

# Emerging Issues for the Columbia River Corridor Closure Project

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# Cleaning up the River Corridor represents major challenges in scope

Hanford's River Corridor is home to Cold War legacy wastes from nuclear reactors and support facilities dating back to the early 1940s.

- \$2.2 billion closure project
- 10-year contract
- 210 square miles



Deactivate, decontaminate, decommission, and demolish 486 facilities



Clean up and close 370 waste sites



Place five reactors into safe storage condition



Treat, transport and dispose 4 million tons of waste



Risk assessment and long-term stewardship

## ... and in risks and hazards facing our workers

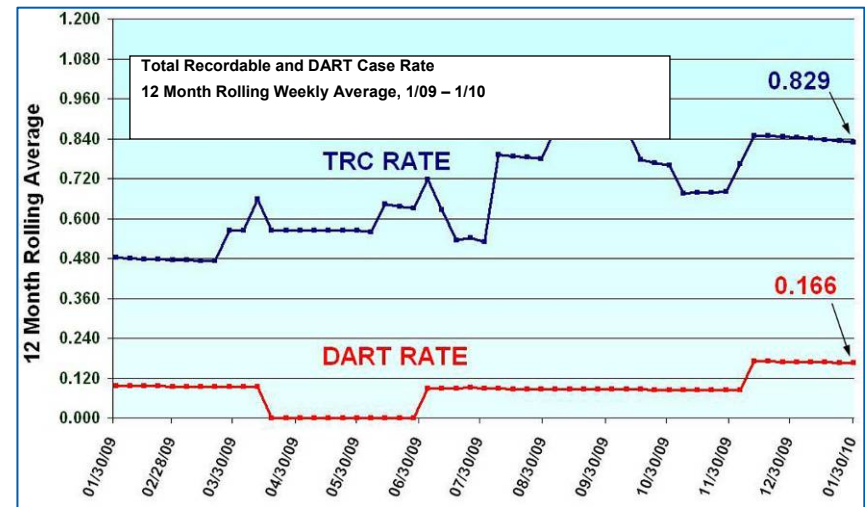
- High-risk working conditions
- Hazardous chemical contamination: chromium, asbestos, beryllium, mercury, tritium, etc.
- Industrial and construction hazards
- Un-inventoried waste sites
- Highly radioactive fuel elements, other reactor parts and hot cells
- (Example: 618-7 Burial Ground)



# Improving Safety Performance

- Achieved VPP Star Status as a company – 1st at Hanford
- In both FY08 and FY09, achieved 2.5M hours without a lost workday
- Low-level radioactive waste haulers have logged >14 million miles with only one at-fault accident
- Safely demolished and loaded out 133 buildings
- Approximately 42,153 YTD Radiological Work Permit entries:
  - No reportable contaminations
  - No radiological uptakes
- Decreased occurrence reports by 42% compared to previous 12 months

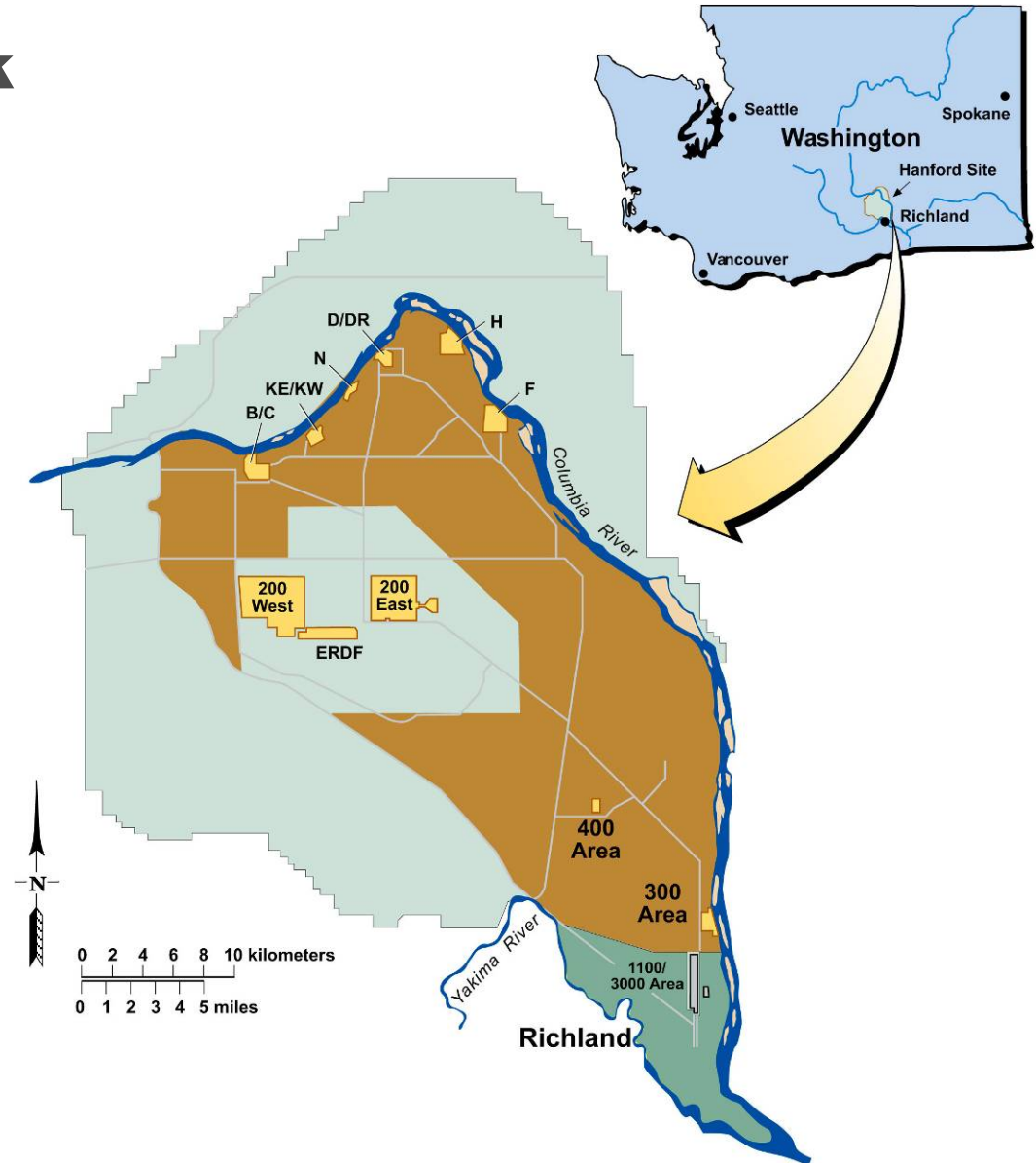
(Through FY09)



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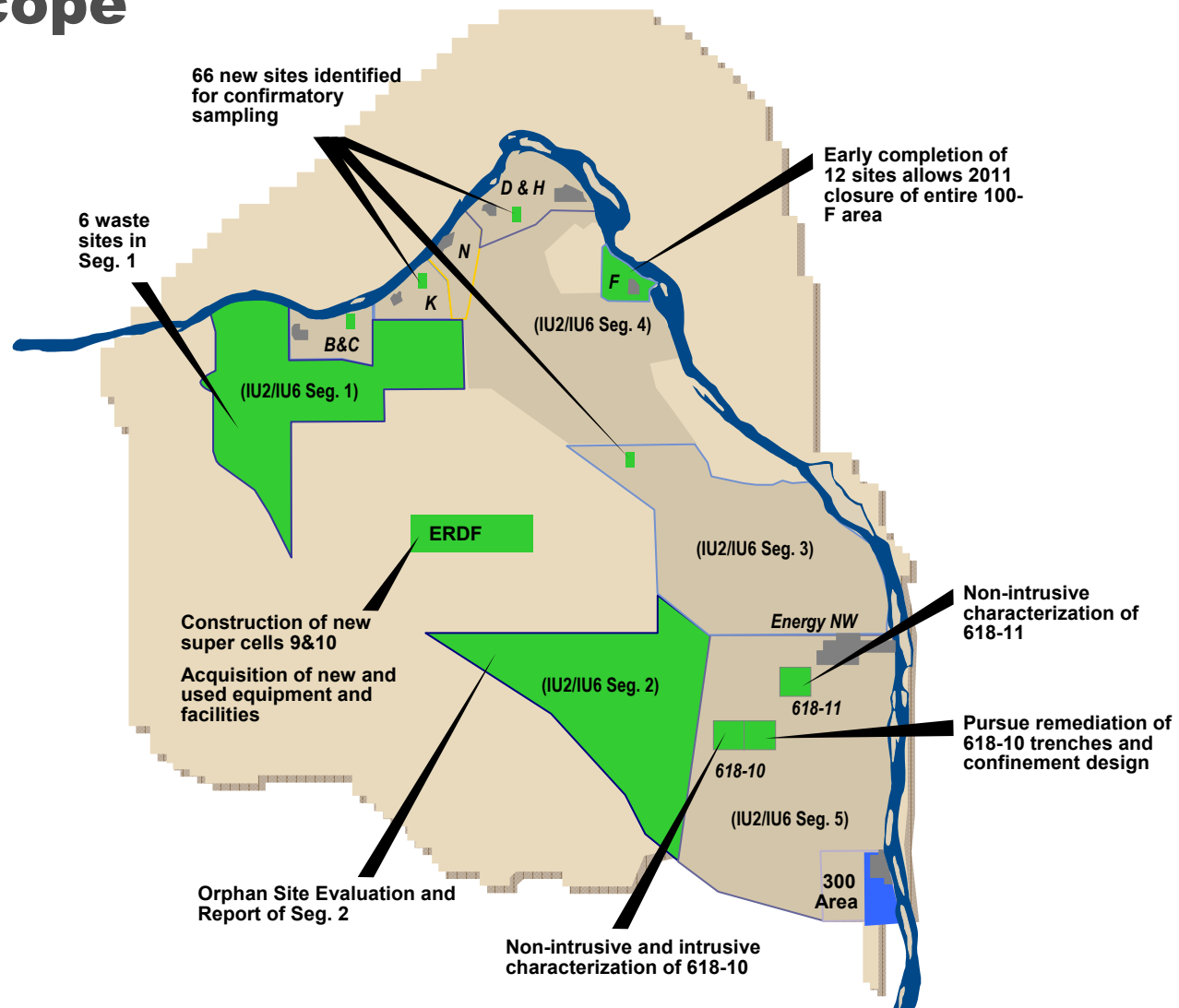
# River Corridor Work Scope Overview

- Work acceleration
- Overall cost reduction
- Reduction in cleanup footprint of site
- Reduction in mortgage costs



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# ARRA Scope



## Here's where we are today

- Decontaminated, demolished, and loaded out **133** buildings and work on the most complex and hazardous facilities (324 & 327) is underway
- Remediated **101** hazardous waste sites and burial grounds; 11 new sites added this year
- Transported and disposed of **2.5** million tons of hazardous waste away from the Columbia River to ERDF; continue to break daily and monthly records
- Completed **24** of **24** regulatory milestones on or ahead of schedule
- **49%** complete
  - **9%** ahead of schedule
  - **15%** under budget

Through January 2010

## **Work remains ahead of schedule and under budget**

Three critical factors:

- 1) Safe, motivated, and professional workforce
- 2) Solid working relationship with DOE at all management levels
  - Willingness to cooperatively address the technical and contractual problems
  - Shared vision of what constitutes success
- 3) Trust established with regulators (EPA, Ecology)



## Washington Closure still has 5 years to go – why the urgency?

- At the halfway point of the contract, the project has safely completed difficult cleanup work; however, some of the most hazardous and challenging work lies ahead.
- Changes in the site strategy require WCH to revisit its original closure strategy.



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## **Washington Closure – Challenges to Closure**

- The closure contract creates unique challenges while traditional contracts at Hanford projects are expected to continue for many years.
- Sitewide challenges affect staffing
  - Sustaining skills and safety culture
- Advance planning is essential for continuity of the workforce and compliance as the contract closes out.

## Challenges Facing Our Closure Contract

- The first closure contract at Hanford
- Vision 2015 footprint reduction schedule adjustments
- Contract requirements
- Regulatory requirements
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act changes
- Increasing risk and complexity of work
  - Strategic resource management



## Planning and Commitment

- Washington Closure has empowered a select team to define key elements needed to meet WCH's commitment to closure
- A five-year plan is being defined and begins implementation this fall
- Plan will focus on
  - Regulatory requirements
  - Work scope requirements
  - Sustaining skilled workforce



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