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. A liner system protects 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 who pick up waste and deliver it to the landfill have logged nearly 30 million miles since the facility began accepting waste
- ERDF has an excellent safety record with only one lost-time accident since 1996

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.