



Excavators removed soil to expose vertical pipe units (VPUs) filled with waste.



For 80 of the 94 vertical pipes, workers drove overcasings around the pipes, and an auger removed the pipe, the contents inside, and the soil inside the overcasing.



For 12 thicker-walled vertical pipes, workers installed a box over a small section of exposed pipe and the box with grout. The grout trapped contamination as that section of pipe was removed. The box of hardened grout was then disposed of in Hanford's regulated landfill for low-level waste.

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618-10 Burial Ground Project

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Energy and contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company completed cleanup of the 618-10 Burial Ground, an area that once contained some of the most hazardous waste at the 580-square-mile site in southeast Washington state.



The project's proximity to the Columbia River is shown in this aerial view of the 618-10 Burial Ground and two nearby waste sites (316-4 and 600-63).

Background:

The 618-10 Burial Ground operated from 1954-1963. The burial ground received highly radioactive waste from laboratories and fuel development facilities in Hanford's 300 Area. During the years of operation, waste was disposed of in 12 trenches as well as 94 vertical pipe units (VPUs). Eighty VPUs are made up of five bottomless 55-gallon drums that were welded together end-to-end and corrugated steel pipes.

Poor recordkeeping at the time meant many of the waste types were unknown, requiring additional sampling, worker training, and the development of new waste retrieval methods during cleanup to safely remove the material.

Mission

During cleanup from 2009 to 2017, workers retrieved 2,201 55-gallon drums, miscellaneous debris and 94 VPUs that were buried more than 20 feet below ground. In total, workers removed more than 512,000 tons of contaminated soil and waste debris, which was taken to the Hanford Site's regulated landfill, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

Future

After cleanup operations were complete, workers removed infrastructure, graded the site and planted native vegetation to help restore the site to a natural state.

