

Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
December 21, 2016



A recap of events during the past week regarding Hanford's tank vapors

From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President:

Our retrieval team braved frigid temperatures last week to restart the waste retrieval process from tank AY-102. The team has been working nights and weekends to resume retrieval using extended-reach sluicers to loosen the remaining 41,000 gallons of sludge from the double-shell tank.

Retrieval restarted on Dec. 10 before the team ran into several equipment issues. After some troubleshooting, retrieval began again on Dec. 13. Sluicing continued for about four hours, then operations were shut down in preparation for the day shift. Additional retrieval was scheduled this past weekend, but frigid temperatures and a site closure shut down operations.

Protecting tank farm workers from industrial, radiological and chemical hazards is WRPS' highest priority. Plans are in place to mitigate and control the present hazards, including chemical vapors. Employees received a briefing prior to the start of retrieval, [available here](#), and [more information about the retrieval effort](#) is posted on hanfordvapors.com.

Our team has spent months preparing for this final phase of AY-102 retrieval. This high-performance team was thoroughly prepared to resume retrieval and did so in spite of the cold winter weather. Operations have taken place the last few nights and will continue on night shifts and weekends, providing the weather allows for safe and healthy conditions for the team. Congratulations on overcoming the challenges you encountered!

News & Notes

- An [article in the Tri-City Herald](#) highlighted restart of the AY-102 retrieval process.
- An [advertisement in the Tri-City Herald](#) thanking tank farm employees for their hard work in 2016 and wishing them a happy holiday season appeared in the Dec. 18 issue of the newspaper.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The Chemical Vapors Solutions Team meeting is postponed due to the upcoming holidays. We'll reconvene in the New Year. Happy holidays!

Mark

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