



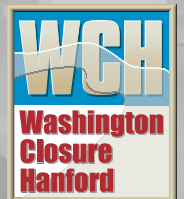
# 327 Building



The 327 Building is one of the most contaminated structures on the U.S. Department of Energy's 586-square-mile Hanford Site. Located in the River Corridor area, the building began operations in 1953 and provided examination facilities (hot cells) to test post irradiated materials, particularly fuel elements and fuel cladding. During decades of operation, the hot cells became highly contaminated.

After years of planning and work to stabilize contaminants, work began last spring on a \$25 million project to remove all 10 of the hot cells from the building. The first cell was moved out on April 12. Once outside the building, the cells were sealed in custom reinforced steel boxes and stabilized with grout. The boxes, which can weigh close to 500,000 pounds because of the cast iron used in the hot cells walls, are then moved by a gantry crane to a flatbed trailer. The final leg of their journey is a 25-mile trip to Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility where they are buried.

The 327 building is scheduled to be demolished by late September after the last hot cells have been removed and the gantry crane has been disassembled.



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