



Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
June 21, 2018

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

Final preparations are underway to start the next 242-A Evaporator campaign this coming weekend. Operations are scheduled to begin on swing shift June 21. The evaporator will operate 24-7 for the next few weeks.

The vapor control strategy for the evaporator campaign is based on industrial hygiene monitoring results from recent evaporator campaigns and has been reviewed by the Chemical Vapor Solutions Team and the leadership of the HAMTC bargaining unit. Key elements of the vapor control plan include:

- AP and AW Farms will be posted as “Supplied Air Required.”
- Reader boards around the AP and AW Farms and the evaporator will state “INFO ONLY – WASTE DISTURBING ACTIVITY IN PROGRESS.”
- Enhanced industrial hygiene monitoring and sampling will be used throughout the evaporator campaign to monitor conditions. The monitoring results will be summarized and workers briefed daily during the campaign.

The 242-A Evaporator is crucial to safe operations of Hanford’s tank farms by maximizing available double-shell tank storage capacity. Since beginning operation in 1977, the evaporator has removed more than 80 million gallons of liquid from Hanford’s tank waste.

Liquid waste pumped to the evaporator from nearby double-shell tank AW-102 is heated in a sealed vessel under partial vacuum to boil the waste at 125 degrees F., about 100 degrees lower than it would boil under normal atmospheric pressure. Water evaporated from the waste is captured, filtered and sent to the nearby Effluent Treatment Facility via the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility for treatment and disposal. The concentrated waste is returned to double-shell tank AP-107.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next voting members meeting of the Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room G-206 in 2704-HV.
- The CVST Communications Sub-Team meeting is 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 16, in Conference Room 110 at 2425 Stevens Center.

Mark

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