

**HANFORD:** Cleanup has been under way since 1980s

Continued from 1A

Nearby workers were evacuated and hundreds of others farther away were told to remain indoors, the U.S. Department of Energy said.

"No action is currently required for residents of Benton and Franklin counties," the Energy Department said, referring to the nearly 300,000 residents near the site. "There is no indication of a release of contamination at this point."

The accident occurred at a plant known as the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Facility, or PUREX, located in the middle of the 500-square-mile Hanford site, which is half the size of Rhode Island, the Energy Department said.

The collapse was discovered during a routine inspection, the agency said. It was not immediately clear why it happened at the facility with about 9,000 employees.

Hanford for decades

made plutonium for nuclear weapons and is now the nation's largest depository of radioactive defense waste, with about 56 million gallons of waste, most of it in 177 underground tanks.

As part of a huge, ongoing cleanup, rail cars full of radioactive waste were driven into tunnels and buried, Bradbury said.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) has been critical of the Department of Energy's cleanup process, which said in 2015 was mismanaged.

"Today's cave-in at the PUREX plant should remind everyone that the temporary solutions DOE has used for decades to contain radioactive waste at Hanford have limited lifespans, whether they are underground tunnels for storing contaminated equipment or aging steel tanks filled with high-level radioactive waste," Wyden said in a press release Tuesday. "The longer it

**"The longer it takes to clean up Hanford, the higher the risk will be to workers, the public and the environment."**

— Sen. Ron Wyden

takes to clean up Hanford, the higher the risk will be to workers, the public and the environment."

The Hanford site was built during World War II and made plutonium for most of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, including the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, at the end of the war.

The cleanup has been under way since the 1980s and costs more than \$2 billion a year. The work is expected to take decades and cost tens of billions of dollars.

**Proposed Oregon tax targets out-of-state businesses that sell online**

Would replace the corporate income tax

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A proposed statewide tax on businesses' sales would for the first time bring in revenue from out-of-state companies that sell goods in Oregon but have no physical address here, according to the Legislative Revenue Office.

Legislative revenue analysts discussed how the tax would work for different companies during a Tuesday informational meeting of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Tax Reform.

The committee will convene Thursday, May 11, to examine how the tax would affect particular industry sectors in the state.

The state already has

a corporate income tax, but federal law prevents the state from levying an income tax on businesses that sell in Oregon but have no locations here.

The proposed .95 percent commercial activity tax House Democrats proposed last week would create a new tax base out of those companies. It's unclear how much revenue those companies would generate, because their sales are unknown.

The Legislative Revenue Office has estimated the tax would yield a net \$2 billion in new revenue. That number is based in part on data from Ohio, which already levies a commercial activity tax.

The tax would also

replace the corporate income tax, which ranges from 6.6 to 7.6 percent for those companies that already pay it. The tax is favorable to Oregon companies, which would have to pay taxes only on their in-state sales.

The .95 percent rate would apply to businesses with Oregon sales exceeding \$5 million.

Proponents say the tax would bring more stability to the state's revenue stream, which can be volatile during changes in the economy. It also would help the state stave off spending reductions due to an anticipated \$1.6 billion revenue shortfall.

Opponents say the tax is a sales tax in disguise and would be passed onto consumers in the form of higher prices.



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**Port of Morrow Riverfront Center**

Please join us for breakfast this month as we recognize our 2017 Chamber Scholarship recipients

Boardman Police Officer & School Resource Officer George Shimer will be giving an informational presentation about the programs & duties Boardman Police Department provide for our community.

Kris Barnum, Student Success Coach for BMCC will be sharing insight and programs available for students after graduation

**Sunrise at Boardman Café will be providing delicious breakfast burritos**

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To RSVP contact Boardman Chamber of Commerce by May 12th

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