

Central Waste Complex



The Central Waste Complex, where waste is stored, treated and repackaged as required for disposal



Workers load a waste container at the Central Waste Complex for shipment to an off-site waste repackaging facility.

The U.S. Department of Energy contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company are safely and compliantly managing the legacy radioactive and mixed waste stored at the Central Waste Complex at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington state.

The Central Waste Complex (CWC) is a waste storage and treatment unit located in the center of the Hanford Site in southeast Washington state. At the facility, workers store and treat mixed low-level waste, transuranic, transuranic mixed, polychlorinated biphenyl waste and other waste types requiring treatment before disposal. Waste stored at the CWC will be treated and repackaged as required for disposal.

The CWC has approximately 300,000 square feet (27,900 square meters) of storage, the equivalent of six football fields, and can store up to 64,000 drums. The facility has seven large storage buildings, 12 small storage buildings and five areas for outdoor storage.

Waste stored and treated at the CWC primarily comes from on-site sources, such as retrieved waste from burial grounds and wastes generated from ongoing waste retrieval at other Hanford facilities. Eventually, the waste stored at the CWC will be disposed of on-site or at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Currently, more than 8,000 waste containers, which are mainly drums, are located inside CWC storage buildings. The waste containers are inspected weekly to ensure safe and compliant storage.

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(Left) Workers prepare a waste shipment for transport to an off-site waste repackaging facility. (Right) Workers transport transuranic waste to the Central Waste Complex.

