NEWS
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Hanford Vitrification Plant Continues to Meet Milestones at Pretreatment Facility

Richland, Wash. -- Crews working on the Pretreatment (PT) Facility recently reached a significant milestone when they finished installing the structural steel that raises the facility's elevation from 28 feet to 56 feet.

"By completing this milestone, we are demonstrating the increasing momentum and mounting accomplishments for the PT Facility and the project as a whole," Gary Brunson, Department of Energy (DOE) WTP Engineering Division director, said.

Work has already commenced on the floor of the 77-foot elevation. Crews began installing the rebar, which reinforces the concrete floor, last week. When complete, the PT Facility, the largest of the four major nuclear facilities that compose WTP, will comprise five total steel elevations and reach an overall height of 120 feet. Its footprint is approximately the size of four football fields.

"This installation provides a good working platform for the construction workers to safely and efficiently continue with completion of the facility to the upper elevations," Leon Lamm, area project manager for the PT Facility, said.

Bechtel National, Inc. is designing and building the world's largest radioactive waste treatment plant for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. The $12.2 billion Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP), also known as the Vit Plant, will immobilize the radioactive liquid waste currently stored in 177 underground tanks.

The WTP will cover 65 acres with four nuclear facilities -- Pretreatment, Low-Activity Waste Vitrification, High-Level Waste Vitrification and Analytical Laboratory-- as well as operations and maintenance buildings, utilities and office space.

Construction of the WTP began in 2002. The plant will be operational in 2019.

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