



## Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update  
Dec. 14, 2017

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

Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) and the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) have agreed to allow use of full-face air-purifying respirators (FFAPRs) in Hanford's SY Farm for some work, which is consistent with a 2016 Memorandum of Agreement.

Workers can now access SY Farm wearing a full-face air-purifying respirator equipped with filter cartridges that have been tested in the tank farm and that data analyzed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL).

Respirators are authorized for low-hazard work in SY Farm during non-waste-disturbing activities. Workers still have the option to use self-contained breathing apparatus or other supplied-air breathing systems, so long as the equipment does not produce safety hazards.

This decision is consistent with plans to implement FFAPRs in actively ventilated tank farms as supported by a hazard assessment and data gathered during respirator cartridge testing. Test results were analyzed by PNNL scientists and by Stoneturn Consultants, the third-party experts selected by HAMTC to perform an independent review.



I am pleased and encouraged by the level of cooperation and worker participation that enabled implementation of this decision. It is an important step in our worker protection strategy and demonstrates how WRPS and HAMTC are working together to protect tank farm workers.

### **News & Notes**

- [Click to read a Tri-City Herald article on the use of respirators in SY Farm](#)
- [Click to read an article on a possible delay in the chemical vapors lawsuit](#)

### **Opportunities for Employee Engagement**

- The next full Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. at a location to be determined.
- The next CVST Communications Sub-Team meeting is Monday, Jan. 8, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room 110 at 2425 Stevens Center.

**Mark**

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