Liquid Effluent Retention Facility
Effluent Treatment Facility

Operating Unit #3

- The Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) stores and the Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) treats liquid waste that the 242-A Evaporator boils off to condense tank wastes.
- Treated effluents go to a permitted discharge site.
- These facilities store and treat other liquid wastes from Hanford, such as contaminated groundwater from pump-and-treat systems.
- Began operating in early 1990s.

What happens to the waste it receives?
LERF has three lined basins with a capacity of 88.5 million liters. ETF removes or destroys dangerous waste in the liquid waste. It uses treatments such as filters, reverse osmosis, pH adjustment, and ultraviolet light. Water is treated, then discharged at a permitted area a few miles away. Remaining sludge is solidified in containers, dried, and sent to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

What's the risk?

We don't expect any risk from this site. The permit ensures operation and closure of this facility do not harm humans or the environment.