

## **D32. TEAMING AND INNOVATION ARE HANFORD RECIPE FOR SUCCESS**

Hanford's Plutonium Extraction (PUREX) and Plutonium Finishing (PFP) Plants are ahead of schedule in their transition from standby to a completely deactivated storage mode. During the past two years, DOE and Westinghouse Hanford Company have teamed with regulators and the public to reach better cleanup decisions and identify ways to make cleanup more efficient.

A major deactivation task to flush dangerous waste constituents from canyon vessels and piping was completed on April 26 - three weeks ahead of schedule. Close work with regulatory agencies determined a new approach to the job that meets environmental requirements but saves time and money and reduces waste.

Instead of flushing and sampling each vessel individually, flush solutions were cascaded from one tank to another and then sampled. Flushing was done until samples showed that dangerous waste had been removed.

*For more, "Teaming and Innovation are Hanford Recipe for Success," pg.8, DOE This Month, July 1996.*