

Central Waste Complex

Operating Unit #6

- Main purpose is waste storage, but CWC also treats a small amount of waste. It started receiving waste in 1988.
- Stores many types of waste: radioactive, chemical, and small amounts of low-level waste.
- Capacity: 64,000 drums or the equivalent.
- In total, 300,000 square feet of storage, which equals about 6 football fields!
- 7 large storage buildings; 12 small storage buildings.
- 27 storage modules for low-flashpoint wastes.
- 12 storage modules for alkali metal waste.
- 6 areas for outdoor storage.
- Offices and maintenance buildings.

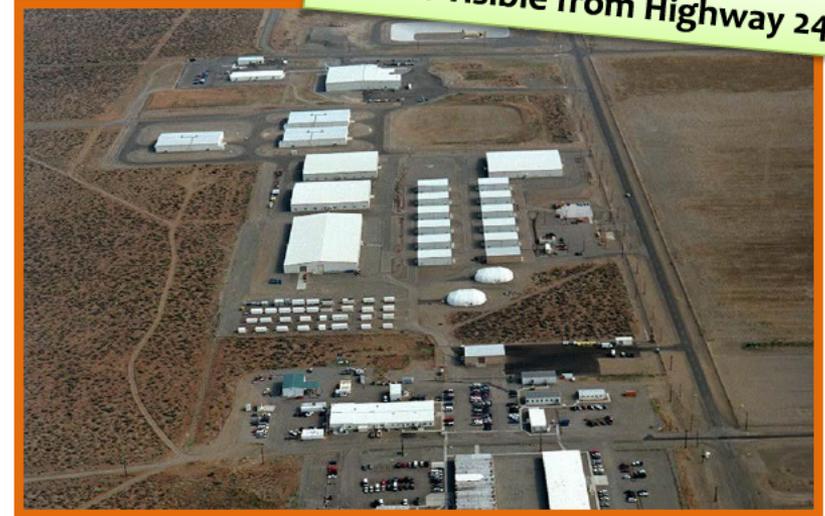
Where does the waste come from?

From onsite and some offsite sources, such as retrieved waste from burial grounds and new wastes from WRAP and T Plant. CWC has lots of space, so it may be used to store waste from other cleanups and closures at Hanford.

Where does the waste go?

Eventually, the waste stored in CWC goes to Trenches 31 and 34 or to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico for disposal.

CWC is visible from Highway 240



What's the risk?

CWC handles a large variety and quantity of waste. Not all waste containers are verified before they arrive. Waste containers have leaked. There is also industrial risk to workers from moving big containers. We require secondary containment to prevent hazards.



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