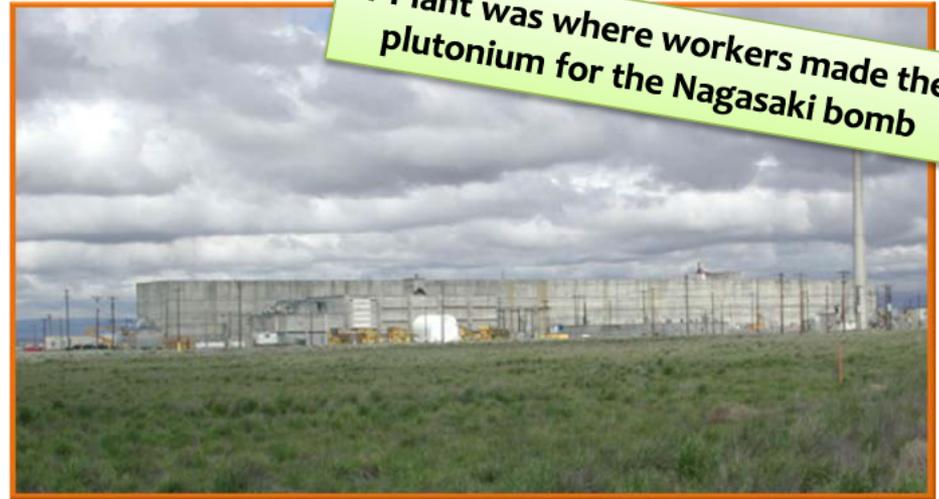


T Plant

Operating Unit #9

- Built in 1943, T Plant stores and treats dangerous and mixed waste.
- Other missions it has had are to characterize retrieved waste, vent containers, verify sampling, and treat and repackage waste.
- Main building is about the size of a cruise ship, with four stories above ground and three stories below.
- Permit regulates several places such as storage buildings, a tank system, and outside cages and storage areas.



How does this part of the permit differ from the usual?

T Plant is decades older than the law the permit is based on, and the people who wrote the law never imagined applying it to a place like T Plant. This is the most diverse facility at Hanford for management of wastes. On the deck of the main building are cranes, storage cells, treatment of sludge from K Basin (not in the permit) and mixed waste drum examination.

What's the risk?

T Plant is old — World War II vintage — so it needs a lot of upkeep. The permit requires maintenance. The plant handles a wide variety of dangerous and mixed wastes. There are also industrial hazards there, and risks from the radioactive wastes the permit doesn't regulate. The permit protects by requiring inspections of areas where waste is stored or treated to look for damaged, leaking, or improperly labeled containers. It also requires containers with liquids to have two layers of containment to prevent leaks and spills.

