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## Energy Dept.: Slow Leak in Hanford Waste Tank

It is the nation's most contaminated nuclear site, with cleanup expected to last decades

**RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)** — There is a slow leak in the oldest double-shell waste tank at the Hanford nuclear reservation that's allowing highly radioactive and hazardous waste to leak into the space between the inner and outer shells, the federal Department of Energy said Monday.

No waste is believed to have leaked from the outer shell into the soil beneath the

between the two tank walls between Thursday and Sunday.

The tank is one of 28 double-shell containers used to hold waste from older, leak-prone single-shell tanks. They hold 56 million gallons of radioactive waste from the past production of weapons plutonium until it can be treated for disposal.

The tank is roughly 40 years old and contains about 850,000 gallons of sludge and liquid waste.

Plans call for continued twice-weekly visual inspections using cameras and regular checks of liquid levels inside the primary tank, said Tom Fletcher, assistant manager for the Tank Farms Project.

Fletcher added that his people are "working collaboratively" with the state Ecology Department to determine what to do next and to "ensure that we are effectively protecting the public and the environment."

Routine monitoring has not detected leaks in any of the other double-shell tanks, the Energy Department said. Expanded inspections are planned on six other tanks similar to the one that is leaking.

The federal government created Hanford



Hanford's twin KE and KW nuclear reactors in 2008 with the B Reactor in the distance

in the 1940s as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. Today, it is the nation's most contaminated nuclear site, with cleanup expected to last decades.

... people are "working collaboratively" with the state Ecology Department to determine what to do next

underground tank on the south-central Washington reservation, the agency said.

The Tri-City Herald reports that earlier testing showed that some of the material seen between the two walls of the tank was radioactive waste. Now DOE has confirmed a leak. While the exact amount isn't known, the agency said perhaps a couple table-spoons of additional waste were seen

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 SITEWORK AND DEMO PACKAGE**  
 2305 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland, OR

O'Neill Inc is currently bidding the sitework and demo package including demo of 25,000 sf building, sitework, excavation, concrete, landscaping, and miscellaneous improvements.

**Bids due Nov 26, 2012 at 2:00 pm**

**Pre-Bid Meeting November 12, 2012 at 10:00 am. MANDATORY for demo scope bidders, optional for other scopes. Meet in front of Legin Restaurant, 8001 SE Division St Portland, OR 97266**

Trades Excluded: None

Plans are available for review on 11/8/12 at: O'Neill Inc office, DJC Plan Center and MCIP.

**Special Notes: This is a Prevailing Wage project with Workforce Training requirements.**

Certified payroll reporting is required. O'Neill Inc is a union contractor.



**O'NEILL INC**  
 4444 SE 27th Ave,  
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Contact: Aser Heye or Ali O'Neill  
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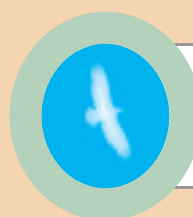
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