



## Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update  
Aug. 17, 2017

***From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President and Project Manager:***

### **C-105 Waste Retrieval Resumed**

Waste retrieval from tank C-105 resumed last weekend and about 13,400 gallons of waste was removed from the single-shell tank.

No odors were reported by workers throughout sluicing operations, and no chemical vapors were detected by our AreaRAE air monitors. Monitoring at exhausters in C Farm and in AN Farm where the waste is being transferred indicated minor increases in ammonia and volatile organic compounds during the first 24 hours of retrieval. The readings then decreased to non-retrieval levels. A mobile laboratory is also taking and analyzing air samples from areas around the tank farms.

Tank C-105 is the last of 16 tanks in C Farm to be retrieved, making the farm the first of Hanford's 12 single-shell tank farms to be eligible for closure. In the first phase of C-105 retrieval, WRPS used the Mobile Arm Retrieval System Vacuum to remove 92,000 gallons of waste between June 2014 and September 2015. We then decided to install two extended-reach sluicers to retrieve the remaining 30,375 gallons of waste in the tank.

The remaining waste in C-105 is being periodically soaked with hot water and a highly caustic solution to partially dissolve and soften the waste. The sluicers spray the waste with liquid through high-pressure nozzles to break it up so it can be pumped from the tank.

As part of our conservative approach to C-105 retrieval, we are prepared for a possible leak. There is a system in place to detect leaks, and we are monitoring it closely. If we get indications of a leak, retrieval will be stopped while we work closely with DOE and Ecology to determine appropriate steps.

Once the C-105 waste is retrieved and the Washington State Department of Ecology declares the tank retrieved, work can begin on closing the first Hanford tank farm.

### **Opportunities for Employee Engagement**

- The next CVST Communications Sub-Team meeting is Monday, Aug. 21, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room 110 at 2425 Stevens Center.
- The next full CVST meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 2704-HV, Room G-206.

**Mark**

Have questions? Send us a message! [wrpsadmin@rl.gov](mailto:wrpsadmin@rl.gov)