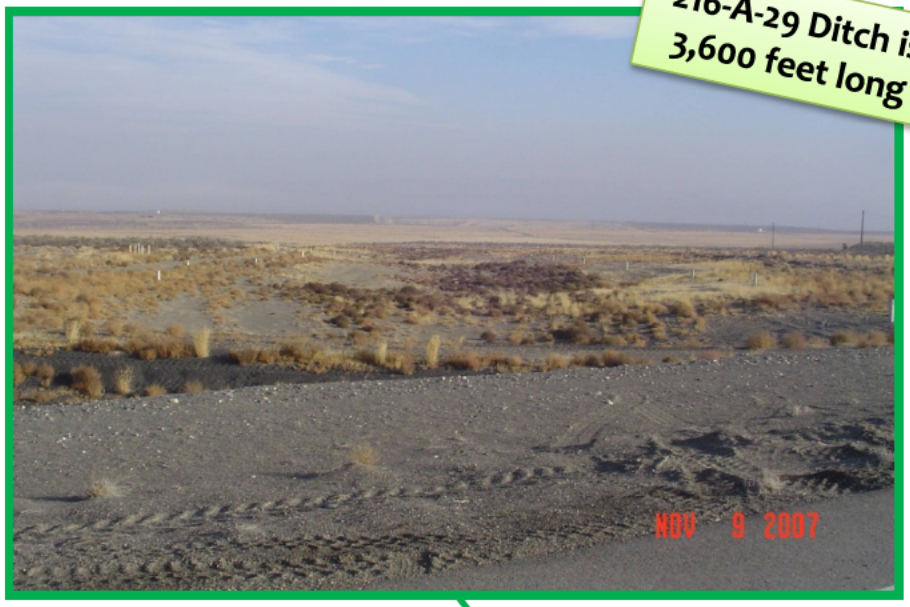
216-A-29 Ditch

Closing Unit #11

- Unlined ditch, leading from PUREX to the B Trenches, which discharged to the B Ponds.
- Capacity: an average of 1 million gallons/day.
- 3,600 feet long, 6 feet wide, varying in depth from 2 to 3 feet at the south end to 16 feet in the north end.
- North of PUREX in Hanford's 200 East Area, with part outside the 200 East perimeter fence.
- Operated from 1955 to 1986.
- Stabilized in 1991, and planted with native plants.



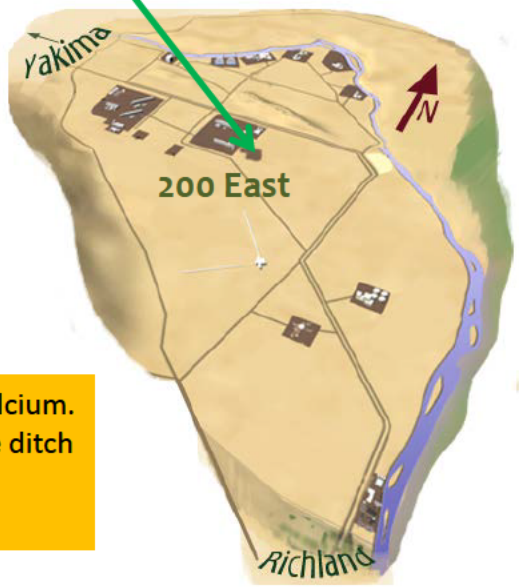
216-A-29 Ditch is 3,600 feet long

Where did the waste come from?

The ditch was the disposal site for PUREX's chemical sewer, starting in 1955. It received dangerous and radioactive wastes. The dangerous wastes were from acidic and caustic backwashes. The flow from the sewer was continuous, discharging an average of a million gallons/day. The total volume of waste the ditch received is unknown. The waste contaminated the soil.

What will happen to the site?

Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-037-02 requires a closure plan for the ditch by 2014. Milestone M-037-10 requires the ditch's closure by 2020. The cleanup will meet CERCLA and RCRA Corrective Action requirements.



What's the risk?

Groundwater monitoring shows total organic halides, sodium, sulfate, and calcium. Though the levels have increased over the years, scientists do not believe the ditch caused the increases. Studies have not shown any dangerous wastes in the groundwater from this ditch.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Protecting our air, land and water — today and for the future.