

## Source Points

Workers have also made progress in cleaning up asbestos at the 203-A acid storage area. Constructed in 1954, the area consists of a pump house, a railroad loading dock, and a secondary

containment area that housed nine aboveground tanks. As of December, crews had removed asbestos-contaminated insulation from nearly 1,600 of 1,900 feet of pipeline in the 203-A area.

### Heating of melter paused soon after startup

Heating of the first waste vitrification melter at the Department of Energy's Hanford Site was paused after operators identified an "abnormal condition with the startup heater power supplies," the DOE's Office of River Protection (ORP) said.

Heat-up of the 300-ton melter, which will be used to vitrify Hanford's low-level radioactive tank waste, was initiated on October 8, 2022. According to the DOE, the pause occurred just prior to reaching the first 48-hour holding point at 300°F. Heating of the melter to an operational temperature of 2,100°F was expected to last

several weeks.

In response to questions regarding the pause in operations, Hanford's ORP released the following statement:

"Heating up the melter is a complex process that consists of a series of activities over at least several weeks to prepare for and establish a molten pool of glass that will eventually be used to vitrify low-level tank waste. The detailed and methodical process for melter heat-up has been planned in a way that allows for issues identified

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