

300 Area Process Trenches

Post-Closure Unit #1

- 2 trenches, each 1500 feet long, 15 feet deep, 10 feet wide at bottom.
- Received discarded chemicals, corrosive waste, chromium, spent solvents, and up to 2.9 million gallons/day of contaminated wastewater from uranium fuel production and several laboratories.
- Operated 1975 through 1994.
- Workers removed some of the contaminated soil in 1991 in an expedited response action. The rest of the contaminated soil was removed in 1994.
- Ecology approved site closure in 1998, but required long-term (post-closure) monitoring.

In 1982 and 1984, the trenches received two releases of tetrachloroethene. The expedited response action in 1991 reduced the impact to groundwater. But in 1998, groundwater contamination still exceeded legal limits. Recent monitoring reveals a persistent presence of organics (tetrachloroethene, cis-1,2-dichloroethene, trichloroethene) in the groundwater.

Through the permit, Ecology will require USDOE to:

- Continue post-closure care (based on the approved plan).
- Continue the cleanup for toxic uranium in groundwater.
- Meet the requirements of RCRA through a CERCLA remedy.
- Monitor the groundwater.

What part of this permit differs from the usual?

We are integrating future groundwater monitoring for any past releases with EPA and the CERCLA process.

What's the risk?

Groundwater contamination in close proximity to the Columbia River is a concern.

