

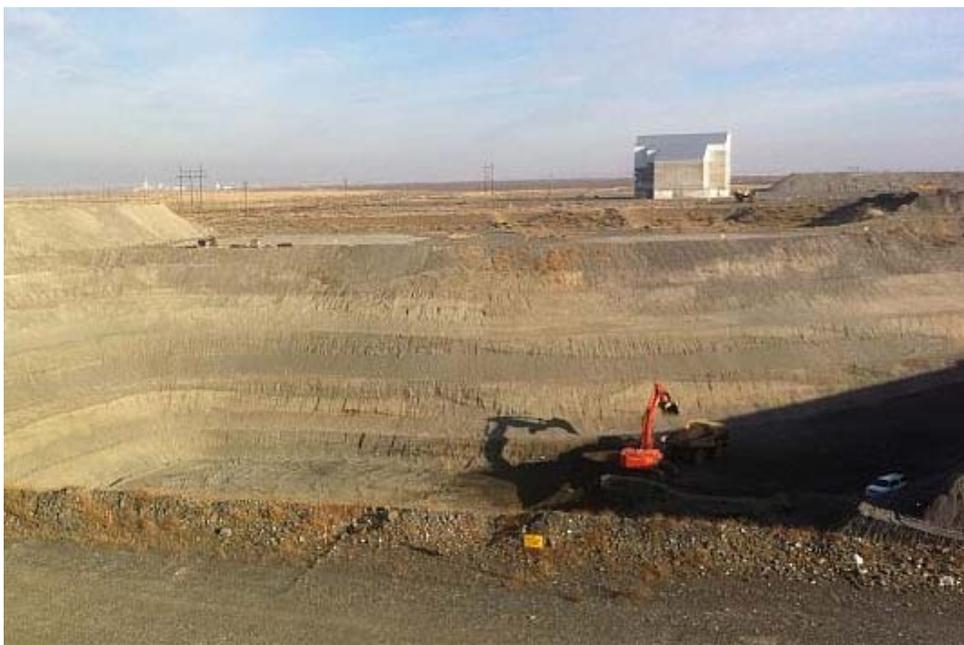
Cleanup Progress: Massive Chromium Cleanup Site Sets Standard for Restoration

Background

Chromium is the major contaminant of concern at the C-7 waste sites, located near the B and C Reactors. It was used as an anti-corrosion agent in the piping of Hanford's nine reactors that produced plutonium during World War II and the Cold War. The source of contamination at the C-7 waste sites is believed to be the result of leaks and spills near C Reactor during operations. Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) is working to clean up hundreds of waste sites throughout the River Corridor, and safely dispose of thousands of tons of waste material.



The C-7 excavation sites removed 2.5 million tons of material which included contaminated soil, concrete debris, and scrap metal.



Workers excavated 85 feet to groundwater at two sites near C Reactor to remove significant levels of chromium contamination.

- The volume and depth of contamination was significantly greater than expected.
- The C-7 waste sites have been called the prototype for backfilling and revegetation because of the teamwork between DOE, the EPA, WCH, and WCH sub-contractors DelHur Industries (backfill) and Wildlands (revegetation).
- The backfill work was contoured and created micro-climates that are essential for the success of vegetation and key to wildlife habitat.

- Chromium was the result of leaks and spills at transfer areas where loading and unloading operations took place between 1944 and 1964 when C Reactor was still in operation.
- Remediation of the 100-C-7 sites was completed in 2013. Backfill and revegetation was completed in March 2014.



The entire team completed the massive project without a recordable injury.



The revegetation team dry seeded native bunch grasses and planted roughly 52,000 tubelings of three different species: sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, and spiny hopsage.



Approximately 1.1 million tons of chromium contaminated material were taken to central Hanford for treatment and disposal.

The C Reactor backfill sites are viewed by DOE and regulators as a cost efficient and improved environmental standard to restore Hanford contaminated areas.



Washington Closure Hanford, a limited liability company led by URS and its partners, Bechtel National and CH2M Hill, is 91 percent complete with its mission of cleaning up the Columbia River corridor, a 220-square-mile section of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. The River Corridor was home to Hanford's nine plutonium-production reactors and fuel development facilities, and hundreds of support structures. Through April 2014, Washington Closure has demolished 299 of 333 buildings, cleaned up 490 of 592 waste sites, placed two nuclear reactors in interim safe storage, and disposed of 9.9 million tons of contaminated material in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.