

## ***Safe Removal of Radioactive Sources Makes Way for Next Building Demolition at Portsmouth***

A major hurdle to begin demolition of a former auxiliary office building at the Portsmouth Site was safely completed in late January with the removal of two radioactive sources that had been sealed for nearly 30 years within a concrete vault in the facility.

The small source container of radium-226 was previously used for the calibration of high-range gamma dose rate instruments and a cesium-137 source had been used in the past to calibrate onsite thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) readers. The radium source was dated 1954 and the date on the cesium source was 1982.

“Planning for removal of the sources spanned a two-month period with several table-top sessions and dry runs held to ensure all possible scenarios and issues were addressed up front,” said Dr. Linda Bauer, Project Manager for DOE’s remediation services contractor LATA/Parallax Portsmouth.



*Workers at the Portsmouth Site disassemble the base from a cesium source container to package into a specialized shipping drum for disposal at the Nevada National Security Site.*

The radium source was placed in a Special Forms Capsule (SFC) provided by Los Alamos National Laboratory. Both sources were secured in shielded storage containers and packaged in specialized shipping drums for transport.

Removal and packaging of the radium source took less than an hour and the disassembly and packaging of the cesium source required approximately an hour and a half. The sources are no longer usable and will be disposed at the Nevada National Security Site.

With the removal of the sources, actions are proceeding to eliminate all asbestos containing materials before demolition of the 10,000 square-foot, steel framed X-103 Auxiliary Office Building commences in late February. The structure was built as a support facility at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in 1954. It was initially a garage and later was used for administrative offices and housed a respirator facility.

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