



A yellow crane inside the 42,000 square foot Canister Storage Building is used to lift multi-canister overpacks from below-grade concrete vaults.

Fast Facts

- Below the floor of the Canister Storage Building, there are numerous vertical storage tubes in three concrete vaults.
- Each carbon-steel tube is 40 feet long.
- Annual operating costs are approximately \$5 million for safe storage of nuclear materials .
- Approximately 2,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel is stored in the tubes in the Canister Storage Building.
- The spent nuclear fuel contains approximately 56 million curies of radioactivity.

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Canister Storage Building

The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company are safely and compliantly managing interim storage of waste at the Canister Storage Building at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington state.



High-level radioactive material is delivered to the Canister Storage Building.

Background

The Canister Storage Building (CSB) plays an important role as an interim storage facility in Hanford's cleanup mission.

The CSB is a 42,000 square foot (3,402 square meter) facility in Hanford's 200 East Area. The facility stores about 400 multi-canister overpacks (MCOs) containing about 2,300 tons of irradiated fuel that came from several Hanford facilities. The irradiated fuel was cleaned, packaged, dried and relocated to the CSB to provide safe interim storage in a consolidated location.

Mission

The CSB is composed of three below-grade concrete vaults, each capable of holding 220 carbon steel tubes. The tubes, each 40 feet (12 meters) long, have been placed vertically in the vaults. MCOs are safely stored in the tubes in these vaults until a final disposal decision is made. Currently, only one vault contains MCOs. The other two vaults are available for additional storage needs.

Adjacent to the CSB is the Interim Storage Area, which also contains irradiated fuel packaged in various containers. This irradiated fuel will be repackaged and sent to a national repository.



Workers handle an empty container, called a multi-canister overpack, used to store irradiated reactor fuel.

