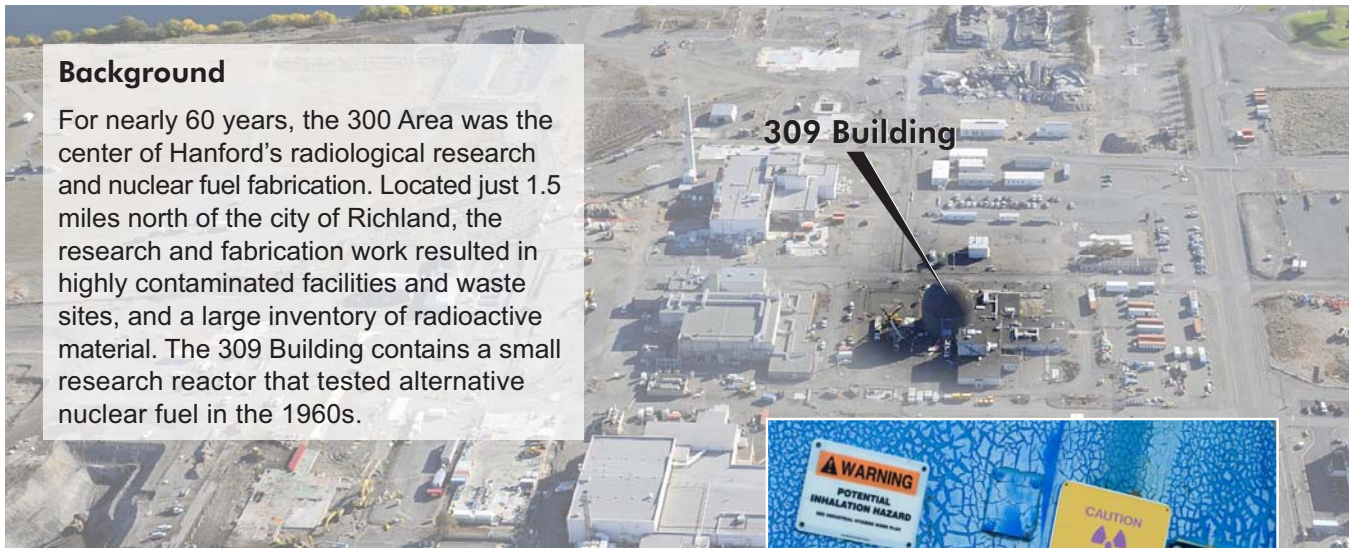


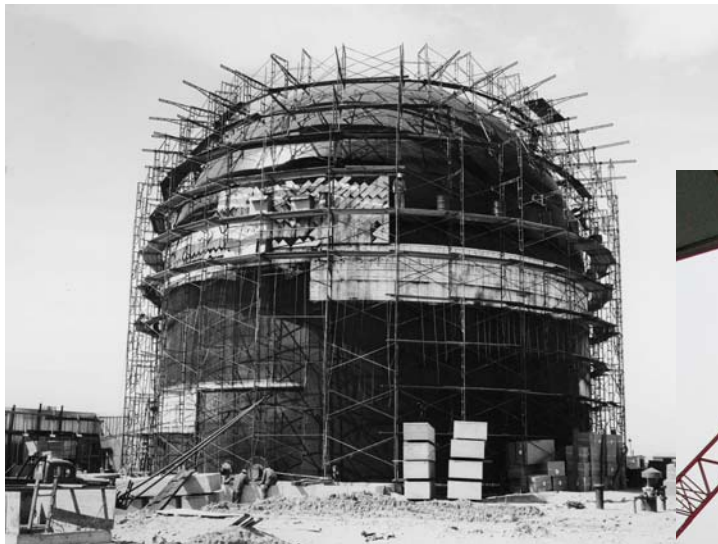
309 Building Demolition

Background

For nearly 60 years, the 300 Area was the center of Hanford's radiological research and nuclear fuel fabrication. Located just 1.5 miles north of the city of Richland, the research and fabrication work resulted in highly contaminated facilities and waste sites, and a large inventory of radioactive material. The 309 Building contains a small research reactor that tested alternative nuclear fuel in the 1960s.



309 Building



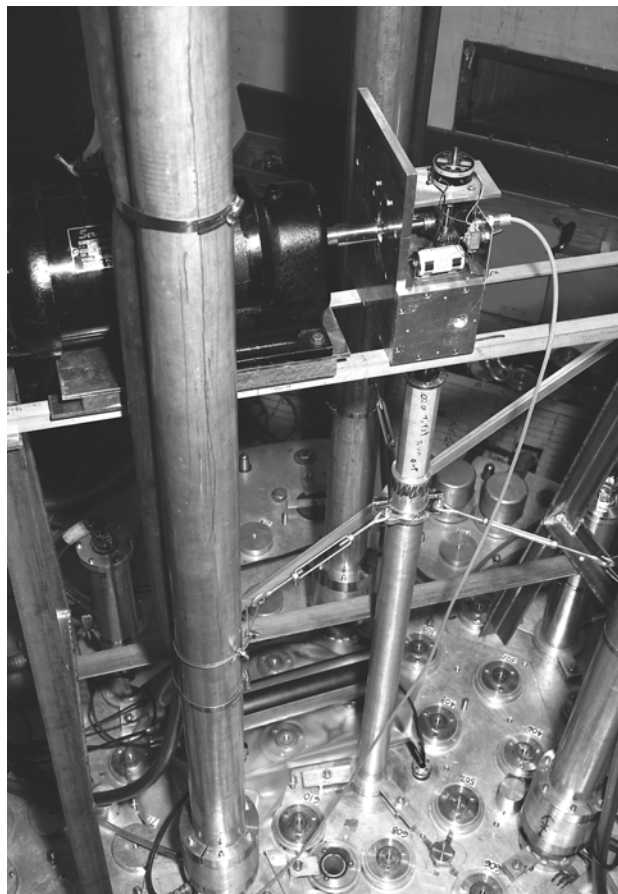
The 309 containment dome construction was completed in the late 1950s. Located along the Columbia River, the facility's hazardous materials from operating days include: nuclear fission products, lead, beryllium and cadmium.



The 67-ton steel dome was removed January 15, 2011. Demolition of the above-grade walls will be completed this winter.



The dome weighs about 67 tons and will be disposed at Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.



Demolition of the research reactor located in the lower levels will occur this fall. Uranium, plutonium and mixed-oxide fuel elements were ruptured deliberately at the research facility.



Inside the 309 Building, months of preparation were required to remove hazardous materials and to stabilize the dome before demolition.



Spacers, called H-clips, were installed after cutting the quarter-inch carbon steel shell off the dome.



The crane used to remove the 80-foot-tall dome has a 200-foot boom and weighs 500 tons.