



Containers are filled with waste to be disposed of at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company are safely and compliantly operating the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

Background

The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) is a large, engineered landfill in the center of the Hanford Site for the disposal of low-level radioactive, hazardous, and mixed wastes generated from Hanford cleanup activities. ERDF is composed of 10 large disposal cells and a liner system protecting the environment from the contents inside the cells.

Mission

ERDF is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The facility is designed to keep the environment safe by isolating waste and leachate (rain and dust suppression water in contact with the waste) from the environment.

On average, ERDF receives 10,000 to 15,000 tons of waste each month. ERDF allows cleanup to progress across the 580-square mile Hanford Site by providing a safe and compliant place to dispose of contaminated items.

Progress

- Over 18-million tons of waste have been disposed of at ERDF
- ERDF drivers picking up waste and delivering it to the landfill have logged nearly 30 million miles since the facility began accepting waste

Future

ERDF is designed to be expanded as needed, and will vertically expand as it continues to accept Hanford Site waste. Vertical expansion is a safe, cost-effective method to increase ERDF capacity; it allows ERDF to continue full operations, avoiding potential cleanup delays across the Hanford Site. A permanent cap will ultimately cover the entire facility. Meanwhile, a temporary cap is placed over the cells as they are filled.



Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility containers are weighed and characterized to track waste contents.



Workers safely dispose of waste at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

Efficiency

The onsite landfill keeps Hanford waste on the Central Plateau of the Hanford Site and away from the Columbia River, major roads, and the general public. It also avoids costs associated with offsite transportation and disposal. ERDF disposal costs are significantly below those of other disposal facilities, including municipal landfills.

