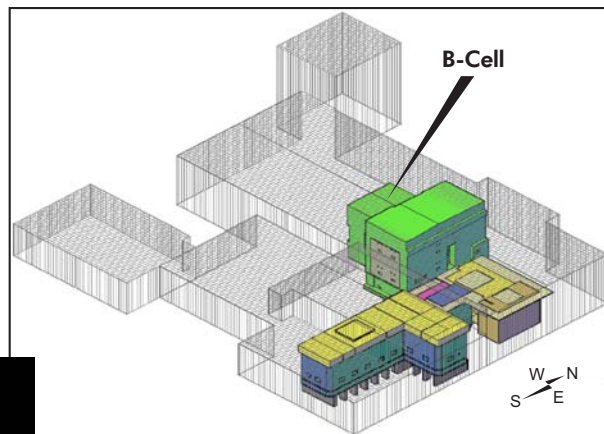
Sample Results Provide Path for Cleanup

Background

For nearly 60 years, the 300 Area was the center of Hanford's radiological research and nuclear fuel fabrication. Located along the Columbia River and just 1.5 miles north of the city of Richland, the past research and fabrication work left behind highly contaminated facilities and waste sites. The discovery of highly radioactive contamination below the 324 Building makes it the most hazardous facility that Washington Closure will deactivate, demolish and clean up along Hanford's river corridor.



The 324 Building is one of the largest and most hazardous facilities along the Columbia River. During experiments in B-Cell, radioactive materials leaked to the soil below the hot cell.



Instrument probes show the contamination remains below the hot cell. Radiation levels are extremely high and direct exposure for a few minutes would be fatal. Readings in the soil were measured at levels up to 8,900 R/hr. Sampling has verified that B-Cell soil contamination levels remain above groundwater.



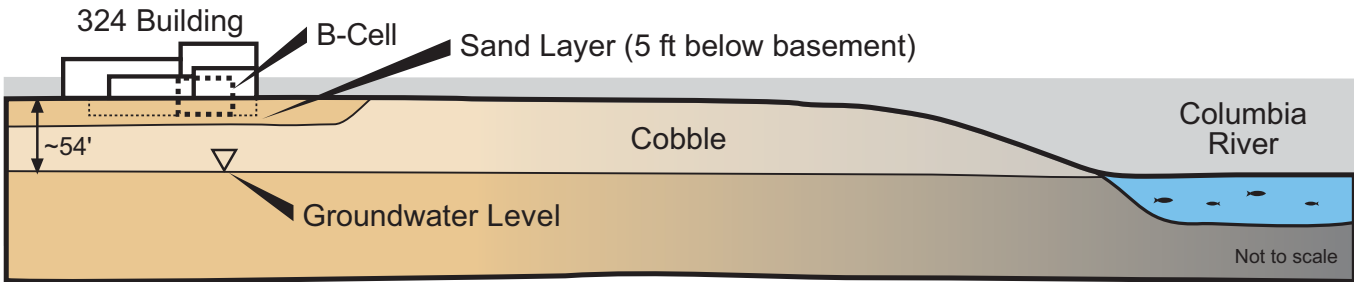
Soil samples directly below B-Cell were retrieved in June 2011. Lab analysis will provide key information for selecting cleanup options.

Remediation Update

After receiving a report containing data results from the highly contaminated soil below the 324 Building, the selection process for ranking possible remediation methods was initiated in early October using a remediation methodology screening tool. The selection process evaluates key elements such as: anticipated disposal paths, personnel safety, radiological exposure, ease of implementation, cost and schedule. The ranked methods will then be further evaluated by Washington Closure and DOE-RL together with the DOE-HQ Technical Assist Group. A team was selected by Washington Closure to establish the screening tool and comments were provided by EPA, DOE and Ecology.

B-Cell Soil Contamination

Sampling has verified that B-Cell soil contamination levels remain above groundwater



- High dose measurements follow the plane of the B-Cell floor expansion joint
- Little or no contamination detected beneath center of cell or outside cell footprint
- Soil above groundwater measured at background level

