

Explosive Demolition at N Reactor

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH), with the help of subcontractor Controlled Demolition Inc., used gelatin dynamite explosives to lower the 116-N stack and several components of the 184-N Powerhouse at Hanford's N Reactor site on June 21. WCH is demolishing the structures as part of the River Corridor Closure Project goal to place the N Reactor into interim safe storage (also known as "cocooning") by 2012.

The explosive technique was chosen because the structures offered elevated and complex workspaces that posed several risks to workers.



The 184-N Powerhouse is one of 50 structures at N Reactor to be demolished so that contaminated soil under the building can be retrieved, protecting the Columbia River.



Explosives used on the 200-foot-tall 116-N stack and the large, hard-to-access equipment and structures at 184-N reduced worker exposure to industrial hazards.

Explosives in the powerhouse allowed the teams to drop the equipment to a lower level where it will now be safely handled and transported to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

To watch video clips and find out more about this demolition project, visit the links below:

[Background Information](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Video Clip](#)

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