241-CX Tanks

Closing Unit #15

- 3 underground tanks, CX-70, -71, and -72, supported the Reduction-Oxidation Plant (REDOX) and Plutonium-Uranium Extraction Plant (PUREX) process pilot studies.
- Tank CX-70 is 20 feet in diameter and 15 feet tall. It could hold 30,000 gallons and received waste in 1952 and 1953.
- Tank CX-71 is 5 feet in diameter and 7 feet tall. It could hold 1,000 gallons and received waste from 1952 to 1957.
- Tank CX-72 is 40 inches in diameter and 35 feet tall inside of a wider and taller tank. It received waste in 1957 and 1958.

USDOE plans to clean close the 241-CX Tanks

Where did the waste come from?

The wastes came from the "hot semi-works," where USDOE developed plutonium-extraction processes. A wide variety of dangerous wastes — from arsenic to lead to mercury, and corrosive chemicals — were disposed here.

What will happen to the site?

Today the tanks hold waste residues. Tank CX-72 is filled with grout and has a containment building. The tanks and their waste will go to Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. USDOE plans to clean close the tanks. The revised closure plan is due 30 days after the permit becomes effective. We require a revised plan to develop alternatives if clean closure isn't possible. The closure is due by 2020 to meet Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-037-10.

What's the risk?

There is no risk if the permittees clean close the tanks. If they cannot clean close the site, it means they must monitor some remaining contamination to make sure it does not harm people or the environment.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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