216-B-3 Main Pond

Closing Unit #22

- Unlined pond, covering 35 acres, 2 to 8 feet deep.
- Unit includes the main pond and the 216-B-3 Ditch.
- Received huge volumes of contaminated water — at peak of operations, about 22 million gallons went to the pond daily.
- Received corrosive and toxic dangerous waste that included caustic and acidic wastes to neutralize corrosivity.
- About a mile north and east of the Waste Treatment Plant, in a natural depression in the land.
- Known as “B Pond”.
- Operated from 1945 to 1994.

Where did the waste come from?
The pond held mostly process and cooling water from the PUREX plutonium-processing plant, B Plant complex, 242-A Evaporator, and other units in the 200 East Area.

What will happen to the site?
Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-037-03 requires a closure plan for this site by April 30, 2014. Milestone M-037-11 requires the pond’s closure by 2016. Cleanup will meet CERCLA and RCRA Corrective Action requirements.

What’s the risk?
The groundwater below this site is contaminated, but it can’t be linked conclusively to the pond (there are other sources nearby). Groundwater cleanup will address the contamination.