



2012 US DOE Bridging Partnerships Small Business Symposium and DOE Small Business Summit

Hanford Site Bus Tour Schedule - Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Buses will depart **2 hours apart** from one another. The first bus is scheduled to leave at 7:30 a.m. Participants will be informed of which bus they have been assigned to prior to the tour. **Please arrive 30 minutes early** to ensure enough time for security badging. These tours are approximately 5 hours in duration. Restrooms will be available on the buses. **Please note: Clothing for participation in the tour must be appropriate for an industrial environment. Anyone not dressed appropriately will not be allowed on the tour.** Closed-toed shoes are **MANDATORY**. Sandals, flip-flops, thongs, or open toe/open heel shoes are prohibited. Short sleeve shirts, knee-length shorts, or "capris" are acceptable but skirts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Long pants are encouraged and highly recommended.

TOUR AGENDA

Depart TRAC via A&A Motor Coach Bus

All tour participants will board buses at the TRAC. A Hanford employee will provide a guided tour of the Hanford Site, which includes an overview of Hanford's role in the nation's defense effort during World War II and the Cold War, as well as information on today's environmental cleanup mission. The tour route includes a drive by of Hanford's 300 Area where uranium was fabricated into fuel rods; the nine nuclear reactors in the 100 Area located along the Columbia River where the fuel rods were irradiated to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons; and the original Hanford and White Bluffs town sites. Additionally, the tour includes information on today's cleanup mission at Hanford. Visitors will have an opportunity to get off of the bus for briefings at three stops during the tour: Hanford's Cold Test Facility, the B Reactor, and the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

Stop #1 – Cold Test Facility (CTF)

The Cold Test Facility is a full-scale mockup of a single shell storage tank at Hanford, with the height, weight, and riser dimensions exactly the same as they are found on the Site. Workers can simulate the kinds of conditions that would be found inside a tank, while also testing new equipment and technologies which they believe could help remove tank waste that is in difficult-to-reach places or in a semi-solid state. With many tanks to be emptied on the Site, the CTF is expected to continue to provide crews with the opportunity to test new ways to safely remove the waste in the years to come.

Stop #2 – B Reactor

The B Reactor was the world's first, full-scale nuclear reactor and produced the plutonium used in the "Fat Man" bomb dropped over Nagasaki, Japan, in August of 1945. The B Reactor produced plutonium for more than twenty years. It was shut down in February, 1968, and was later scheduled to be "cocooned" like the other reactors at Hanford. (Cocooning is a process by which the reactor core is encased in a concrete shell for 75 years to allow the radioactivity to decay away.) However, in August 2008, the United States Department of the Interior designated the B Reactor as a National Historic Landmark.

Travel to Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF)

Stop #3 – ERDF

The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) is a massive landfill located in the central part of Hanford. The facility, built in 1996 for Hanford cleanup wastes, was designed for expansion as needed. The fourth and largest expansion of the facility was completed in February 2011. ERDF now has a disposal capacity of 16.4 million tons of contaminated material and cover the same area as 52 football fields. Since the facility opened, nearly 12 million tons of low-level radioactive and hazardous waste has been buried there.

TRAVEL back to TRAC. *End of Tour.*