Low-Level Burial Grounds
“Green Islands”

Closing Unit #26

- Parts of nine trenches in five burial grounds.
- Permittees disposed of dangerous waste in these trenches without a permit or permit application.
- “Green Islands” is just a reference to how the site looked on a map at one time. They are not green or islands.

Where did the waste come from?
The trenches hold solid wastes from various Hanford operations, including spent equipment, lubricants, tools, rags, paint, and broken parts.

What will happen to the site?
Because of the expense and hazard of working in the trenches, it will be hard to carry out the corrective action. We will coordinate actions under the permit with actions for the other burial grounds in the area (“200-SW-2” operable unit in the Tri-Party Agreement).

Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-015-938 requires a closure plan for this site by 2016. The schedule for closure is due a year later. The cleanup will meet CERCLA and RCRA Corrective Action requirements.

What’s the risk?
The wastes are mostly solid and have not impacted groundwater. There is radiological, chemical, and industrial risk for workers who must go into the trenches.