



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

C-105 Retrieval Slated to Begin This Weekend

Thursday night, Aug. 10, our Retrieval team is scheduled to begin waste removal from tank C-105. Once complete, C-105 will be the last of the C-Farm tanks to be retrieved, setting the stage for eventual closure of the farm.

WRPS began retrieving waste in the 530,000-gallon capacity tank in June 2014 using the Mobile Arm Retrieving System (MARS) with a vacuum nozzle. The MARS proved to be productive, retrieving more than 92,000 gallons of waste. It was then determined that replacing MARS with two extended-reach sluicers was the best way to retrieve the remaining 30,375 gallons of waste in the tank.

The remaining waste in C-105 will be soaked with hot water and a highly caustic solution to partially dissolve and soften the waste. Two extended-reach sluicers mounted on remotely controlled arms will spray the waste with liquid through high-pressure nozzles to break it up so it can be pumped from the tank.

WRPS will start C-105 retrieval operations on nights and weekends, moving to 24/7 operations with access controls if industrial hygiene (IH) sampling data warrants it. Sampling will include ventilation-stack monitoring, IH monitoring and sampling, and strategically placed air monitoring instruments. A mobile laboratory will also periodically take and analyze air samples from areas around the tank farms.

As part of a conservative approach to retrieval, we are prepared for a leak scenario. There is a system in place to detect leaks, and we are monitoring it closely. If an alarm sounds, retrieval will be stopped. We will work closely with DOE and Ecology to determine any appropriate next steps in case of a leak.

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