

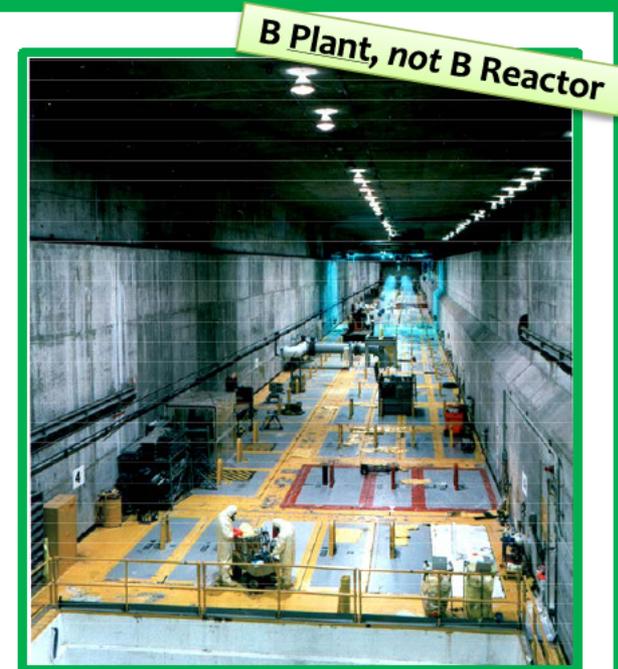
B Plant

Closing Unit #24

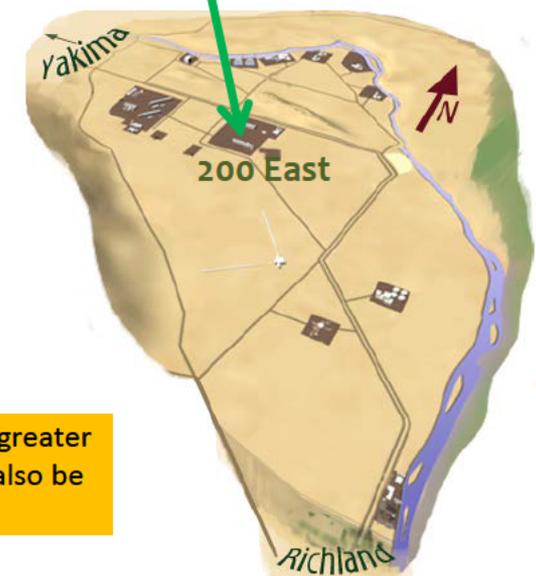
- One of Hanford's five cruise-ship-sized plutonium-processing plants built in 1943.
- Wastes from B Plant went to single-shell tanks and to cribs and trenches. Solid contaminated wastes went to burial grounds. Gaseous emissions went to the air. Non-contaminated waste went to other landfills.
- In the 1960s and early 70s, B Plant recovered cesium and strontium from tank wastes to make storage of those wastes safer. (The recovered cesium and strontium are stored at the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility next door.)
- Operated until 1952.

Permitting

- B Plant has several related facilities and permitted areas inside the complex.
- The Tri-Party Agreement agencies will address B Plant through milestone M-85-10A, due in June 2014. It requires submitting a remedial investigation and feasibility study work plan to Ecology.
- Closure will follow the CERCLA process, so it will address the radioactive materials as well as the dangerous wastes under state authority.
- B Plant has dangerous waste management units, so it must be closed under the permit.
- Steps taken when B Plant shut down ensure it is safe and stable until final cleanup.
- Final closure activities will be through a combination of CERCLA and permitting processes.



Inside B Plant



What's the risk?

The chemical wastes at this unit do not pose much risk. There is greater risk from the radioactive materials USDOE regulates. There will also be industrial risk to workers when they tear down the building.