

again expanded on January 7 out of what the DOE called an abundance of caution.

While there appears to be no single event that caused the spread of contamination, the contamination found indicates that it was most likely related to the final demolition of the PRF, according to the DOE. The department said that it will continue to conduct additional radiological surveys and will decide when demolition can resume, and that will be only after it has been assured that CHPRC is fully prepared to resume the work. The DOE is providing updates on PFP activities on its Hanford website, at [www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov).

## More Hanford news

The Department of Energy's strategies for resolving technical issues with the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash., are not enough to ensure the safe operation of the plant, according to a report by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). The technical report, which has a June 2017 publication date, was delivered to James Owendoff, acting assistant secretary of the DOE's Office of Environmental Management, on Oct. 12, 2017.

The report provides an analysis of control strategies the DOE is proposing to address safety issues associated with flammable gas and criticality hazards at the WTP's Pretreatment Facility. The DOE is designing and building the WTP, also known as the Vit Plant, to treat 56 million gallons of radioactive waste stored in 177 underground tanks at the Hanford Site. The Pretreatment



Technical issues have delayed the completion of Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, known as the Vit Plant. (Photo: DOE/BNI)

Facility is designed to receive the Hanford tank waste and separate it into low- and high-level waste streams for immobilization through vitrification.

The DNFSB previously identified safety issues related to the challenges associated with Hanford's tank waste and the design of the Pretreatment Facility. In 2009, the DNFSB reported that stagnant waste in piping could lead to the buildup of hydrogen and potentially create an explosion hazard. The board has also raised issues with the performance of the facility's pulse jet mixing systems. Inadequate mixing of the liquid waste could lead to an accumulation of hydrogen in process vessels, a potential

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