

Explosive Demolition of the 337 Building, 337B Building and the 309 Building Stack

Explosive demolition was chosen for all three structures primarily for reasons of safety related to each structure's height and design. The cast-concrete nature of the 337B Building and the dangers of unexpected cracking using conventional demolition methods were deemed too dangerous for workers.

The 337 Building and the 337B Building were built in the early 1970s to support the Fast Flux Test Facility and the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Program at Hanford. They operated for that purpose through the late 1970s until the programs were terminated. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory assumed operation of the 337 Building in 1987. Westinghouse Hanford Company retained the 337B Building. In the mid-1990s, it was used to demonstrate robotic instrumentation for tank waste retrieval. The building was decommissioned in the late 1990s. The 337 Building was vacated

in the mid-2000s because of its deteriorating condition and the high costs to upgrade.

Both buildings were architecturally unique at Hanford, exhibiting characteristics of an architectural style called Brutalism, which feature among other things, exposed concrete, piping, ductwork and mechanical systems.

337 Building

- Large, three-story office building
- 2 bays (165 X 50 feet each) connected by adjoining wings at both ends
- 54,118 total square feet
- Constructed of pre-cast concrete walls and concrete planks topped with two inches of concrete
- Debris to be used as fill for other 300 Area building demolitions



Removal of these facilities will significantly change the 300 Area skyline. Washington Closure Hanford will demolish nearly 400 building in Hanford's Columbia River corridor.

337B Building

- Dubbed the High Temperature Sodium Facility
- A high-bay facility 176 feet by 76 feet and 93 feet tall
- 23,250 total square feet
- Walls constructed of one foot thick precast concrete panels
- Contains a 100-ton overhead crane
- Debris to be used as fill for other 300 Area demolitions

309 Building Stack

- 110 feet tall
- 12 feet in diameter at the base
- Exhaust for the 309 Building (Plutonium Recycle Test Reactor)
- Debris will be disposed at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility



The 337 Building and the 337B Building were built in the early 1970s.



The stack being demolished was part of the exhaust system for the 309 Building, or the Plutonium Recycle Test Reactor. The facility went into operation in 1960 and was used to develop, test and fabricate alternate fuels for commercial nuclear reactors and other applications.



The 337B Building initially housed research and development activities associated with the Fast Flux Test Facility, including a reactor core mechanical mock-up, which was used to test selected FFTF components.