

D35.HANFORD FUEL DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY DEACTIVATED

Hanford's Fuels Development Laboratory has been deactivated, meeting a milestone in the cleanup of the former defense site's nuclear facilities. The deactivation occurred 37 days ahead of schedule and is the first major plutonium facility deactivation at Hanford completed to current DOE "end-point" criteria.

Deactivation of the lab reduces the mortgage on the facility from \$12 million a year to an estimated \$160,000 annually. It also brings to a close an era of successful breeder-reactor fuel development and production at Hanford.

For deactivation, a new technique was developed to stabilize and seal the gloveboxes where fuel was fabricated. Specially fitted metal plates were placed on the gloveports and heat-sealed with a material resembling shrink-wrap, which is used to protect welds on industrial pipes. The technique proved to be so efficient, it is now being widely used to deactivate other Hanford nuclear plants.

For more, "Hanford Fuels Development Laboratory Deactivated," pg.12, DOE This Month, August 1996.