The Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review Project
Interim Report Overview

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CRESP

Consortium For Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation

September 3, 2015

Documents Now Available

- ***Interim Progress Report, Rev. 0***
  - Catalogue and characterization of 25 Evaluation Units
  - about ½ of remaining cleanup work; Tank Farms, Major Groundwater Plumes, some Operating Facilities, D&D and Legacy Sites
  - Summarized in main report by source type and receptor; more extensive discussion and information for each unit in appendices
- ***Methodology for the Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review Project, Rev. 0***
  - Extensively revised based on comments received
- ***Overview of Revisions Made to "Methodology…Rev. A, September 4, 2014"***
  - Over 300 comments received and considered
  - Summary level overview

Hanford Risk Review Project Goal

- The goal of the Risk Review Project is to carry out a screening process for risks and impacts to human health and resources.

- The results of the Risk Review Project are intended to provide the DOE, regulators, Tribal Nations and the public with a more comprehensive understanding of the remaining cleanup at the Hanford Site.

- Intended to help inform (1) decisions on sequencing of future cleanup activities, and (2) selection, planning and execution of specific cleanup actions, including which areas at the Hanford Site should be addressed earlier for additional characterization, analysis, and remediation.

- One of many inputs from many sources to help inform decisions.

- **Scope:** "to go" cleanup and waste management activities as of FY 2016

Hanford Risk Review Project

Specific Objectives (for Interim Report)**:**

1. To **review hazards and existing environmental contamination** and determine the *potential for contaminants and also cleanup actions* to cause risks to receptors, and identify key uncertainties and data gaps;
2. To **provide relative ratings of risks to receptors** from hazards and existing environmental contamination, and **identify the most urgent risks** to be addressed.

Context – Why?

- A lot has been achieved at Hanford

  The 2015 Vision is approaching completion, but…

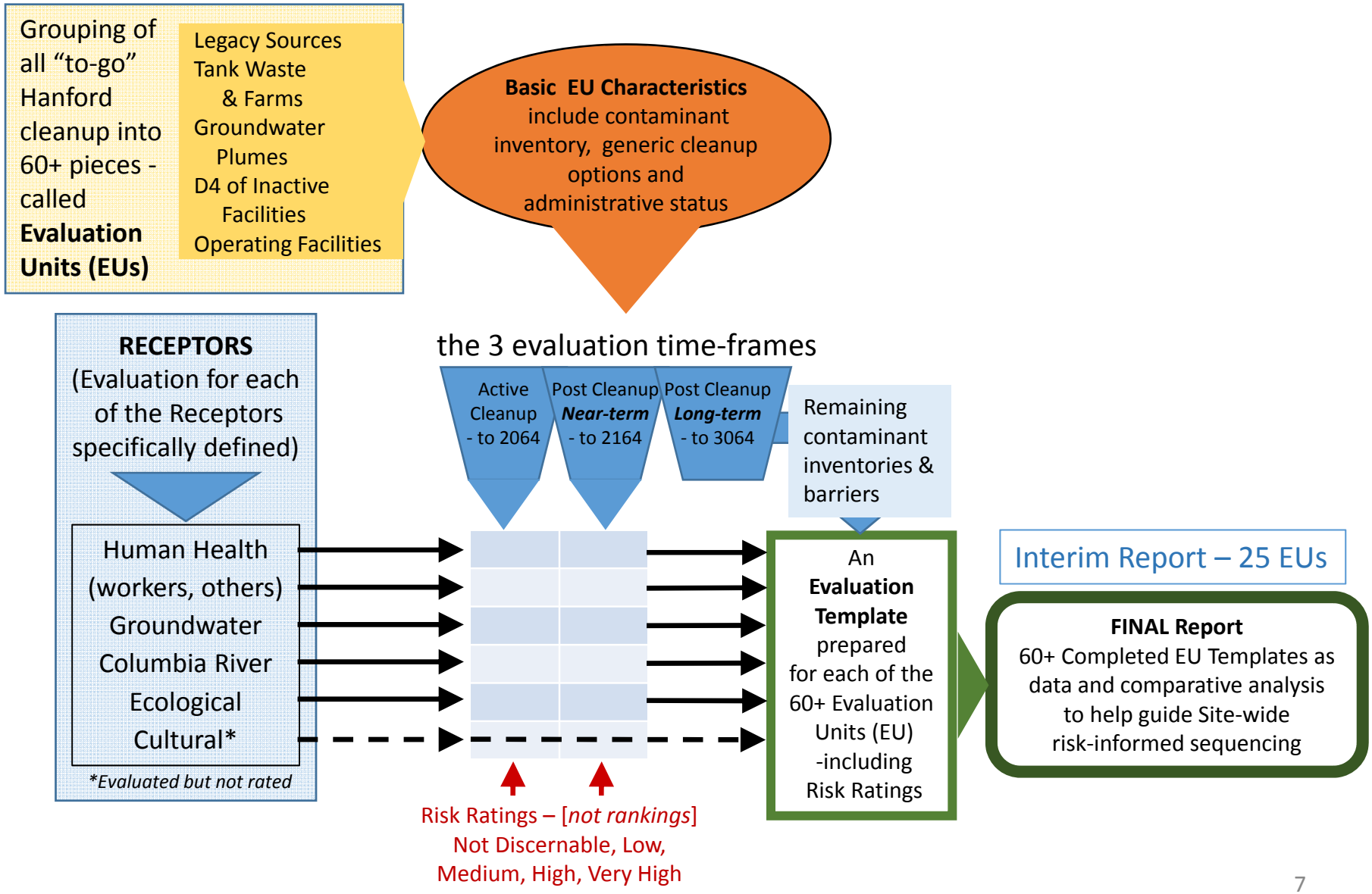
- > 50 years and > $100 Billion "to go" in Cleanup

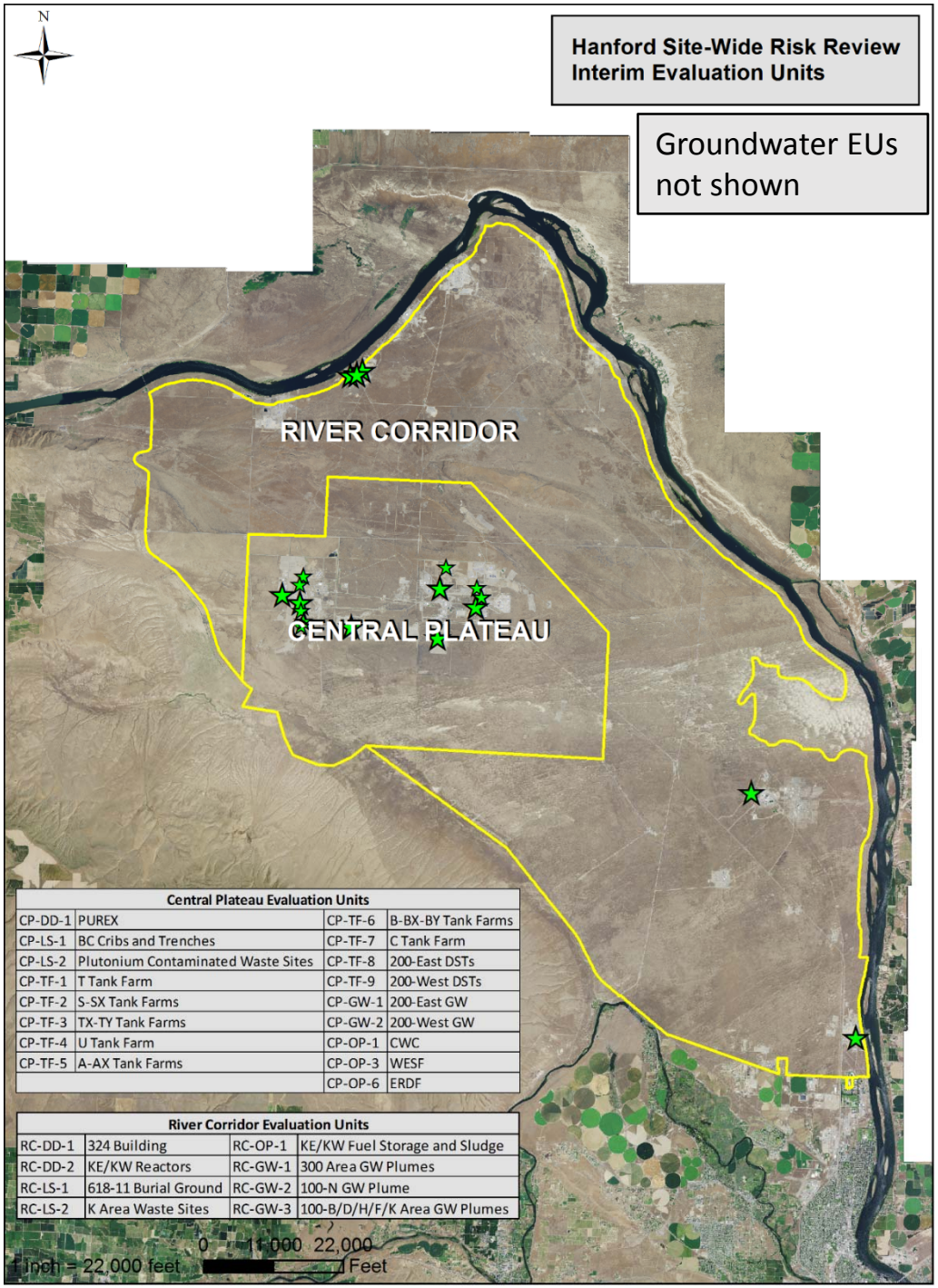
- This is a multi-generational challenge

What the Risk Review Project *is not*

- **The Risk Review Project is neither intended to substitute for, nor preempt any requirement imposed under applicable federal or state environmental laws or treaties or the Tri-party FFA/Consent Order**.
- **Cleanup actions considered completed by the Tri-Parties are not part of the Risk Review Project and therefore will not be evaluated.**
- **The Risk Review Project is focused on hazard and risk characterization, which is a necessary predecessor to risk management, but does not focus on risk management decisions.** The Risk Review Project considers a plausible range of cleanup actions to better understand the range of potential risks that may be caused by future cleanup actions.
- **The Risk Review is not carrying out a CERCLA risk assessment nor a Natural Resources Damage Assessment evaluation.** Evaluations of hazards, existing environmental contamination and rough order-of-magnitude estimates of risks to receptors using existing information will be the basis for developing groupings, or bins, of risk and identifying the most urgent risks to be addressed.

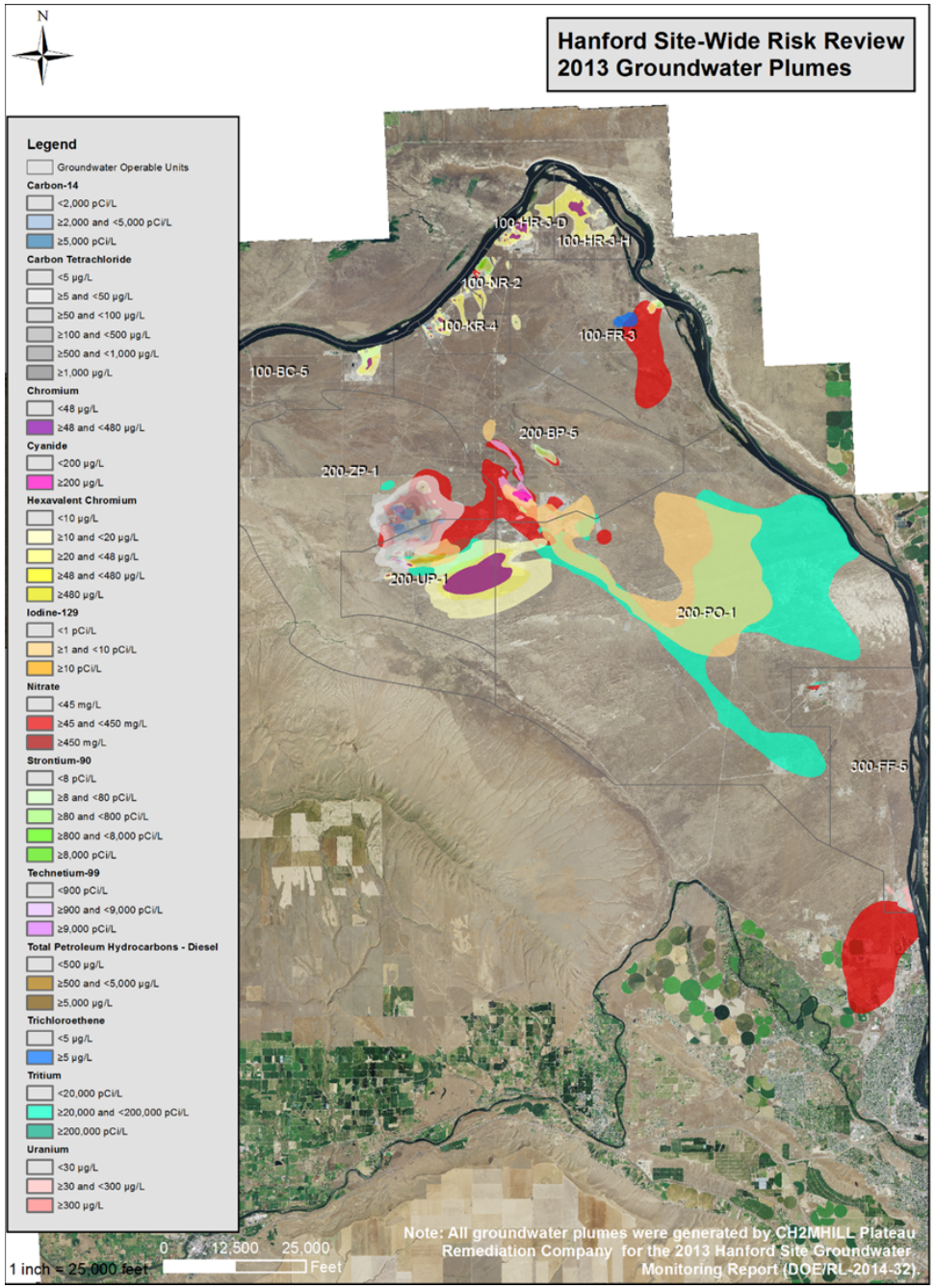
Overall Methodology





Evaluation Units (EUs) included in the Interim Report:

- All 9 Tank Waste and Farms EUs
- All 5 Groundwater EUs
- 3 of 9 D&D EUs
- 4 of 21 Legacy Source Site EUs
- 4 of 16 Operating Facility EUs


Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review
2013 Groundwater Plumes
N
Legend
Groundwater Operable Units
Carbon-14
<2,000 pCi/L
≥2,000 and <5,000 pCi/L
≥5,000 pCi/L
Carbon Tetrachloride
<5 µg/L
≥5 and <50 µg/L
≥50 and <100 µg/L
≥100 and <500 µg/L
≥500 and <1,000 µg/L
≥1,000 µg/L
Chromium
<48 µg/L
≥48 and <480 µg/L
Cyanide
<200 µg/L
≥200 µg/L
Hexavalent Chromium
<10 µg/L
≥10 and <20 µg/L
≥20 and <48 µg/L
≥48 and <480 µg/L
≥480 µg/L
Iodine-129
<1 pCi/L
≥1 and <10 pCi/L
≥10 pCi/L
Nitrate
<45 mg/L
≥45 and <450 mg/L
≥450 mg/L
Strontium-90
<8 pCi/L
≥8 and <80 pCi/L
≥80 and <800 pCi/L
≥800 and <8,000 pCi/L
≥8,000 pCi/L
Technetium-99
<900 pCi/L
≥900 and <9,000 pCi/L
≥9,000 pCi/L
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons - Diesel
<500 µg/L
≥500 and <5,000 µg/L
≥5,000 µg/L
Trichloroethene
<5 µg/L
≥5 µg/L
Tritium
<20,000 pCi/L
≥20,000 and <200,000 pCi/L
≥200,000 pCi/L
Uranium
<30 µg/L
≥30 and <300 µg/L
≥300 µg/L
100-HR-3-D
100-HR-3-H
100-NR-2
100-KR-4
100-FR-3
100-BC-5
200-BP-5
200-ZP-1
200-UP-1
200-PO-1
300-FF-5
0
12,500
25,000
Feet
1 inch = 25,000 feet
Note: All groundwater plumes were generated by CH2MHILL Plateau Remediation Company for the 2013 Hanford Site Groundwater Monitoring Report (DOE/RL-2014-32).

General Observation

In carrying out the Risk Review Project, the team has found that ***different hazard and risk considerations are important***:

a. **To inform sequencing of cleanup activities**, *nuclear, chemical, and physical safety* (i.e., hazards, initiating events and accident scenarios) *and the threats to groundwater* and the Columbia River *are the primary risk considerations*.

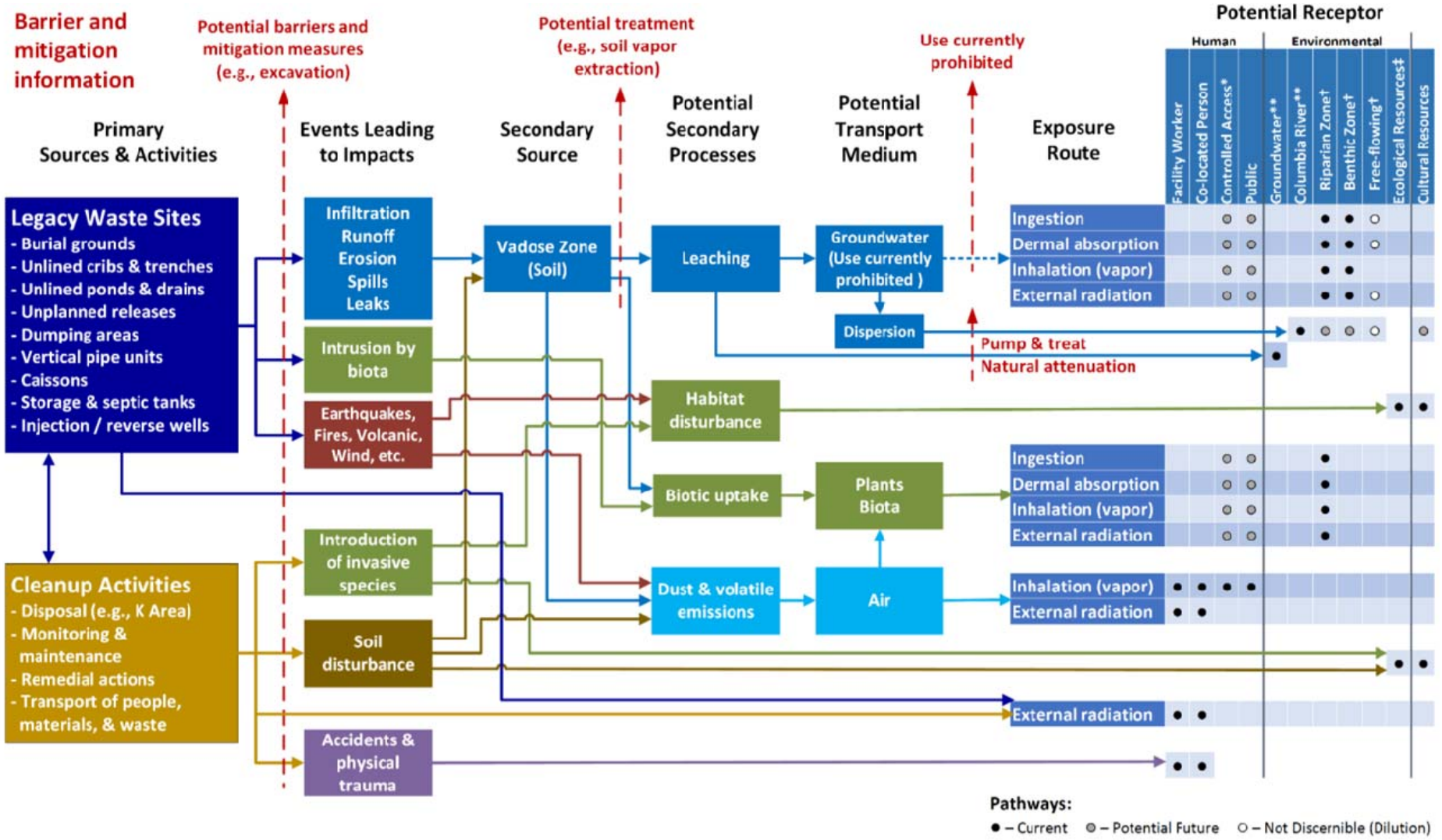
b. **To inform selection, planning and execution of specific cleanup actions**, *potential risks and impacts to worker safety, ecological resources and cultural resources are the primary risk considerations*.

c. **To inform cleanup criteria** (i.e., residual contamination levels), *future land use, protection of water resources, land ownership and control, and durability of institutional and engineered controls, and legal/regulatory requirements are the primary considerations that influence future human health risk estimates*.

   Risks to human health should be considered in combination with risks to environmental and ecological resources for establishing cleanup criteria.

CRESP's primary focus is on items a and b, above;
CRESP will not be making recommendations on specific cleanup criteria

Legacy Source EU - Conceptual Site Model



* Activities by members of Tribal Nations are considered a Controlled Access group within human health, recognizing the potential for different exposures as a result of specific cultural practices.

** These are evaluated as protected resources, independent of use.

† Threats to the Columbia River specifically include potential contaminant impacts to the ecology of the Riparian Zone, Benthic Zone, and Free-Flowing River component.

‡ Threats indicated within Ecological Resources focus on habitant disruption and potential impacts to endangered and sensitive species.

Human Health

Specific Population Groups Defined & Used:

Facility Worker – within defined EU facility's boundary based on DSA

Co-located Person - at 100 m from facility boundary; based on "co-located worker" from DSA, but confusing when considering that people may be present for diverse reasons (non-facility workers, visitors, etc.)

Controlled Access Person - within the site boundary

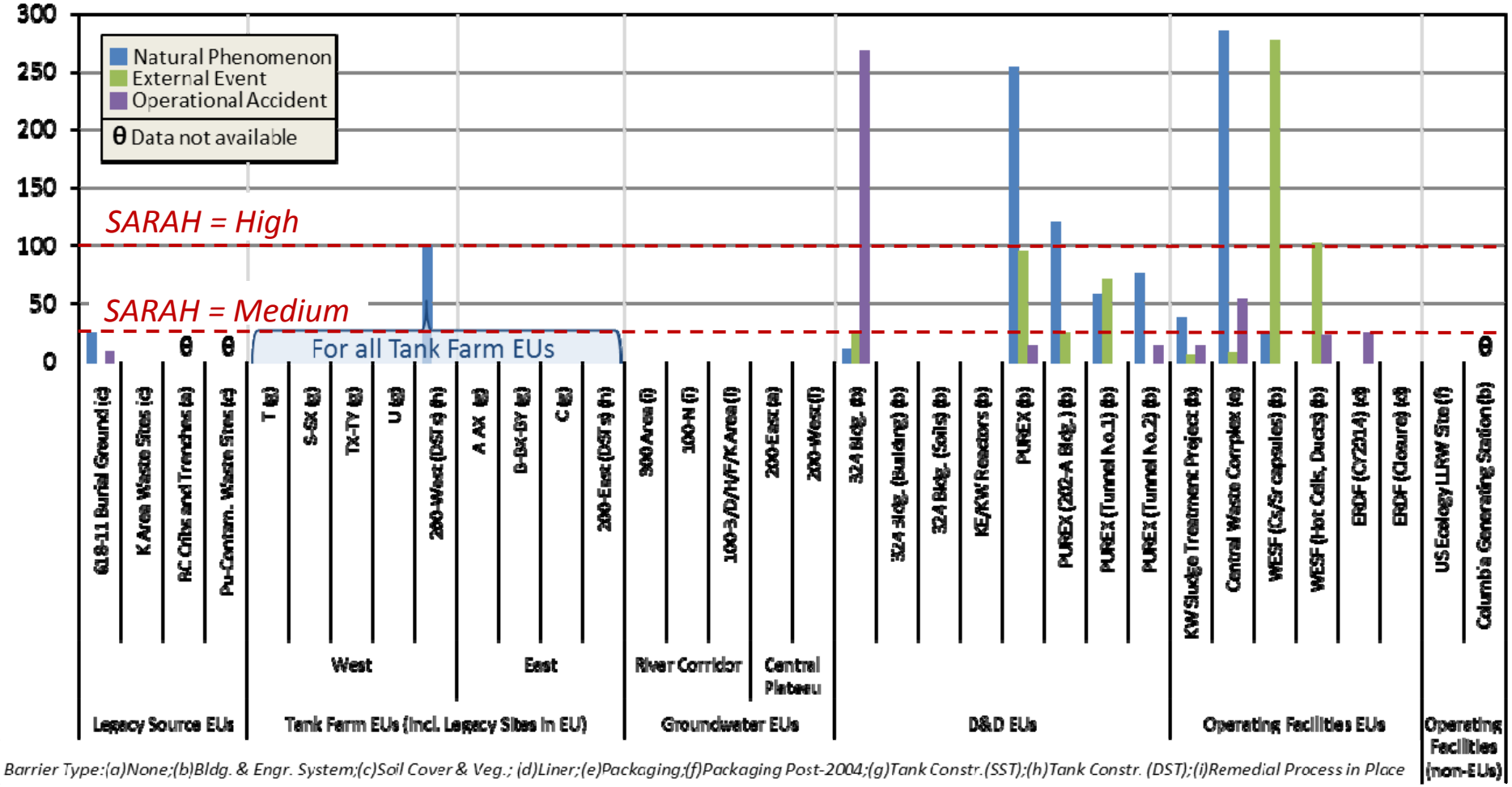
i. General population (e.g., for B-reactor, educational activities)
ii. Tribal uses
iii. Other groups

Public - Uncontrolled access, present at the site access boundary

Nuclear Safety Considerations

- Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) process and results used to evaluate accidents and acute upset events
- Unmitigated dose to co-located people considered a metric of hazard
- Mitigation measures also considered as part of evaluation

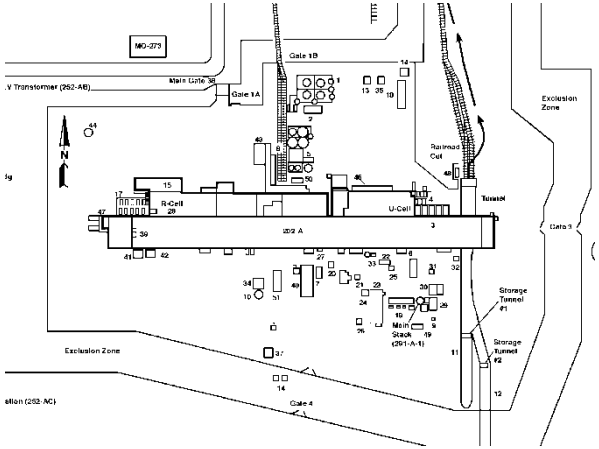
Unmitigated Dose to Co-located Person [rem] as Human Health Metric

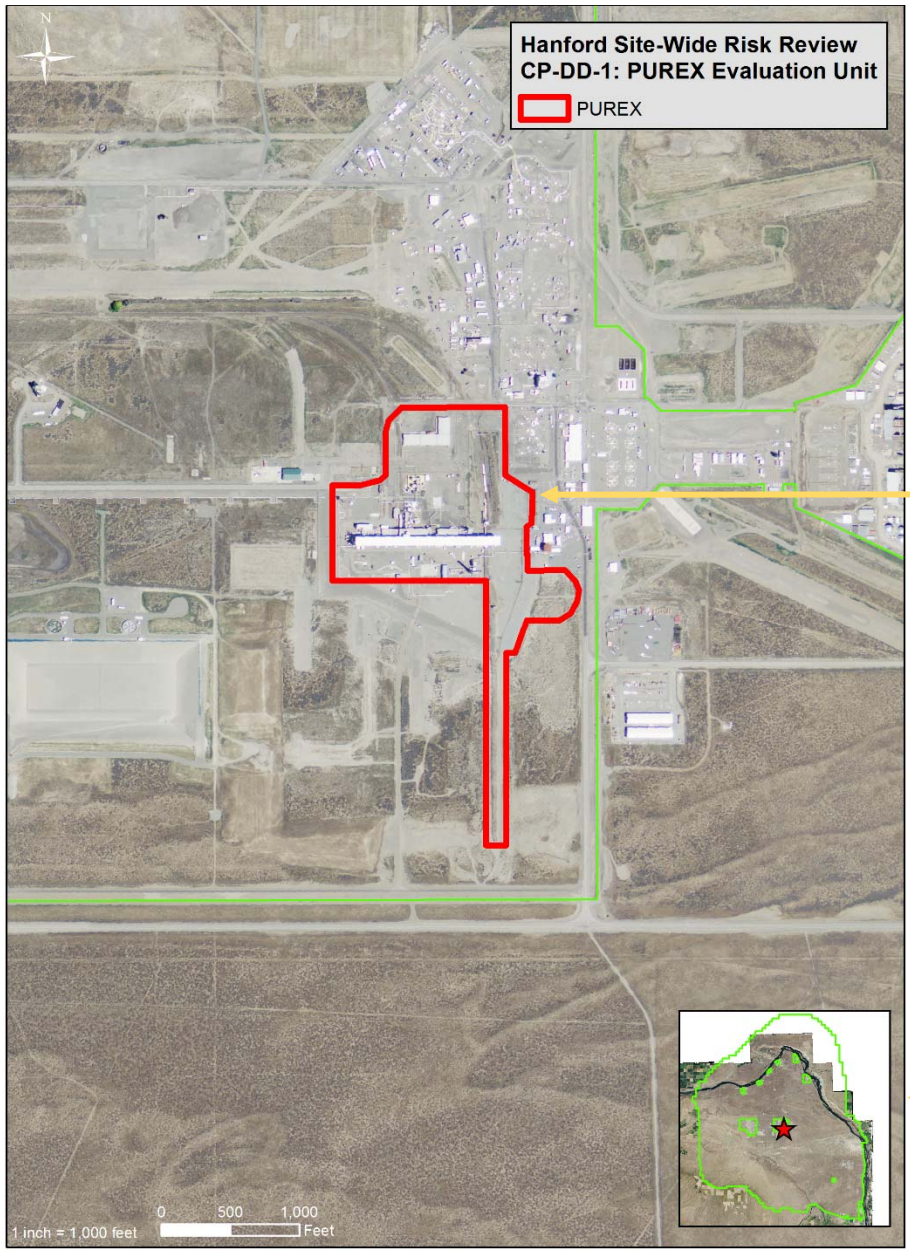


Barrier Type:(a)None;(b)Bldg. & Engr. System;(c)Soil Cover & Veg.; (d)Liner;(e)Packaging;(f)Packaging Post-2004;(g)Tank Constr.(SST);(h)Tank Constr. (DST);(i)Remedial Process in Place

CP-DD-1: Plutonium-Uranium Extraction (PUREX)

- Constructed between 1953 and 1955 and operated until 1990 to chemically separate plutonium, uranium and neptunium from Hanford Site nuclear reactor fuel elements. Nearly 70% of Hanford's uranium was reprocessed through PUREX.
- Rail tunnels constructed to dispose of surplus radioactive materials such as failed or outworn equipment. Tunnel #1 was constructed almost entirely of railroad ties in 1956. Tunnel #2 was constructed with stronger materials in 1967 as additional temporary storage and contains 28 railcars (largest amount, curies, of dispersible radioactive contaminants in PUREX complex subject to a structural collapse).
- Final D&D of PUREX building is expected to be similar to the "Close in Place-Partially Demolished Structure" alternative chosen for the U Canyon. Rail cars and contaminated equipment in two tunnels most likely to be grouted in place with backfill of the storage tunnels.





EU Boundary Definition

Location Map

CP-DD-1: Plutonium-Uranium Extraction (PUREX)

Inventory and Potential Events

Primary Contaminants	202-A building, incl. Ventilation System		Storage Tunnel #1		Storage Tunnel #2	
	Grams	Curies	Grams	Curies	Grams	Curies
Total Pu (as 239)	14,000	871	4,960	309	5,530	344
Am-241	350	1,210	129	447	98	338
Cs-137	126	11,200	116	10,300	3,790	337,000
Sr-90	66	9,010	60	8,240	1,250	172,000

There are four events that would cause an unmitigated exposure of at least 25 rems to a non-worker located 100 meters away:

- An atmospheric dispersible event caused by a partial or complete failure of the PUREX structures. This would be a short acute ground release duration event without plume meander causing the following unmitigated exposures. Storage Tunnel No. 1 – 58 rems; Storage Tunnel No. 2 – 76 rems; 202-A Building and systems – 120 rems.
- A fire in PUREX Tunnel #1 associated with its wooden structure could cause an unmitigated exposure of 70 rems.
- A partial collapse of the 202-A building roof could cause a 25 rem exposure.
- A fire in the N-Cell could cause an exposure of 25 rems because of the residual inventory in the gloveboxes, potential combustibles, and potential ignition from S&M operations.

Ecological Resources Evaluation

- Field survey of EU (walk-through where possible) in 2014-15
- Analysis of % of each resource level in EU, using GIS information
- Comparison of EU and buffer with previous resource level rating
- Inclusion of data on sensitive species

Evaluating Impacts

- Physical disruption
- Invasive species
- Consideration of multiple remediation options
- Consideration of role of contaminants

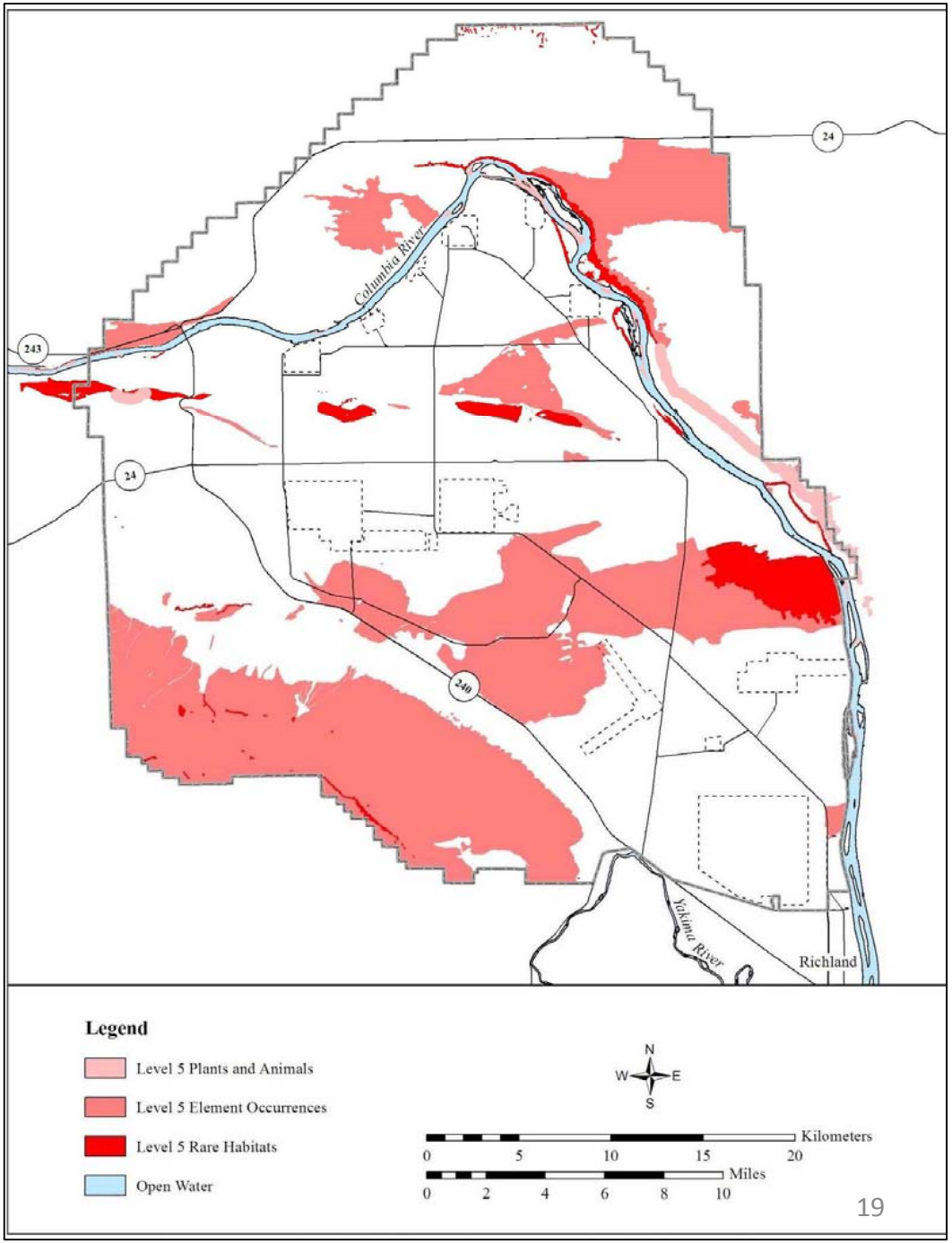
Changes in habitat types from historical records to 2001 for the Hanford Site and the Columbia Basin ecoregion

Cover Type	Historic Ecoregion Area (ha)	Current Ecoregion Area (ha)	Historic Hanford Site Area (ha)	Current Hanford Area (ha)	% Change in Ecoregion	% Change in Hanford Site
Bluebunch wheatgrass steppe	1,028,900	431,400	612	1602	-58.1%	161.8%
Idaho fescue steppe	436,700	122,200	0	0	-72.0%	No change
Bitterbrush steppe	118,600	78,100	915	904	-34.1%	-1.2%
Big sagebrush steppe	4,096,900	1,662,400	148,902	137,834	-59.4%	-7.4%
Juniper/sagebrush	110,300	109,100	508	508	-1.1%	No change
Threetip sagebrush	746,000	0	16	0*	-100%	-100%
Black greasewood	134,900	0	503	0*	-100%	-100%
Conifers/Idaho fescue	225,000	0	0	0	-100%	-100%
Ponderosa pine	302,900	335,100	102	102	10.6	10.6%
Water	71,100	71,100	25	25	No change	No change
Other	205,500	4,667,400	0	10,612	2,171%	
Total	7,476,800	7,476,800	151,583	151,587		

*This disappearance is likely due to not being documented in later years.
100 % decrease means it went from some amount to none (or it was not measured).

Level 5 Species / Habitat

Sage Grouse



EXAMPLE RESULTS FROM 2014 FIELD EVALUATIONS OF ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Evaluation Unit Name	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Level 3 or Greater within EU
CP-DD-1 PUREX	84.30% (37.6 ac)	0.00% (0 ac)	10.76% (4.8 ac)	4.93% (2.2 ac)	0.00% (0 ac)	0.00% (0 ac)	4.93%

EU Name	Evaluation Time Period	Risk Impact Rating	Comments
CP-DD-1, PUREX	Current	ND to Low	**Generally ND** on EU because there are few ecological resources (5 % Level 3 resources), **Low** because of possible contamination to ecological receptors on buffer area (31 % Level 3 and 4 resources)
	Active Cleanup	Low to Medium	Few high level resources in EU (5 % Level 3 resources), but **Low to Medium in buffer area** because of high value resources (nearly a third of area has Level 3 and 4 resources).
	Near-term Post-Cleanup	ND to Low	Remote chance of penetration of roots into contaminated site, allowing exposure to residual contamination.

Level 0: Non-native plants and animals

Level 1: Industrial or developed

Level 2: Habitat with high potential for restoration

Level 3: Important habitat

Level 4: Essential habitat for important species

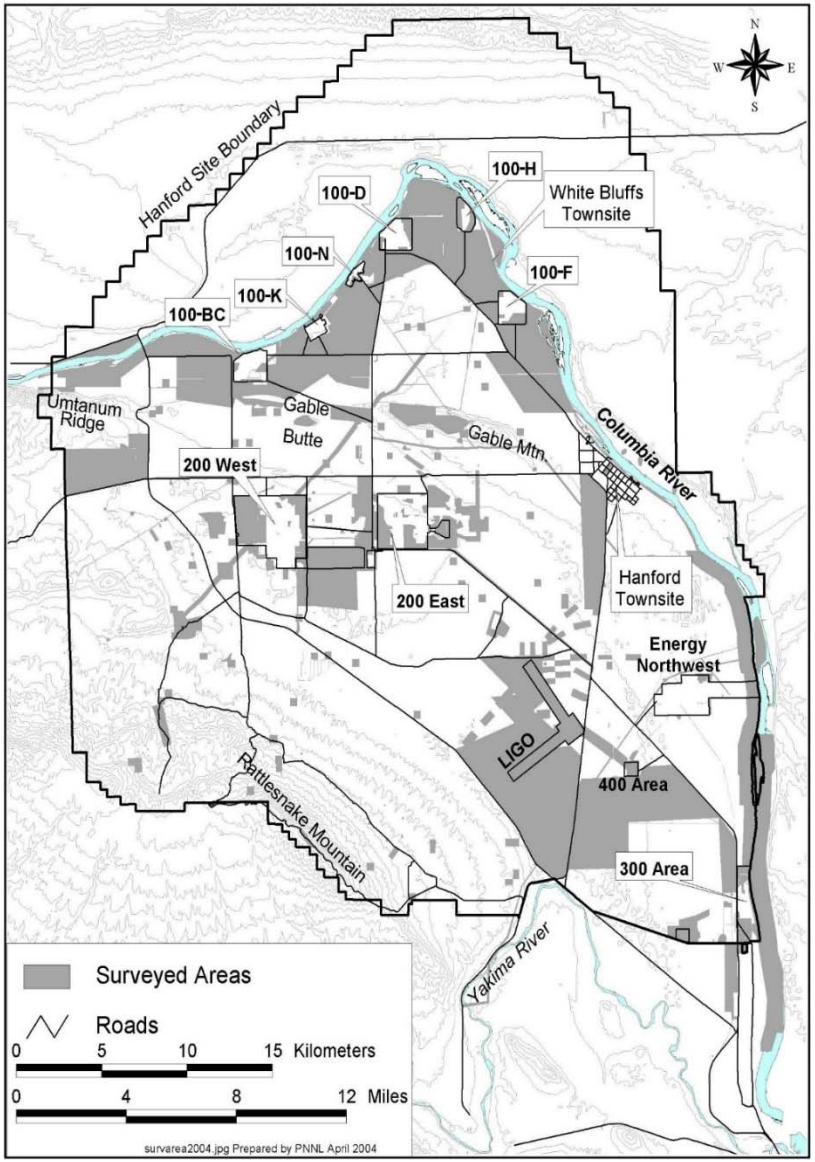
Level 5: Irreplaceable habitat or federal threatened and endangered species (incl. proposed species, and species that are new to science or unique to WA State)

Cultural Resources

- **Native American:** Pre-contact - 10,000 years to Present
- **Historic Pre-Hanford:** 1805 to 1943
- **Manhattan Project and Cold War Era:** 1943 to 1990

Direct Impact: resource is harmed or disturbed
Indirect Impact: visual or other impacts

Unknown - uncertainty expressed (complete EU not evaluated; consultation may be necessary)
Known - known cultural resources present
None - mitigated, removed or none present



Evaluating Risks *to* and *from* Groundwater

- Threats *to* Groundwater as a Protected Resource
  - Current groundwater contaminant plumes
  - Vadose Zone Contaminant Inventories
  - Tank wastes and other inventories in engineered systems

  ➢ ***Groundwater Threat Metric*** (GTM) - maximum volume of water that could be contaminated by the contaminant inventory if it was in the saturated zone at the water quality standard

- Threats *from* Groundwater to the Columbia River
  - Riparian Zone – Impacted area & conc./threshold
  - Benthic Zone – Impacted river reach & conc./threshold
  - Free stream – Not discernable, dilution factor > 100 million

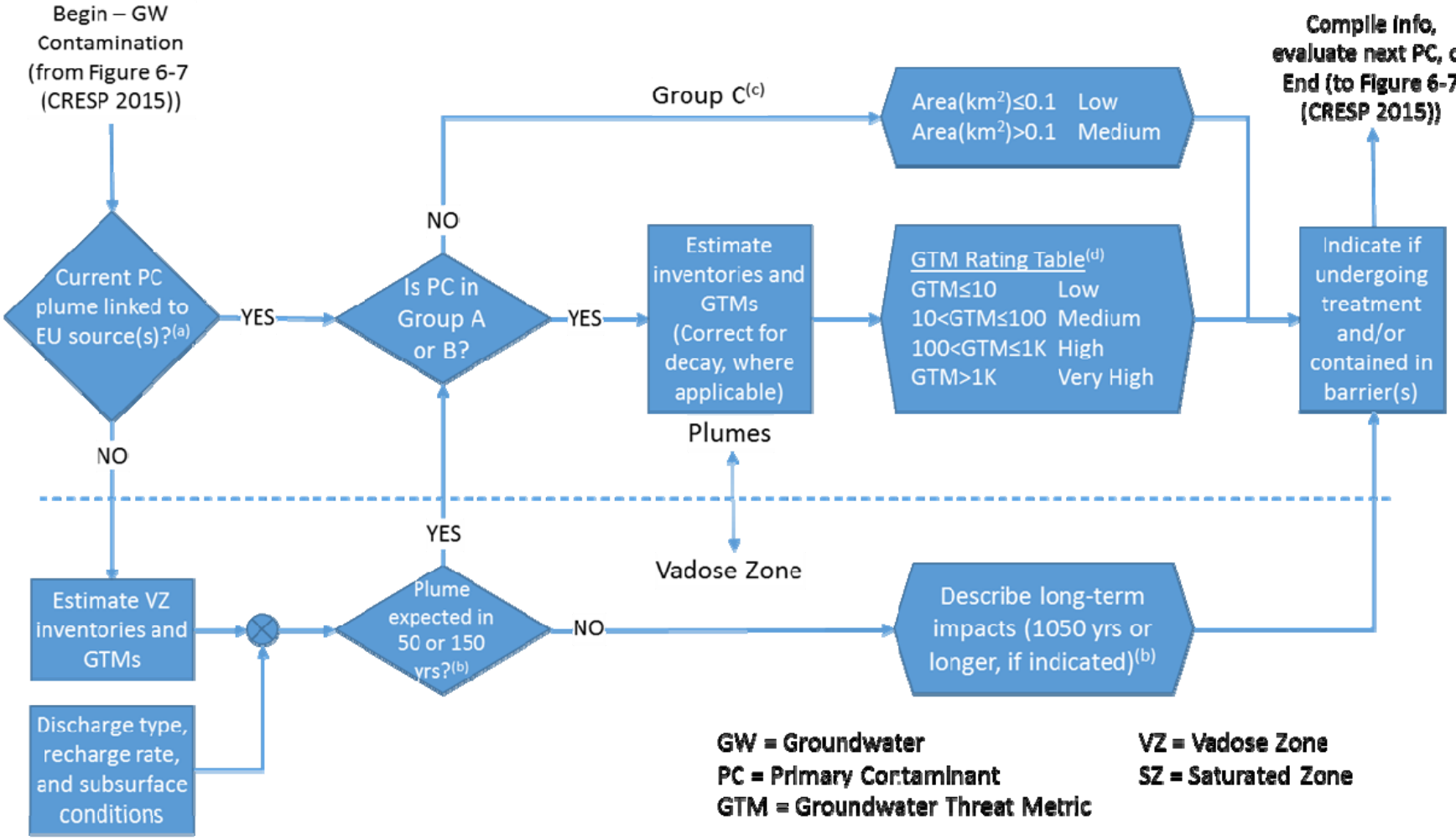
Primary Contaminant Groups

Persistence	Mobility* Low (R>500)	Mobility* Medium (5<R<500)	Mobility* High (R<5)
Low		TPH-diesel	$^{3}H_2O$, NO_3
Medium	Cs-137, Am-241	Sr-90	Cyanide, TCE
High	Pu, Eu, Ni (all isotopes)	$U^{(total)}$, $Cr^{(total)}$	Tc-99, I-129, C-14, Cl-36, Cr^{6+}, Carbon Tetrachloride

Group A Primary Contaminants
Group B Primary Contaminants
Group C Primary Contaminants
Group D Primary Contaminants

* Assume most mobile form of contaminant
R = retardation factor

Threats to Groundwater as a Resource



a. Based on plume area above a threshold (e.g., Water Quality Standard (WQS) from 2013 Annual GW Monitoring Report (DOE/RL-2014-32 Rev. 0)). Note plume areas and corresponding estimated plume volumes are (highly) positively correlated.

b. Use available information (e.g., environmental impact statements, risk assessments) to evaluate.

c. Note, no Group D contaminants have been identified as groundwater threats.

d. GTM Rating Table for Group A and B PCs (Table 6-3 (CRESP 2015)).

Thresholds Considered in the Risk Review

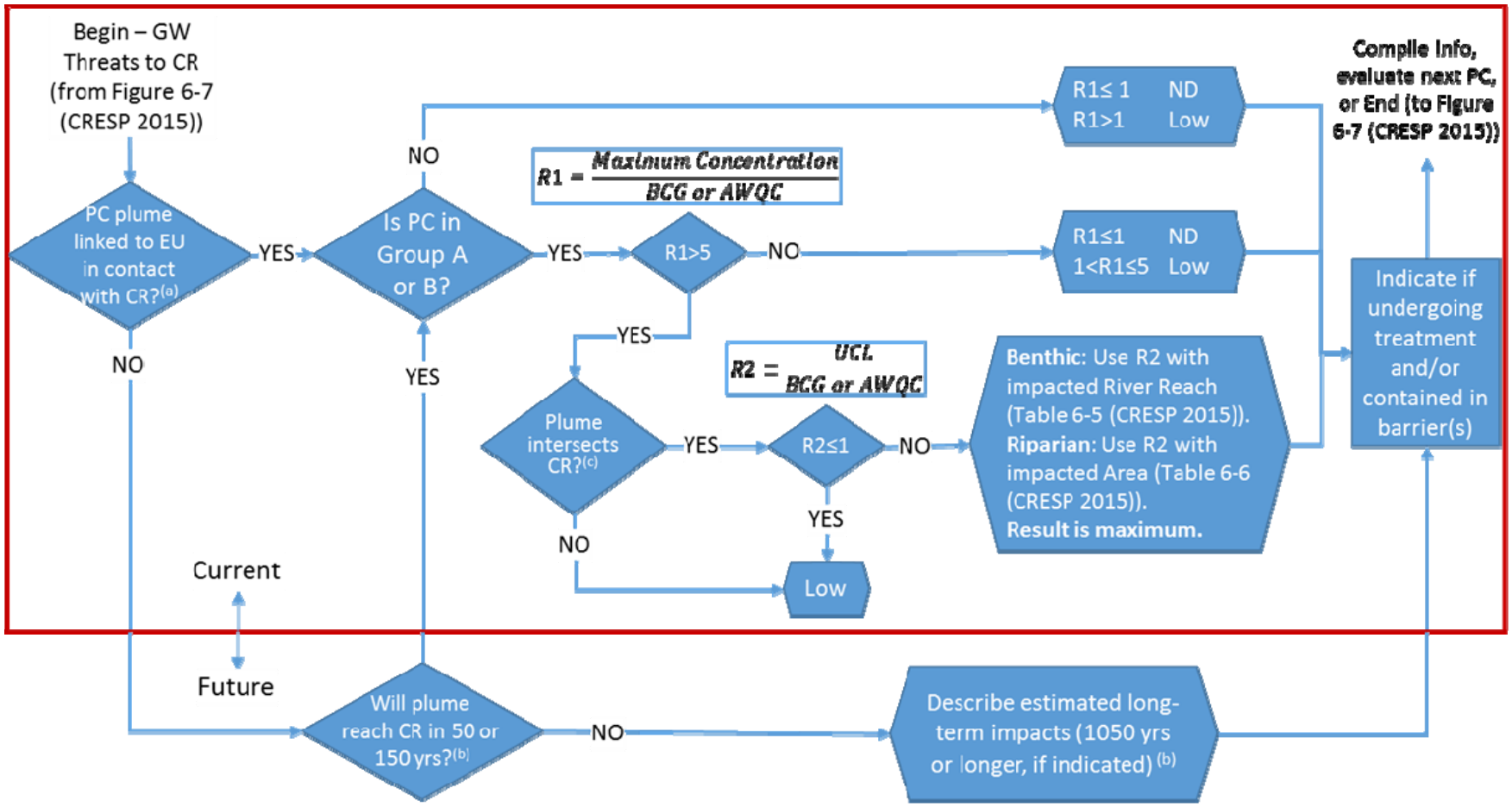
PC	Grp	WQS[a]	DWS	DOE DCS[b]	BCG[c]	AWQC[d]/SCV[e]
Tc-99	A	900 pCi/L	900 pCi/L	44000 pCi/L	667000 pCi/L	---
I-129	A	1 pCi/L	1 pCi/L	330 pCi/L	38500 pCi/L	---
C-14	A	2000 pCi/L	2000 pCi/L	62000 pCi/L	609 pCi/L	---
Cr-VI	A	10-48 ug/L[f]	---	---	---	10 ug/L[f]
CCl_4	A	3.4 ug/L[g]	5 ug/L	---	---	9.8 ug/L
Sr-90	B	8 pCi/L	8 pCi/L	1100 pCi/L	279 pCi/L	7 ug/L (Sr)
U(tot)	B	30 ug/L	30 ug/L	750 pCi/L (U-238)	224 pCi/L (U-238)	5-12.9 ug/L[h]
Cr(tot)	B	48 ug/L[f]	100 ug/L[f]	---	---	55 ug/L
CN	B	200 ug/L	200 ug/L	---	---	5.2 ug/L
TCE	B	4[g]-5 ug/L	5 ug/L	---	---	47 ug/L

Human Health

Benthic/ Riparian

a. Water Quality Standard (WQS) from 2013 Annual GW Report. Some values vary by Operable Unit (OU).
b. DOE Derived Concentration Standard (Ingested Water DCS from Table 5 in DOE-STD-1196-2011).
c. Biota Concentration Guide (BCG) from RESRAD-BIOTA v1.5 (consistent with DOE Technical Standard DOE-STD-1153-2002).
d. Ambient Water Quality Criterion (AWQC) (Table 6-1 in DOE/RL-2010-117, Rev. 0).
e. Tier II Screening Concentration Value (SVC) (http://rais.ornl.gov/documents/tm96r2.pdf) when AQWC not provided.
f. Different values tabulated for different GW OUs. 10 ug/L is the surface water standard for Cr-VI. 20 ug/L is the groundwater cleanup target for Cr-VI identified for interim remedial action. 48 ug/L is the MTCA groundwater cleanup standard. 100 ug/L is the DWS for total chromium.
g. Risk-based cleanup value from the ROD as reported in the 2013 Annual GW Report.
h. Uranium (total) screening values were 0.5 ug/L (RCBRA) and 5 ug/L (CRCRA). PNNL-17034 indicated background of ~5-12.9 ug/L (300-F). CRCRA indicated effect levels span 3-900 µg/L reflecting considerable uncertainty in no-effect concentration.

GW Threat to Columbia River (CR)



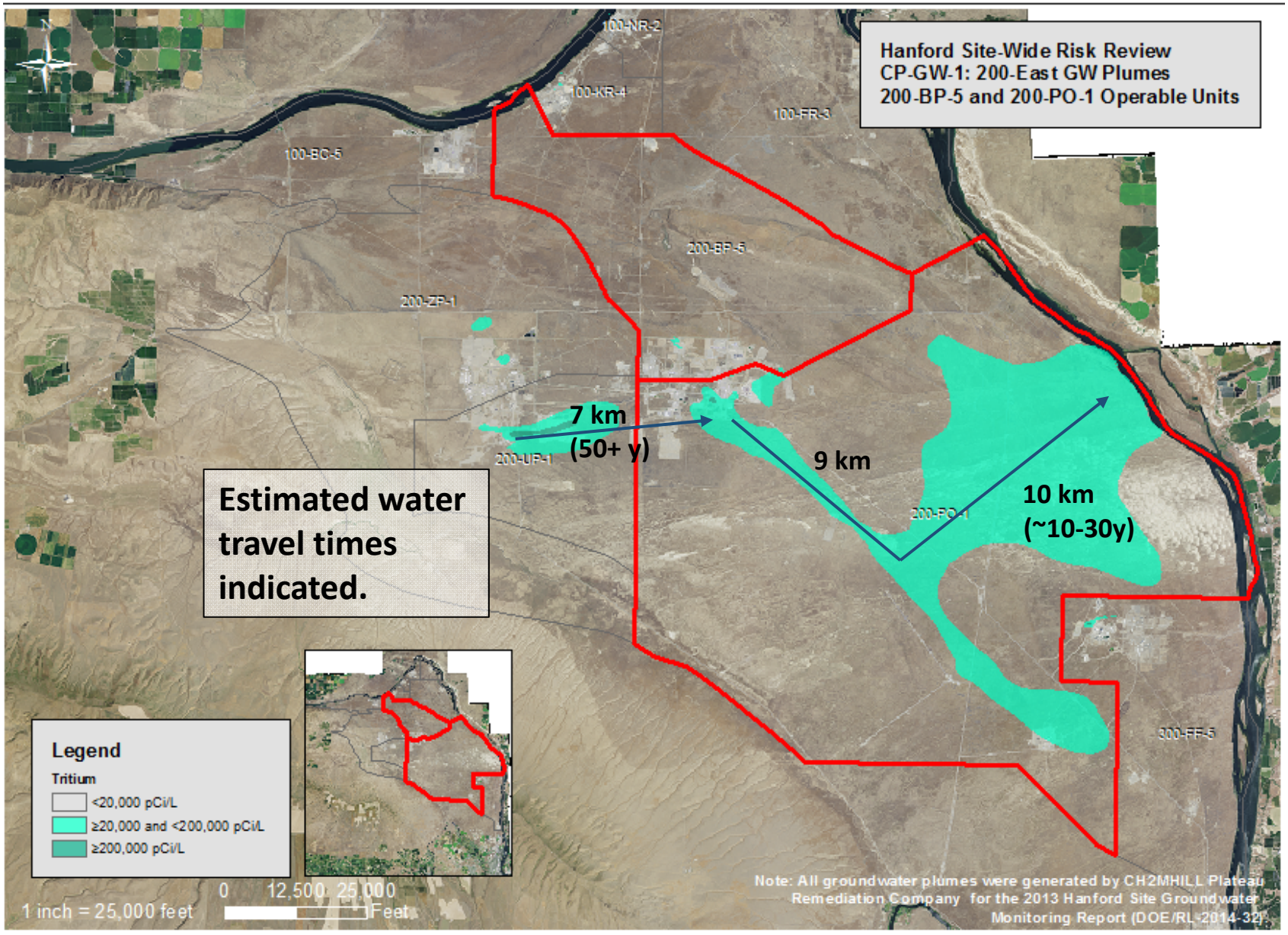
PC = Primary Contaminant
GTM = Groundwater Threat Metric
UCL = Upper 95% confidence limit (log-mean)

VZ = Vadose Zone
CR = Columbia River

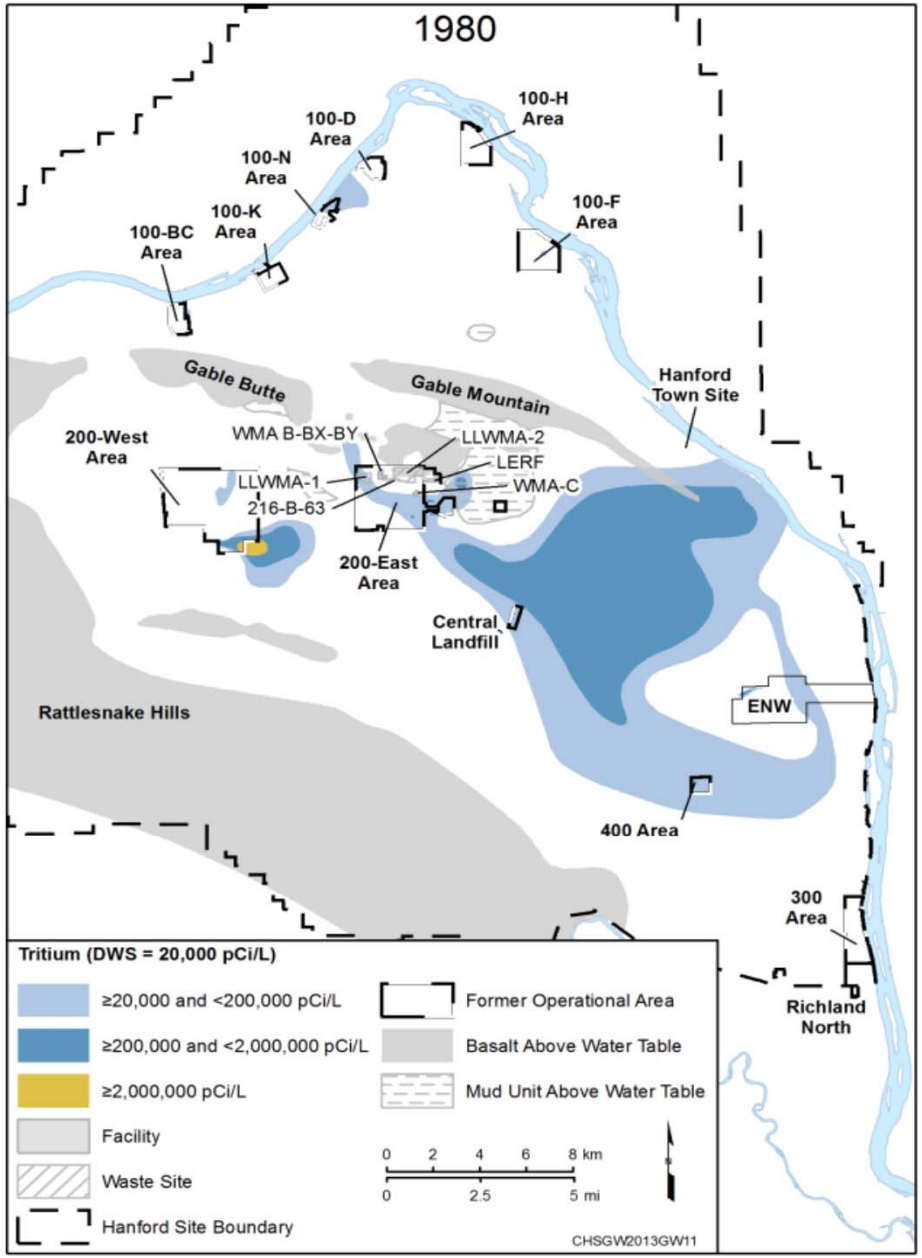
AWQC = Ambient Water Quality Criterion (chemicals)
BCG = Biota Concentration Guide (radionuclides)
ND = Not discernible

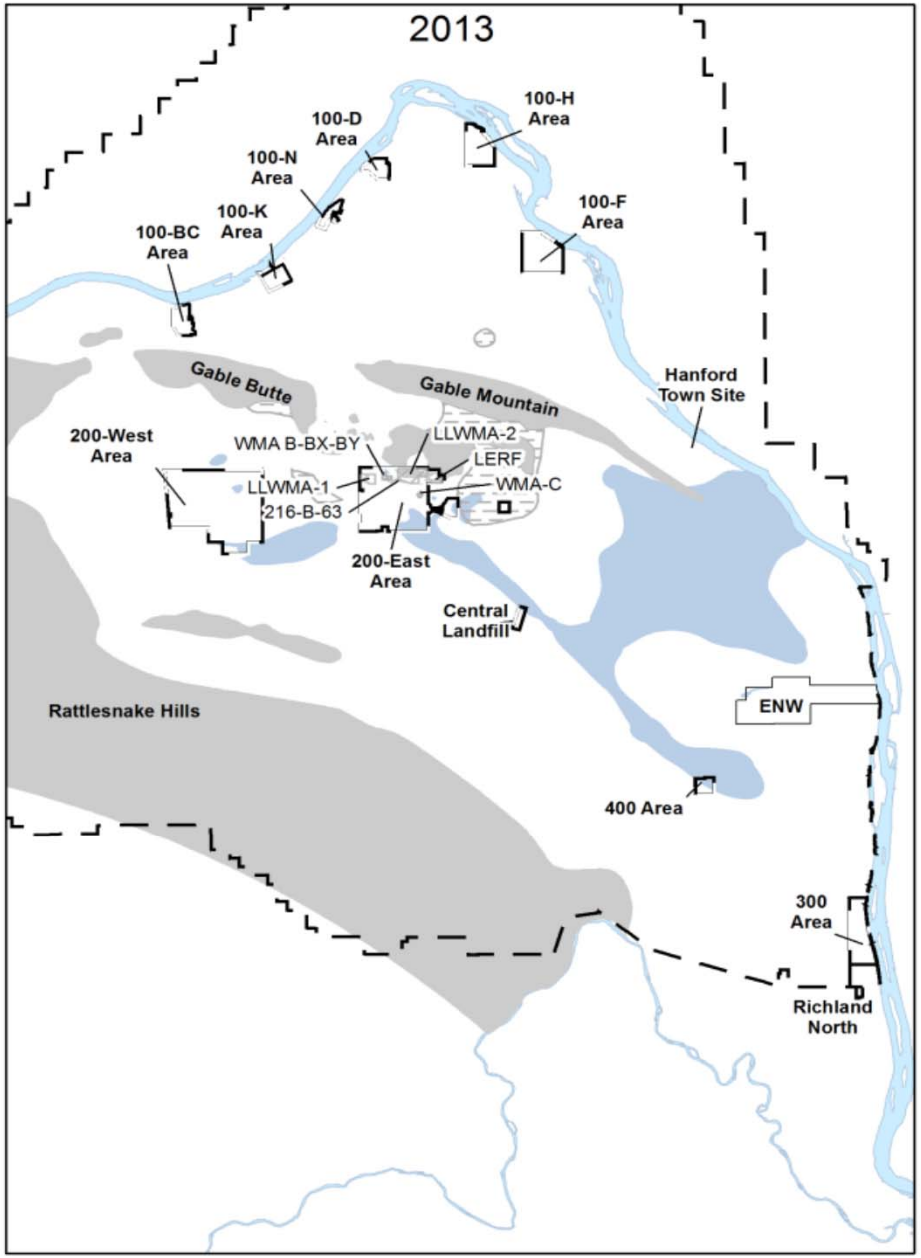
a. Based on plume area above a threshold (e.g., Water Quality Standard (WQS) from 2013 Annual GW Monitoring Report (DOE/RL-2014-32 Rev. 0)). Note plume areas and corresponding estimated plume volumes are (highly) positively correlated.
b. Use available information (e.g., environmental impact statements, risk assessments) to evaluate.
c. Based on either aquifer tube data or contours exceeding the threshold (e.g., from PHOENIX at http://phoenix.pnnl.gov/).

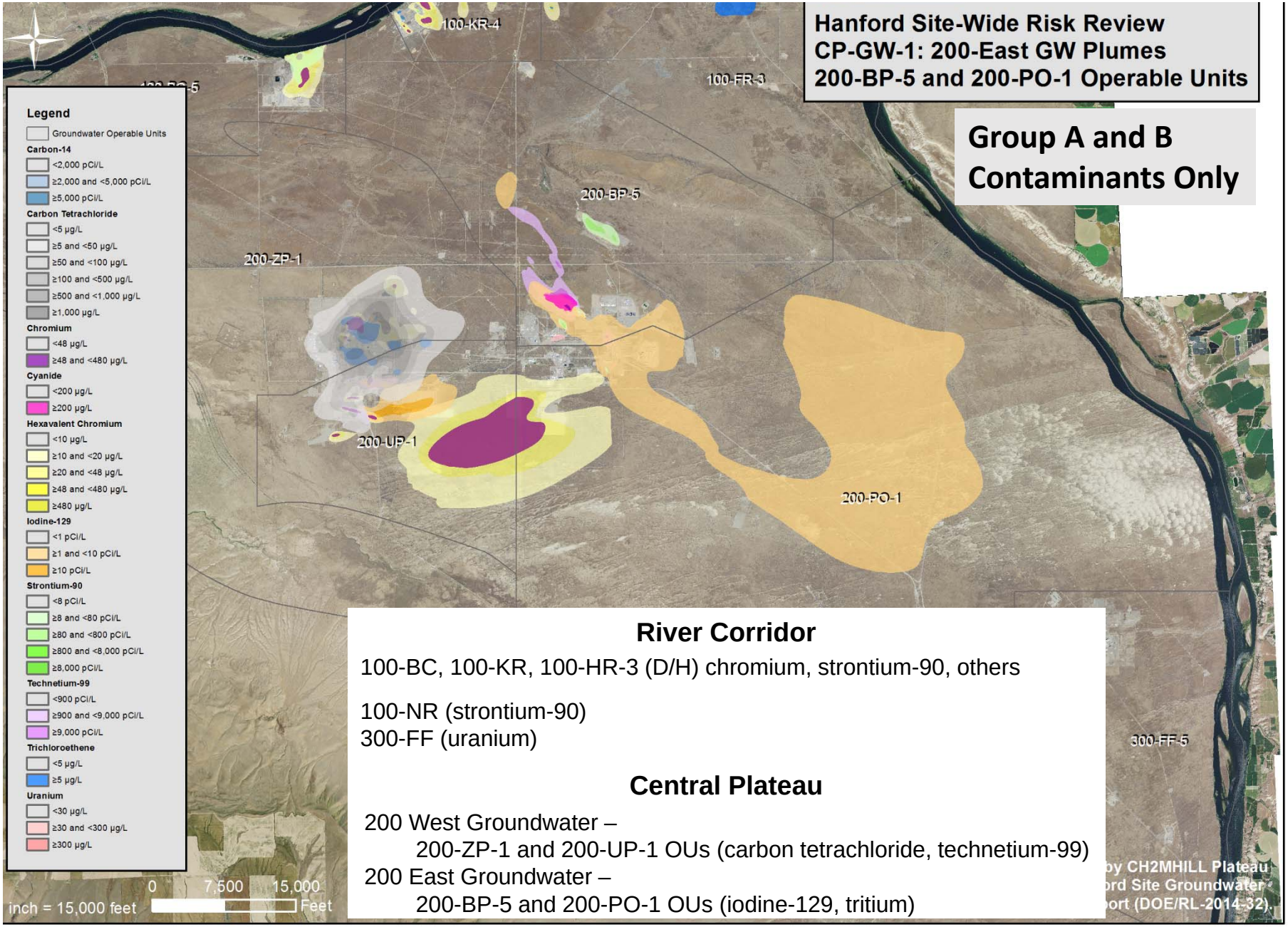
Estimating Movement of 200 Area Plumes



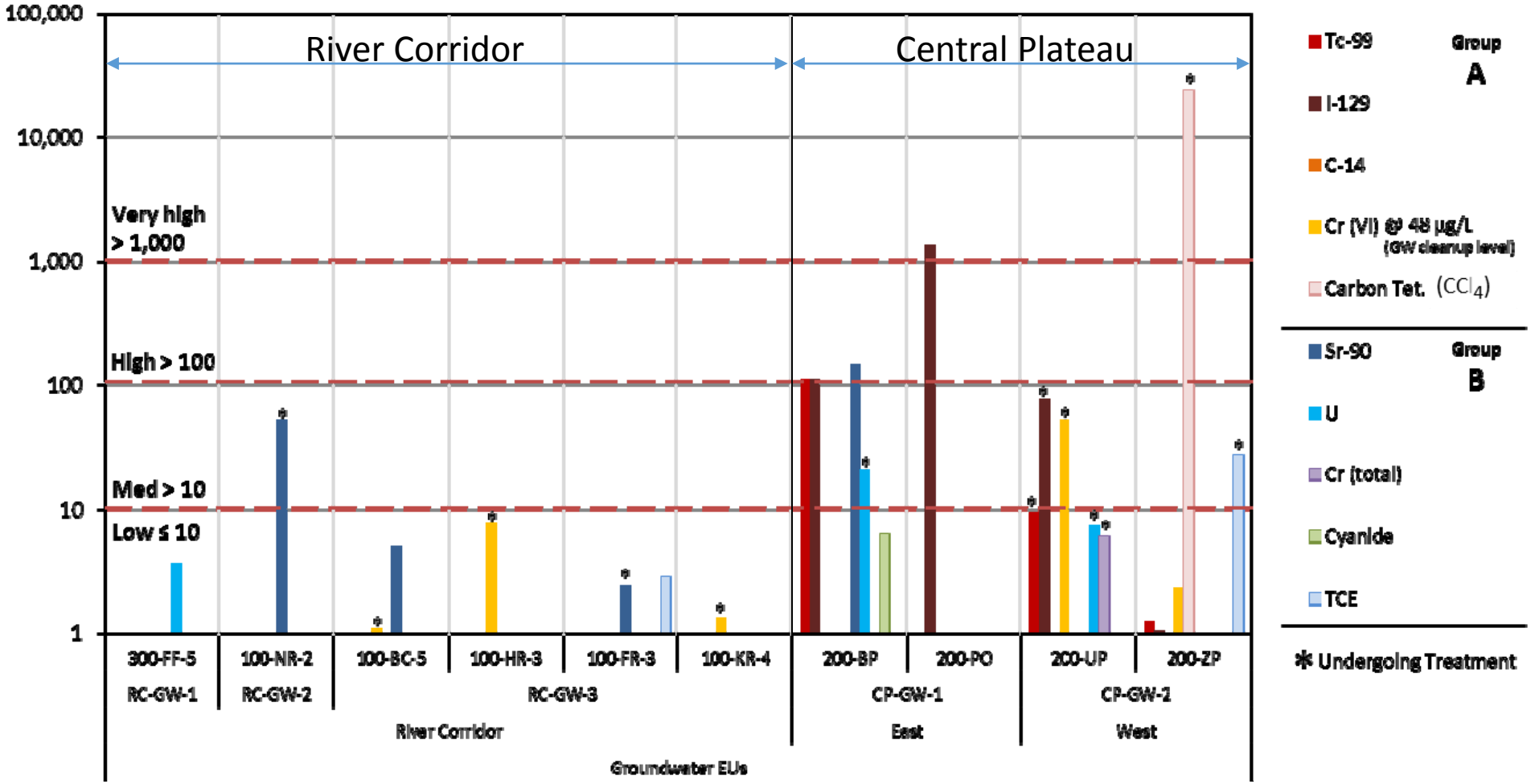
200 East Tritium Plume Changes



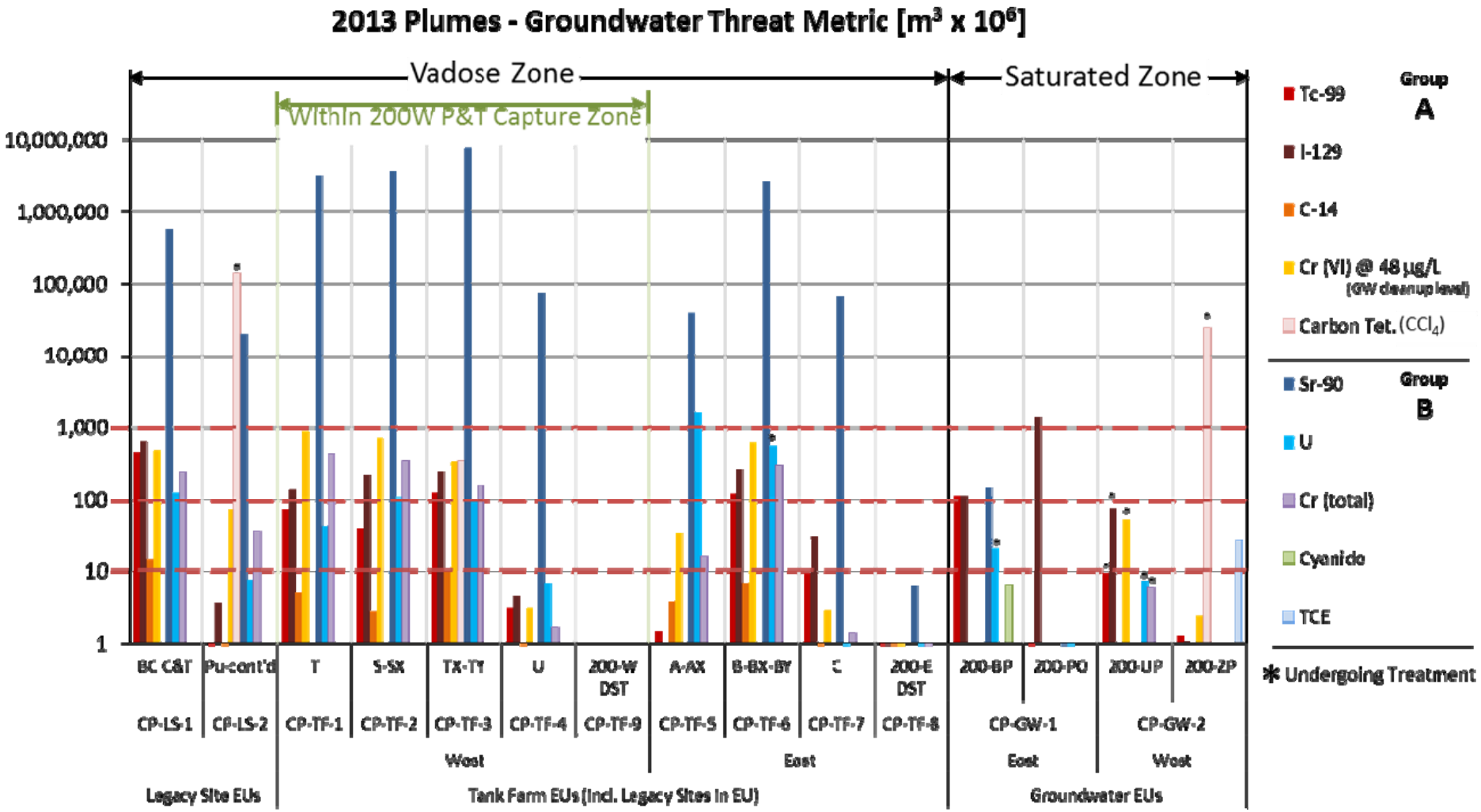



Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review
CP-GW-1: 200-East GW Plumes
200-BP-5 and 200-PO-1 Operable Units
Group A and B
Contaminants Only
100-KR-4
100-FR-3
200-BP-5
200-ZP-1
200-UP-1
200-PO-1
300-FF-5
Legend
Groundwater Operable Units
Carbon-14
<2,000 pCi/L
≥2,000 and <5,000 pCi/L
≥5,000 pCi/L
Carbon Tetrachloride
<5 µg/L
≥5 and <50 µg/L
≥50 and <100 µg/L
≥100 and <500 µg/L
≥500 and <1,000 µg/L
≥1,000 µg/L
Chromium
<48 µg/L
≥48 and <480 µg/L
Cyanide
<200 µg/L
≥200 µg/L
Hexavalent Chromium
<10 µg/L
≥10 and <20 µg/L
≥20 and <48 µg/L
≥48 and <480 µg/L
≥480 µg/L
Iodine-129
<1 pCi/L
≥1 and <10 pCi/L
≥10 pCi/L
Strontium-90
<8 pCi/L
≥8 and <80 pCi/L
≥80 and <800 pCi/L
≥800 and <8,000 pCi/L
≥8,000 pCi/L
Technetium-99
<900 pCi/L
≥900 and <9,000 pCi/L
≥9,000 pCi/L
Trichloroethene
<5 µg/L
≥5 µg/L
Uranium
<30 µg/L
≥30 and <300 µg/L
≥300 µg/L
0
7,500
15,000
inch = 15,000 feet
Feet
River Corridor
100-BC, 100-KR, 100-HR-3 (D/H) chromium, strontium-90, others
100-NR (strontium-90)
300-FF (uranium)
Central Plateau
200 West Groundwater –
200-ZP-1 and 200-UP-1 OUs (carbon tetrachloride, technetium-99)
200 East Groundwater –
200-BP-5 and 200-PO-1 OUs (iodine-129, tritium)

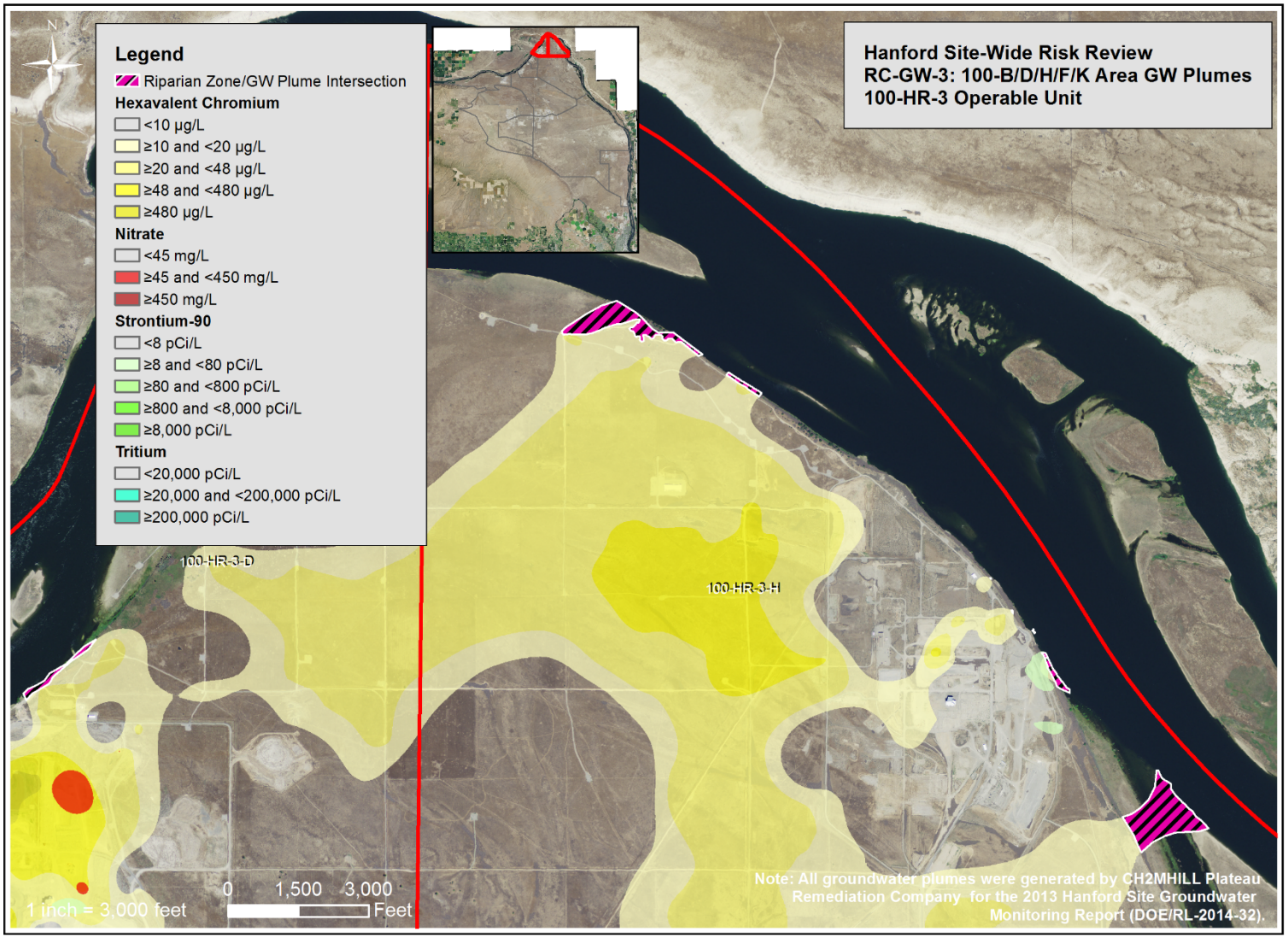
2013 Plumes – Saturated Zone Groundwater Threat Metric [$m^3 \times 10^6$]



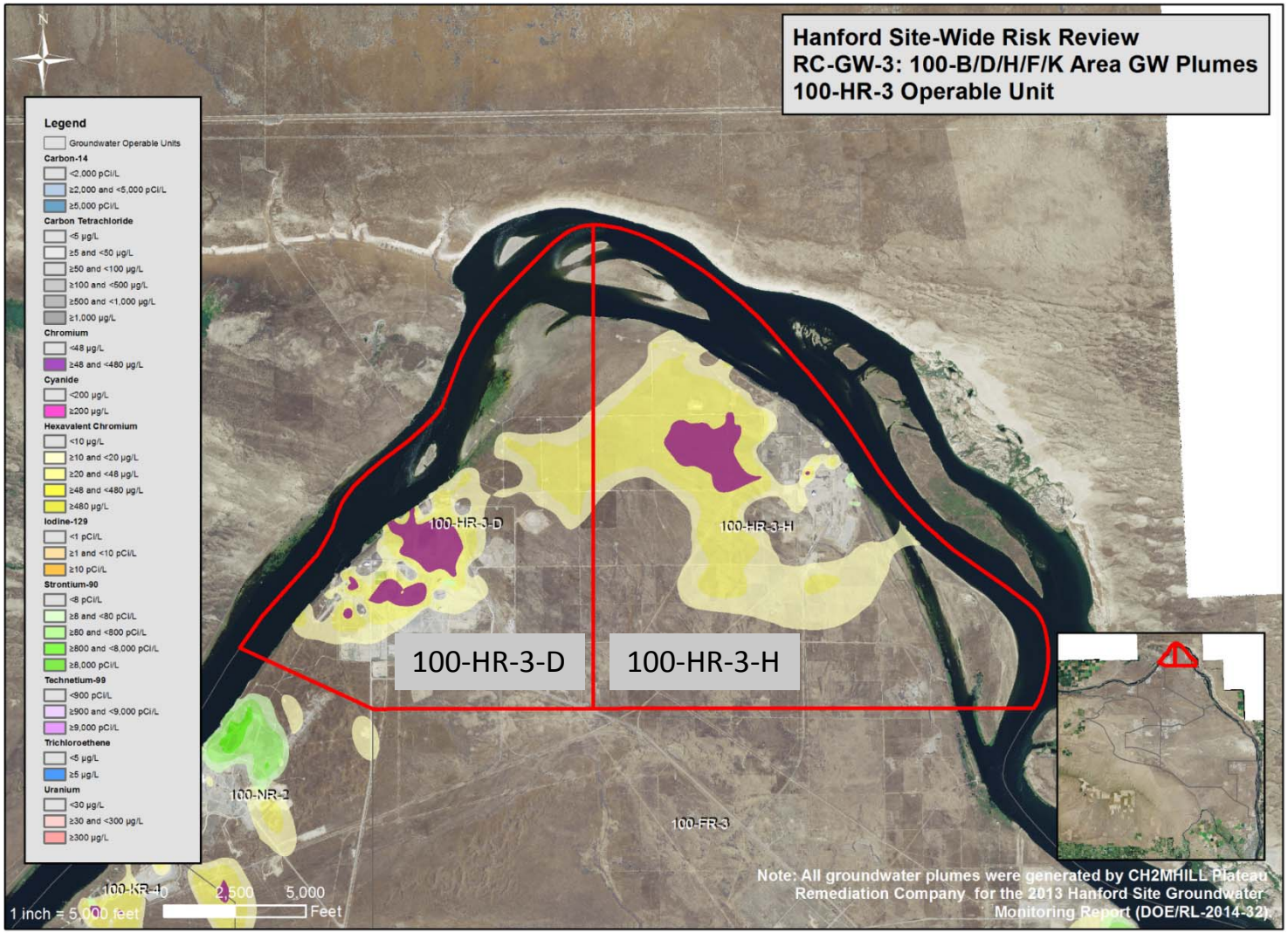
2013 Plumes – Vadose Zone & Saturated Zone Groundwater Threat Metric [m^3 x 10^6]



Threats to the Columbia River: Defining the Riparian Zone



Threats to the Columbia River: Defining Shoreline Impact



Risk Rating Summary Charts and Symbols

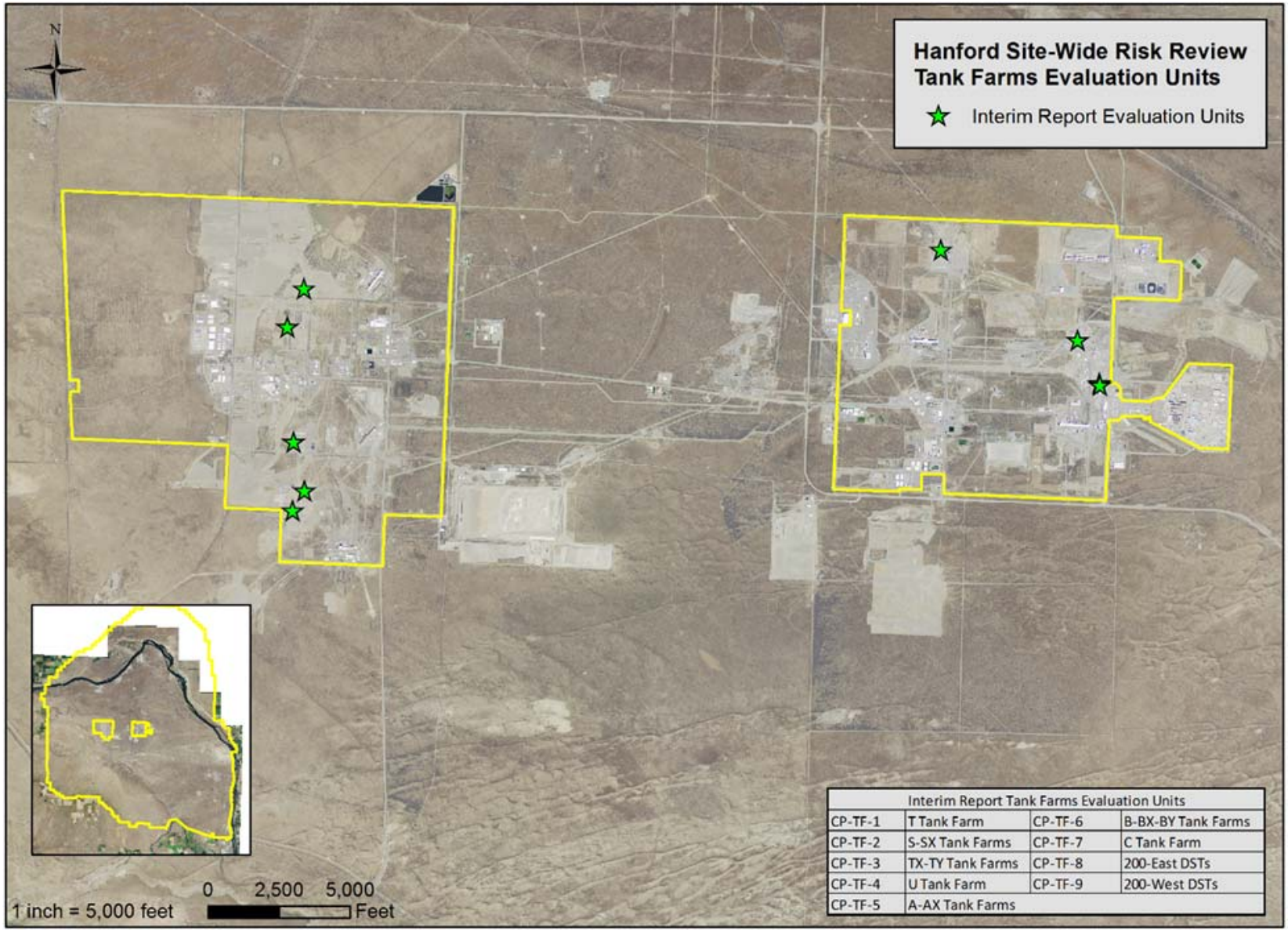
Symbol	Meaning
○	ND Rating
◔	Low Rating
◑	Medium Rating
◕	High Rating
●	Very High Rating
	Barrier Symbols
○	One engineered barrier, Intact (barriers include tanks, covers, liners, buildings, etc.)
◌	One engineered barrier, barrier compromised (e.g., leaking tank)
◎	Two engineered barriers, both barriers intact
◎	Two engineered barriers, inner barrier compromised and outer barrier intact
◎	Two engineered barriers, inner barrier intact and outer barrier compromised
◎	Two engineered barriers, both barriers compromised.
	Treatment, Remediation and Waste Treatment Symbols
[ ]	Treatment, remediation or waste retrieval in progress
ǂ	Interim stabilized (single shell tank, stabilization through removal of pumpable liquid)

Example Rating Table (partial) - **Threats to groundwater from contaminants currently in the vadose zone** (includes current vadose zone inventory in Tank Farm and Waste EUs but not inventory within the tanks themselves)

EU Name	EU	Risk Driver	Current	Risk Driver	Active Cleanup	Risk Driver	Near-term Post-cleanup
Legacy Site EUs							
618-11 Burial Grounds	RC-LS-1	Sr-90	Low	Sr-90	Low	Sr-90	ND
K–Area Waste Sites	RC-LS-2	C-14	Medium	C-14	Medium	C-14	Medium
BC Cribs and Trenches	CP-LS-1	I-129, Tc-99, Cr(a)	High	I-129, Tc-99, Cr(a)	High	I-129, Tc-99, Cr(a)	High
Pu-Contam-inated Waste Sites	CP-LS-2	CCl4	Very High	CCl4	Very High	CCl4	Very High
Tank Waste and Farms							
T Tank Farm	CP-TF-1	Cr(a)	High ǂ	Cr(a)	High ǂ	Cr(a)	High
S-SX Tank Farms	CP-TF-2	Cr(a)	High ǂ	Cr(a)	High ǂ	Cr(a)	High
TX-TY Tank Farms	CP-TF-3	Tc-99, CCl4, Cr(a)	High ǂ	Tc-99, CCl4, Cr(a)	High ǂ	Tc-99, CCl4, Cr(a)	High
U Tank Farm	CP-TF-4	Various(b)	Low ǂ	Various(b)	Low ǂ	Various(b)	Low

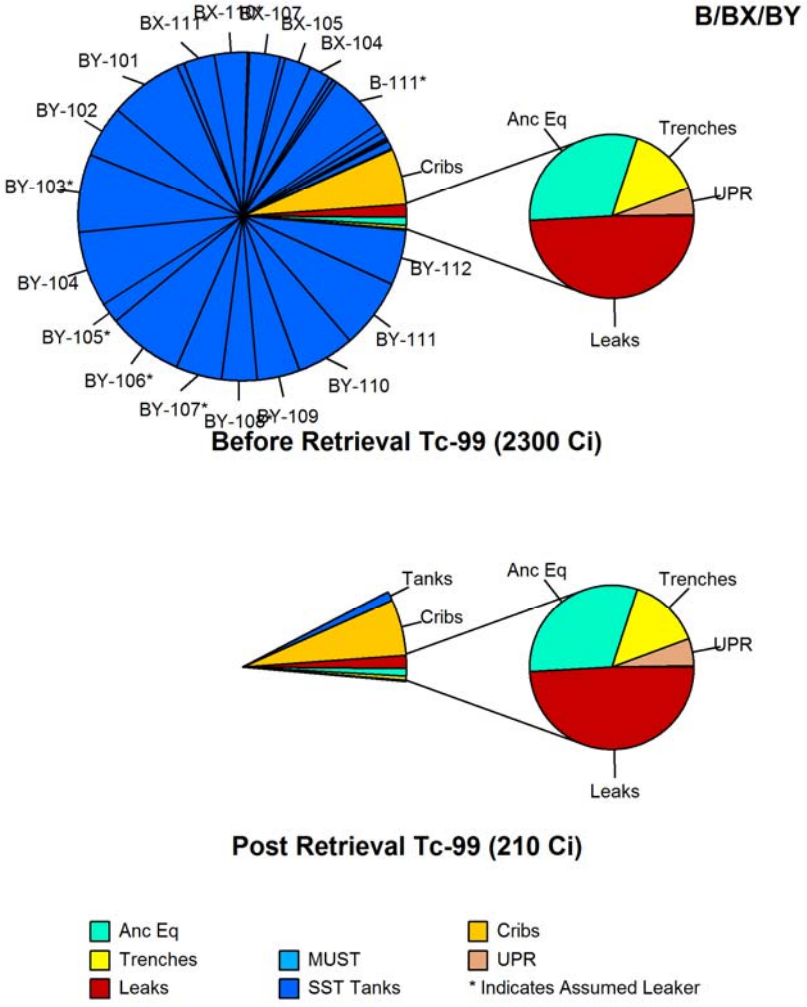
Hanford Tank Farm Evaluation Units

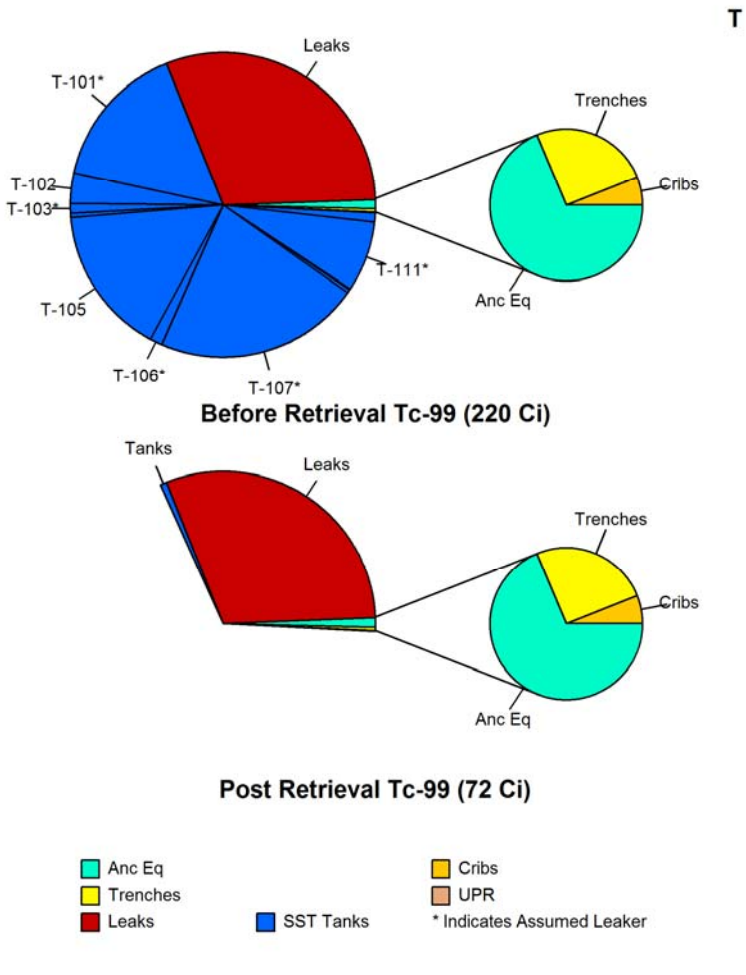
Tank Farm EUs include tank wastes, ancillary equipment, unplanned releases and legacy waste sites



Interim Report Tank Farms Evaluation Units			
CP-TF-1	T Tank Farm	CP-TF-6	B-BX-BY Tank Farms
CP-TF-2	S-SX Tank Farms	CP-TF-7	C Tank Farm
CP-TF-3	TX-TY Tank Farms	CP-TF-8	200-East DSTs
CP-TF-4	U Tank Farm	CP-TF-9	200-West DSTs
CP-TF-5	A-AX Tank Farms		

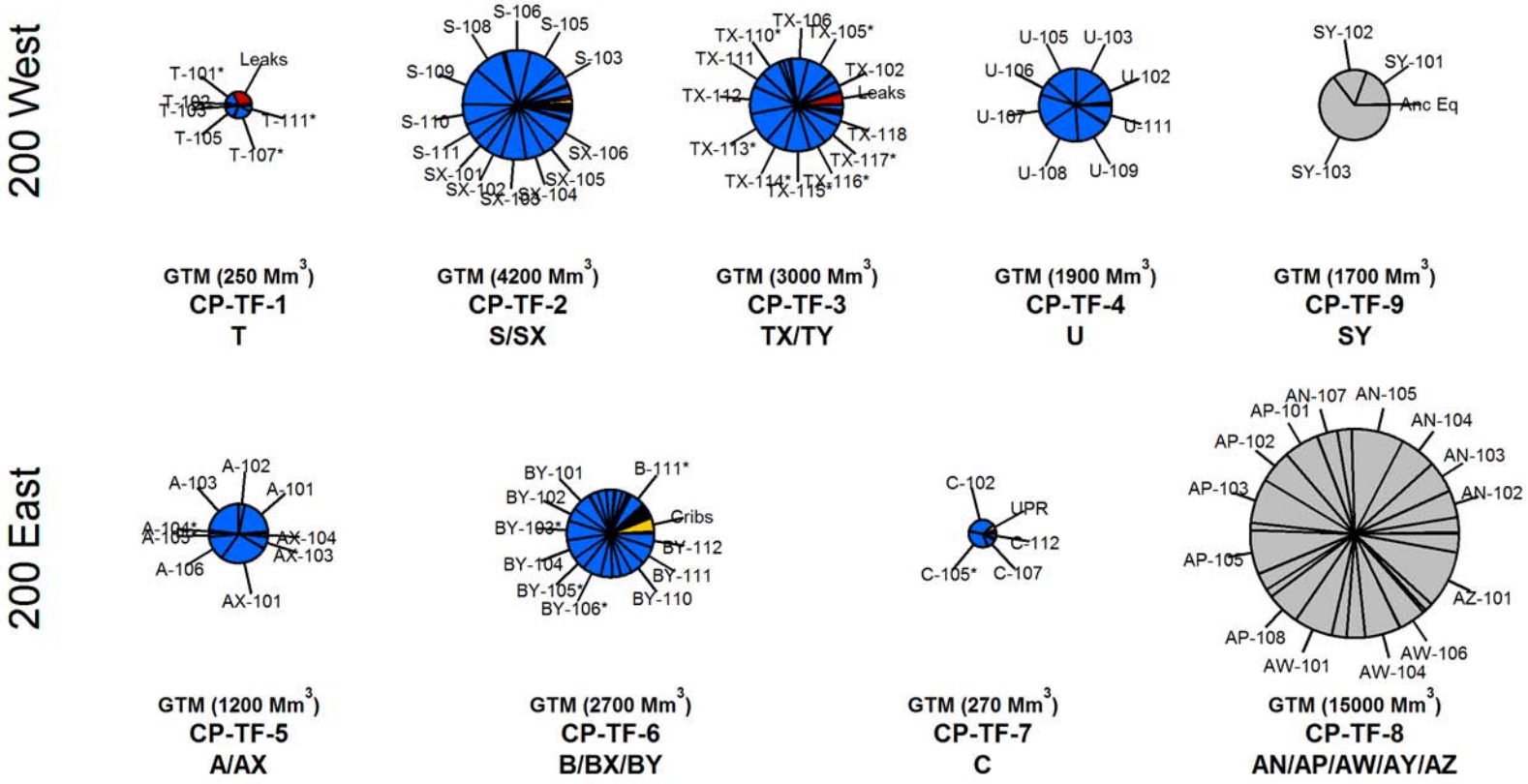
Tc-99 Inventory – 2 Example Tank Farm EUs





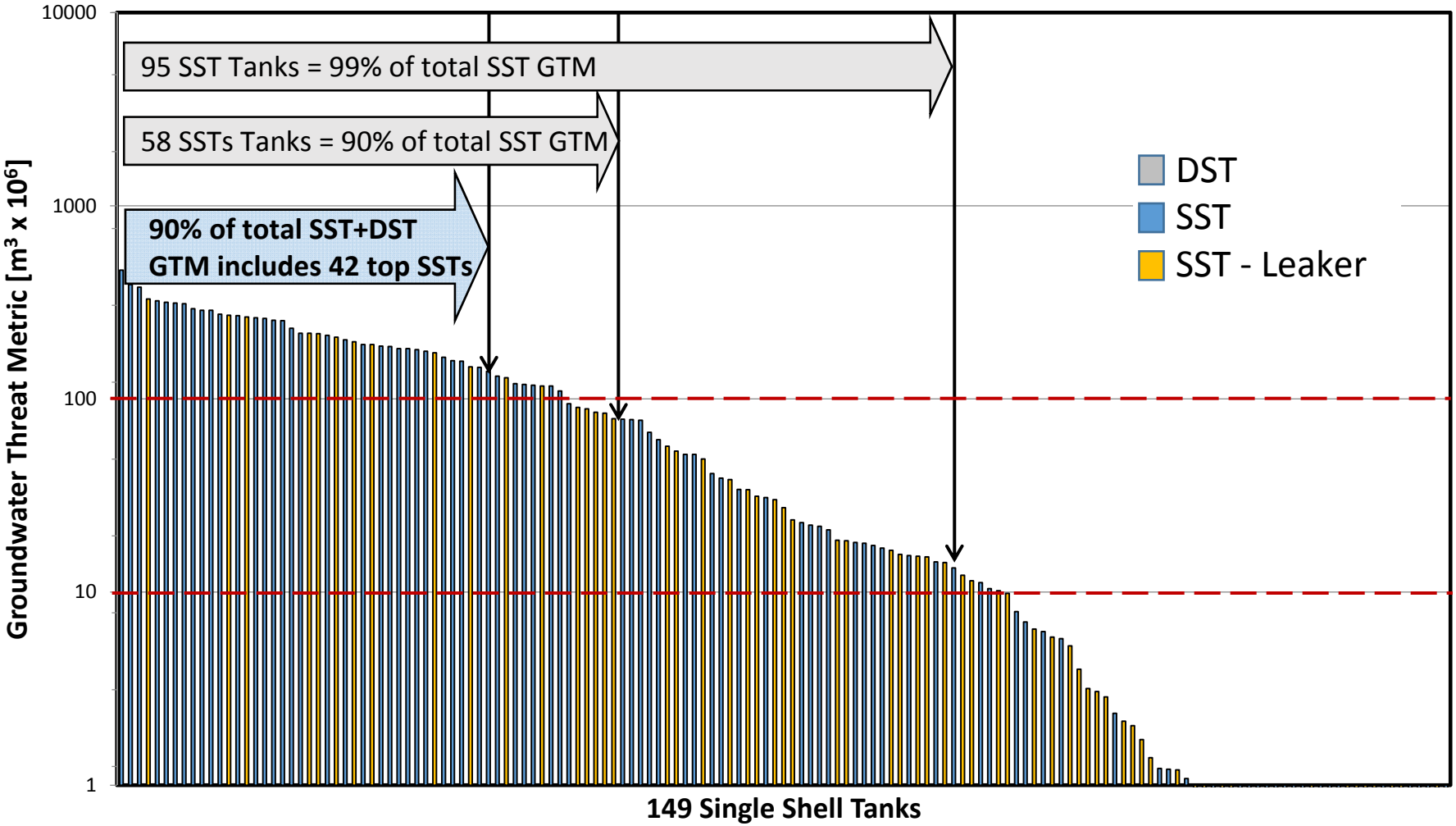
Groundwater Threat Metric (GTM) – Tank Farms

Max of Tc-99 and I-129 by EU, scaled by area relative to maximum GTM in EUs

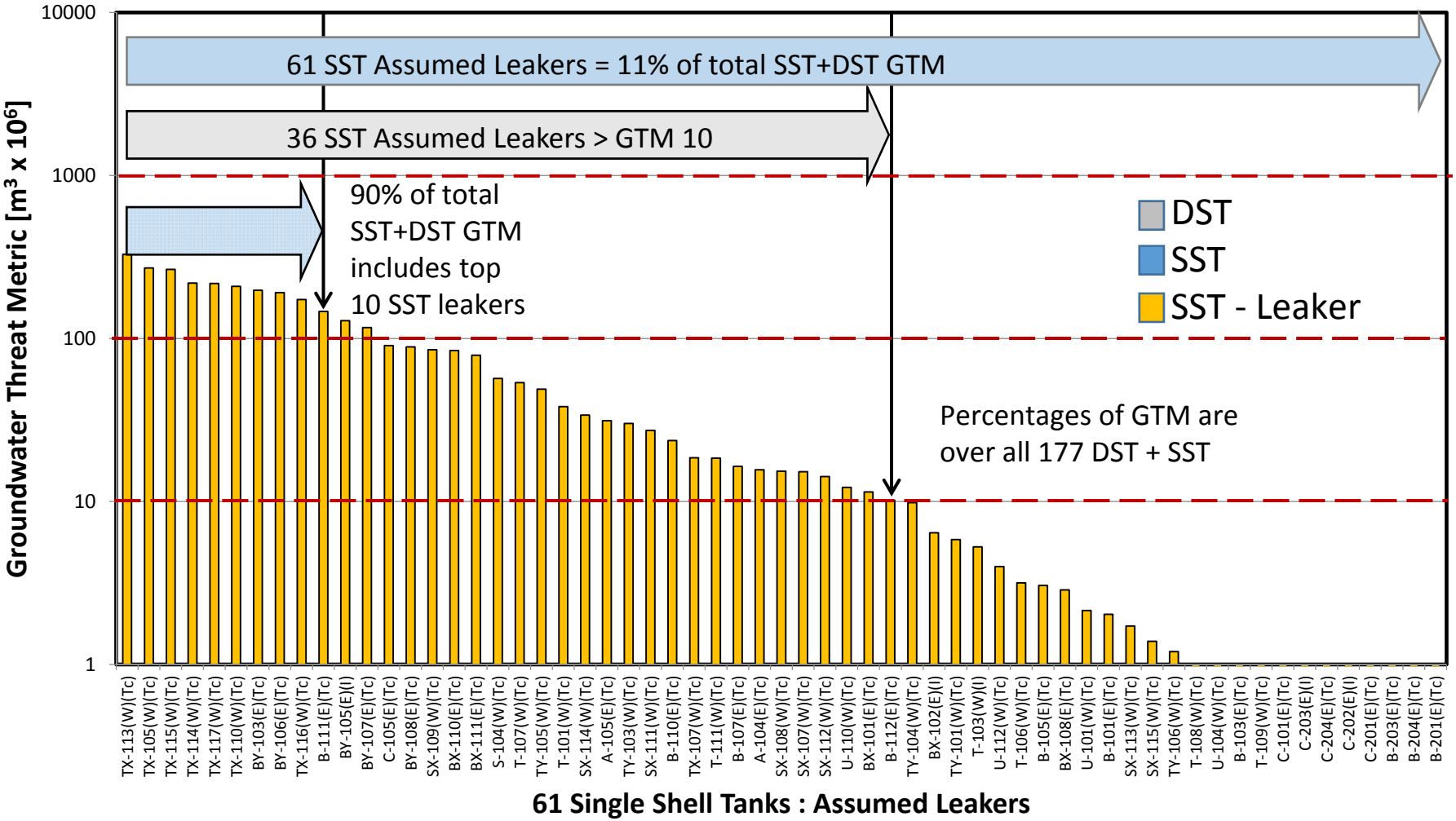


* Indicates SST assumed leaker

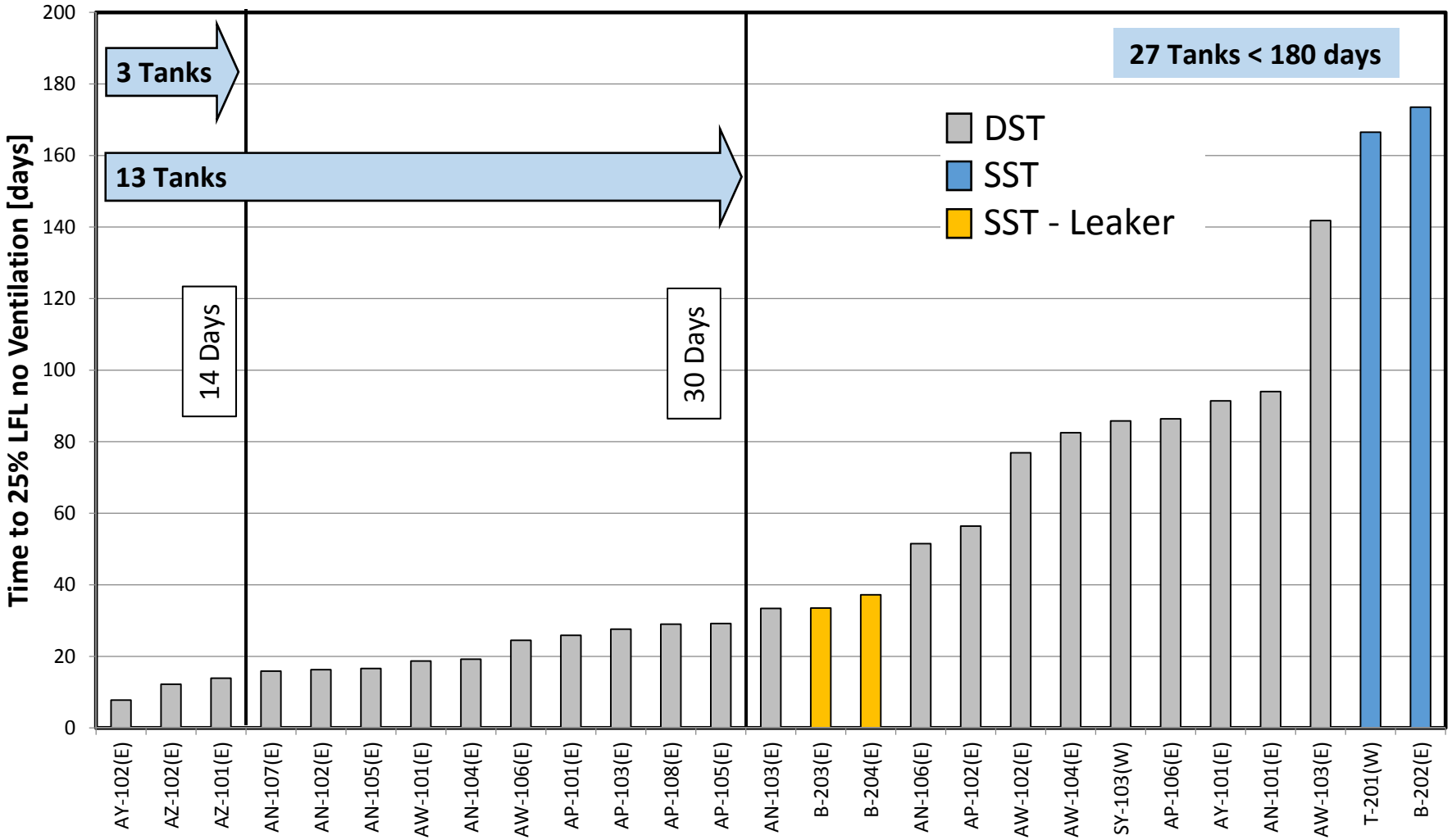
Groundwater Threat – Which Single Shell Tanks are Important?



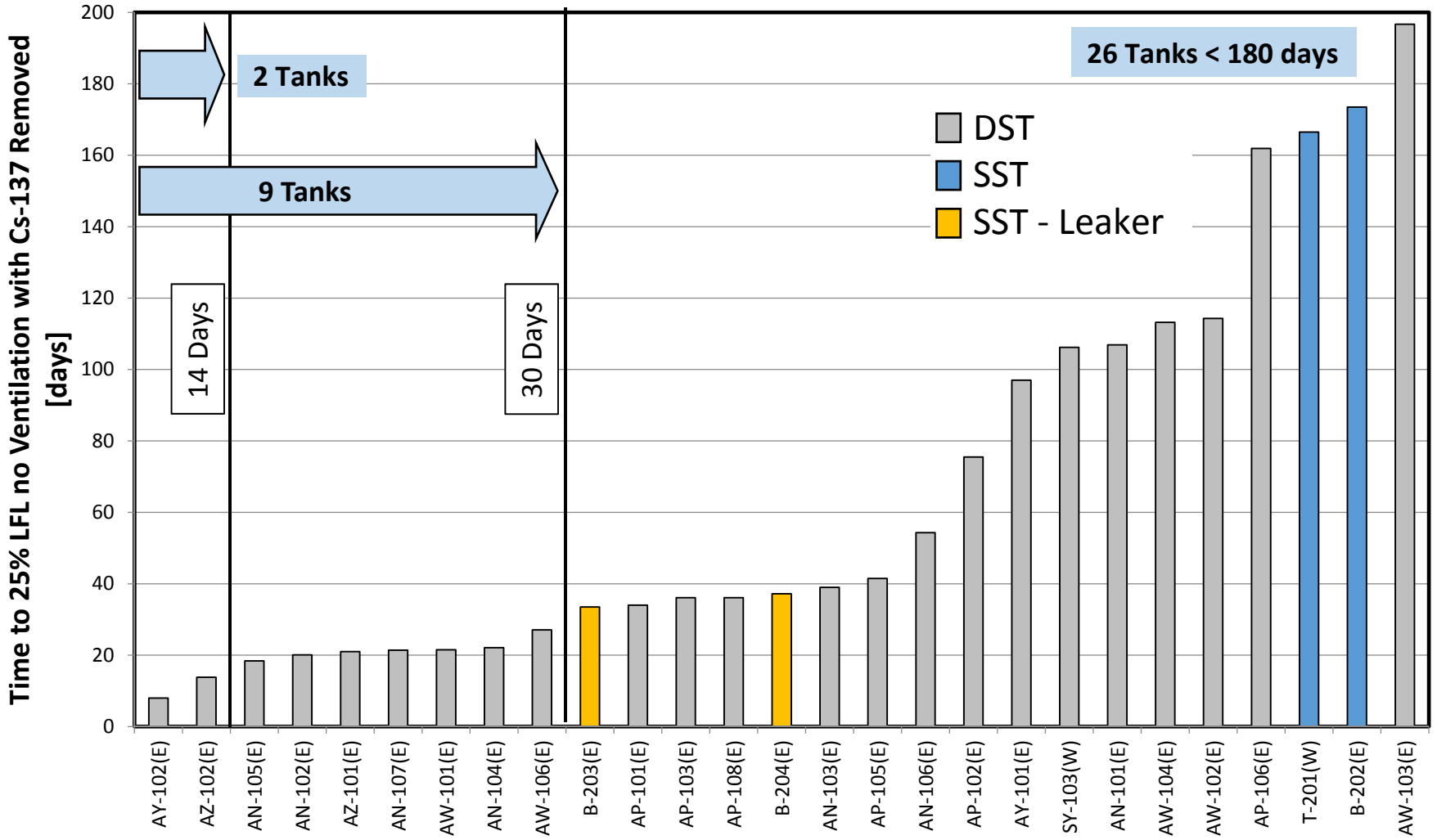
Groundwater Threat – Which Assumed Leakers are Important?



Time to 25% Lower Flammability Limit for Tanks with Less Than 6 Months (no ventilation)



Cs-137 Removed - Time to 25% Lower Flammability Limit for Tanks with Less Than 6 Months (no ventilation)



Interim Observations Informing Cleanup Sequencing

1. **Address Parts of Specific Evaluation Units Earlier.**

2. **Highest Priority Group Based on Evaluation of Potential Risks to Human Health and the Environment** (*not in any specific order, for EUs completed to-date*):

   A. **Reduction of threats posed by tank wastes.** Hydrogen gas generation, primarily related to Cs-137 and Sr-90 content of the waste, poses a threat to nuclear safety and human health through loss of tank integrity. Tank vapors may pose a threat to worker safety. Tc-99 and I-129, both being persistent and highly mobile in the subsurface pose threats to groundwater through leakage from tanks. This interim observation is consistent with the priority given by the agencies to treat low activity waste at WTP as early as possible ***if Cs-137, Tc-99 and I-129 separated from the waste are not returned to the tanks***. However, the risk profile will not be reduced significantly nor increased if Cs-137, Tc-99 and I-129 are returned to the tanks during LAW treatment.

   B. **Reduction or elimination of risks associated with external events and natural phenomena (severe seismic events, fires, loss of power for long duration).** Facilities affected are WESF (cesium and strontium capsules), Central Waste Complex, and PUREX waste storage tunnels.

   C. **Dependence on active controls (e.g., reliance on power, cooling water, active ventilation) to maintain safety for additional facilities with large inventories of radionuclides.** These conditions are (i) air handling ducts at WESF, and (ii) sludge at K-basins (sludge treatment project).

Interim Observations Informing Cleanup Sequencing

3. Cleanup Actions That Potentially May Cause Substantial Human Health Risks and therefore warrant consideration of interim actions and defered cleanup:

A. Retrieval, treatment and disposal of contaminated soils underlying Building 324 and disposal of the building after grouting of the contaminated soils within the building. Currently, no migration of soil contamination to groundwater has been indicated. As a result, approaches that allow for in-situ decay of the soil contaminants (Cs-137, Sr-90) warrant further consideration.

Interim risk mitigation measures should be considered (possible water main leaks, infiltration, monitoring)

B. Retrieval, treatment and disposal of materials from 618-11 within caissons, vertical pipe units and burial grounds because of the characteristics of wastes (high activity, pyrophoric, poorly characterized) to be retrieved. The close proximity to the Columbia Northwest Generating Station and its workforce jeopardizes continued operations and worker safety in the event of a fire and/or release from 618-11. The current cover over the buried wastes, except the caissons and vertical pipe units, is effective in limiting water infiltration to the wastes where the cover is present. This set of conditions warrants consideration of instituting interim mitigation measures and delaying waste retrieval until closure of the generating station.

Interim Observations Informing Cleanup Sequencing

4. **Groundwater Threats.** Many of the threats and current impacts to groundwater are being interdicted and/or treated. The greatest threats and impacts to groundwater that are not currently being addressed are from:

   A. **Groundwater Plumes Not Currently Being Actively Addressed.** Tc-99 and I-129 already in groundwater in 200 East Area (200-BP-5; EU CP-GW-1). The 200-BP-5 I-129 plume extends to the southeast (200-PO-1; EU CP-GW-1) but may be too dispersed for effective remediation other than natural attenuation.

   B. **Vadose Zone Threats to Groundwater Not Currently Being Addressed.** Tc-99, I-129 and Cr(VI) in the vadose zone associated with BC Cribs and Trenches (EU CP-LS-1) and the legacy sites associated with B-BX-BY Tank Farms (EU CP-TF-6), both located in the 200 East Area. Infiltration control, such as capping, as well as other approaches, may be effective in reducing the flux of these contaminants from the vadose zone into groundwater. Uranium currently is being extracted from perched water in B-Complex.

   C. **At 324 Building Relatively Modest Actions Could Reduce Threat.** At 324 building, the largest risk for migration of Cs-137 and Sr-90 from the soils is from breakage of a main water pipe and infiltration of precipitation and runoff in close vicinity of the building. This risk may be mitigated through water supply modifications, infiltration controls, and additional groundwater monitoring.

   D. **At 618-11 Waste Site Relatively Modest Actions Could Reduce Threat**. At 618-11, the potential for release of additional contaminants to groundwater can be mitigated by providing a cover that prevents infiltration but maintains gas venting over the caissons and vertical pipe units (currently gravel covered area).

Additional General Observations

- Currently, members of the public, whether located at the official Hanford Site boundary or at the controlled access boundary (River and Highways) usually have low to not-discernible risks, even if postulated radioactive contaminant releases are realized.
  - The potential impact of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is unknown.
- Timing of cleanup of a specific EU **may reduce** worker risk (radioactive decay) **or may increase worker risk** (facility deterioration, trained workforce availability, repetitive or chronic exposures due to maintenance, potential for complacency)
  - Worker risk varies with respect to the nature of hazards, complexity, duration of project, technical approaches and controls or mitigation measures in-place to insure worker health and safety.
  - DOE and its contractors have accident rates approximately 2/3 less than comparable non-DOE work. On-going vigilance is needed to maintain this excellent record.

Additional General Observations

- Because of DOE's protection and stewardship, the ecological resources on the Hanford Site are extremely important to the Columbia River Basin Eco-region, where the shrub-steppe habitat has decreased at a far greater rate region-wide than on the Hanford Site.

- The historical and cultural significance of the Hanford Site to Tribal Nations stretches over 10,000 years.

  The Site also is considered to have important historical significance to western settlement, which began in the early 1800s and only ended at the Site to make way for the Manhattan Project.

  Finally, the Site played a major role during the Manhattan Project Era and after World War II during the Cold War Era.

  DOE's stewardship helps ensure that the Site's historical and cultural significance will continue to be recognized.

Highest Risks That Have Been Identified

The highest rated risks during cleanup are:

i) to workers, co-located people and controlled access groups from operational accidents, and

ii) to ecological and cultural resources from physical disruption or introduction of invasive species, either because of insufficient planning, selected cleanup methods, or lack of a prior knowledge.

The major risks remaining after cleanup are from potential failure of institutional or engineered controls, which may impact human health, water resources and ecological resources.

Safety of consumptive practices (such as those associated with some Tribal Nation cultural practices and some recreational activities) cannot be assured without risk assessment and appropriate biomonitoring.

Next Steps

- Briefings and Discussions of Results in the Interim Report – September – October
- Comments on Interim Report – Due by Oct. 30
  - Will be used to inform Final Report
  - Submit via www.CRESP.org/Hanford
- DOE planning facilitated workshop to gain broad input on priorities
  - Risk Review Project is only one of many inputs

QUESTIONS ?

CRESP WEBSITE: www.cresp.org/hanford