



Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
May 15, 2018

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

WRPS safely completed its first 242-A Evaporator campaign of the year recently, freeing 166,000 gallons of valuable double-shell tank storage space.

About 917,000 gallons of liquid waste was transferred into the evaporator during the 15-day campaign. It was heated under vacuum, boiling at only 125 degrees F. Water vapor from the boiling waste was collected, condensed, filtered, and sent to the Effluent Treatment Facility for final treatment and disposal.

Evaporator operations are critical to successfully managing Hanford's tank waste. By reducing the volume of waste stored in double-shell tanks, waste can be retrieved from older single-shell tanks and transferred into newer double-shell tanks until it can be sent to the Waste Treatment Plant for vitrification.

Since the last campaign in September 2017, several improvements have been made to the evaporator, including installing new air conditioning in the control room, installing an effluent sampling station and installing an upgraded continuous air monitor.

A comprehensive industrial hygiene control strategy, reviewed and agreed to by WRPS' Chemical Vapor Solutions Team and HAMTC leadership, was put in place for the campaign. Direct-reading instrumentation readings in the general work areas during the campaign were well below action and occupational exposure limits.

A second evaporator campaign is planned for June.

Since beginning operation in 1977, the evaporator has removed more than 85 million gallons of liquid from Hanford's tank waste.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next full Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room G-206 in 2704-HV.
- The CVST Communications sub-team meeting is Monday, May 21, from 3 to 4:30 in conference room 110 at 2425 Stevens Center.

Mark

Have questions? Send us a message! wrpsadmin@rl.gov