

Hexone Tanks

Closing Unit #19

- Two inactive underground storage tanks.
- Capacity: Two 23,500-gallon tanks.
- In southern end of 200 West Area, just north of the Reduction Oxidation (REDOX) plant, one of Hanford's fuel reprocessing plants.
- Tanks pumped out in 1991, leaving behind 250 gallons of heel in each tank.
- Because the waste was ignitable, the USDOE stabilized the waste by grouting the voids in the tanks.
- The remaining waste is no longer ignitable, but still contains:
 - Normal paraffin hydrocarbon.
 - Tri-butyl phosphate.
 - Hexone (4-Methyl-2-pentanone, or methyl isobutyl ketone).

Hexone is a common industrial solvent



Where did the waste come from?

It came from REDOX plant.

What will happen to the site?

USDOE resubmitted a closure plan in 2010. Regulations call for removing or decontaminating all structures and soils, unless they can demonstrate it is not practical. USDOE plans to clean close the tanks by removing all the regulated waste. Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-037-10 requires USDOE to finish the closure by 2020.



What's the risk?

If the hexone tanks can be clean closed, leaving no waste behind, there is no risk.