THE HANFORD SITE

Hanford Tank B-109 Overview

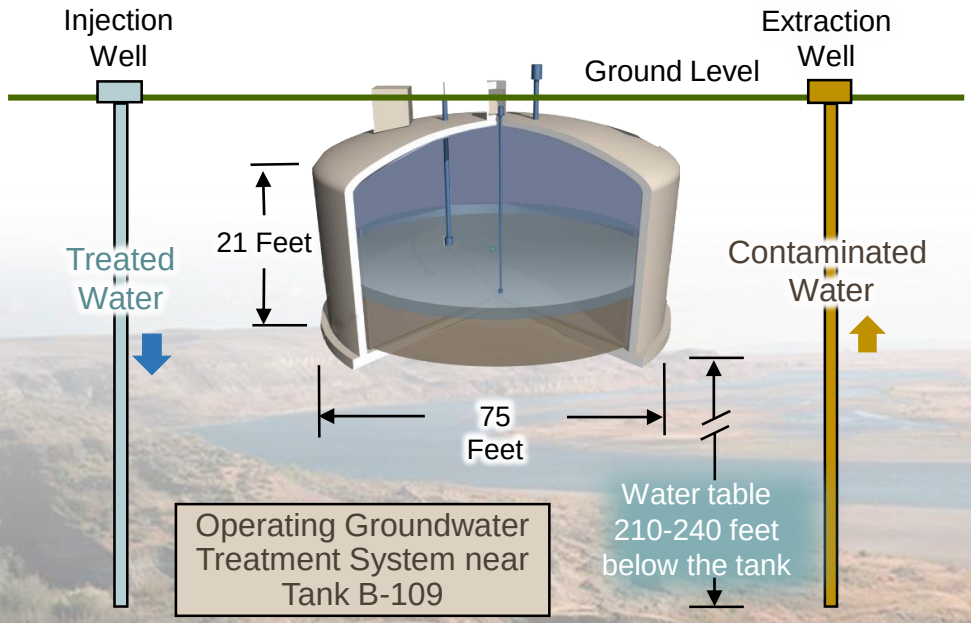
Fact Sheet – April 2021

The Department of Energy (DOE) has determined B-109 is likely leaking to the soil beneath the tank; however, there is no increased health or safety risk to Hanford workers or the public.

Contamination in this area is not a new issue and mitigation actions have been in place for years. Active groundwater treatment systems operating in the B Complex area were installed several years ago to capture and treat contamination resulting from the discharge of approximately 52 million gallons of contaminated liquids to the soils surrounding the tank farm during historical operations to produce materials for the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

Tank B-109 was previously emptied of pumpable liquids, leaving a very small amount of liquid waste in the tank. The water table in the area ranges 210-240 feet below Tank B-109. DOE estimates it could take more than 25 years for any contamination from Tank B-109 to reach the water table, which would then be captured and removed by the pump and treat systems.

DOE continues to assess and explore other capabilities to reduce the release of contaminants to the environment, such as surface barriers that are designed to prevent water from precipitation from intruding into the tank. Safely managing all Hanford tank waste is a top priority for DOE. When it comes to the overall long-term tank waste mission, the Department continues to drive focus on safe, efficient and effective tank waste treatment capabilities.



Tank B-109

Key Takeaways

- There is no increased risk to the Hanford Site workforce or the public.
- The tank was previously emptied of pumpable liquids, leaving a very small amount of liquid waste in the tank.
- Contamination in this area is not new and mitigation actions have been in place for years.
- Existing groundwater treatment systems will capture and treat contamination that may reach groundwater.
- DOE continues to assess and explore other capabilities to reduce the release of contaminants from the tank, such as surface barriers.