216-A-36B Crib

Closing Unit #12

- Unlined disposal facility for contaminated liquids.
- Capacity: 116,000 gallons/day.
- 23 feet deep, 492 feet long, and 7 to 11 feet wide at the base.
- South of PUREX in Hanford’s 200 East Area.
- Operated from 1966 to 1972, and again from 1982 to 1987, when PUREX restarted toward the end of the Cold War.
- In March 1966, the permittees isolated the northernmost 98 feet of the 216-A-36 Crib. The remainder became the 216-A-36B Crib.
- Backfilled with clean soil, and now plants cover the site.

Where did the waste come from?
The crib received diluted nitrate acid, ammonium nitrate, and ammonium fluoride from PUREX.

What will happen to the site?
Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-037-02 requires a closure plan for the crib by 2014. Milestone M-037-10 requires the crib’s closure by 2020. The cleanup will meet CERCLA and RCRA Corrective Action requirements.

What’s the risk?
Monitoring suggests this crib contributes to the nitrate plume in Hanford’s groundwater. The crib may be a continuing source of groundwater contamination from nitrates and tritium deep underground (in the vadose zone).