

400 Area Waste Management Unit

Operating Unit #16

- For storage of sodium, sodium hydroxide, sodium-potassium, and debris contaminated with them.
- Two storage areas: Fuel Storage Facility in Building 403 and a fenced, partly paved outdoor area for large items.
- No treatment or disposal, just storage.
- Next to the shutdown Fast Flux Test Facility (10 miles north of Richland).

Where does the waste come from?

The waste comes from shutting down the Fast Flux Test Facility and includes piping, equipment, components, and pure (elemental) sodium that cooled the reactor's core.

Where will the waste go?

There are two options. USDOE will store the sodium here until either using it at the Waste Treatment Plant or disposing it. Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-92-09, due in 2018, will set a schedule to decide on the sodium's disposal.

What part of this permit differs from the usual?

The waste here is subject to the land disposal restrictions in federal RCRA regulations. The Federal Facilities Compliance Act allows places like Hanford to meet the land disposal restrictions by having a site treatment plan in place. Hanford's treatment plan is the Tri-Party Agreement, which brings Hanford into compliance with federal laws. The agreement's annual land disposal restrictions report serves the function of a site treatment plan.

Sodium is covered with inert gas to prevent spontaneous reaction



Fuel Storage Facility Building 403



What's the risk?

Sodium is extremely reactive. The permit requires highly controlled conditions for the safe storage of sodium. For example, sodium is covered with inert gas to keep it from contacting moisture and forming flammable hydrogen gas. When the waste is removed, clean closure is likely.



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