

HB Line



Radiologically shielded gloveboxes in HB Line can be used for plutonium processing.

The Savannah River Site's (SRS) HB Line is the only chemical processing facility of its kind in the Department of Energy (DOE) Complex. In the 1980s, the facility was used to support the production of plutonium-238 (Pu-238), which is a power source for the nation's deep space exploration program, and to recover legacy materials stored in H Canyon.

HB Line has been in a reversible, safe layup since 2020; however, DOE recently announced the decision to restart the facility, leveraging existing facilities and operations to support domestic nuclear fuel production. HB Line will be used to recycle surplus plutonium, which will then be sent to industry

partners to produce uranium-plutonium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for advanced nuclear reactors. This also creates an opportunity to recover valuable isotopes and demonstrates America's capability to manage the complete nuclear fuel cycle.

Once operational, HB Line will accelerate the DOE's Environmental Management plutonium disposition mission by 10 to 13 years and reduce the existing \$2.69 billion dilute and dispose program cost by up to \$350 million, delivering significant savings to American taxpayers.

(continued)



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The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is the management and operations contractor at the Savannah River Site. Savannah River Mission Completion is the current liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site.



The restart directly implements 2025 Executive Orders on Reinventing the Nuclear Industrial Base and Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security.

HB Line is an integral part of H Canyon—the only chemical separations facility of its kind in the United States. HB Line has three process lines called ‘phases,’ with the original HB Line operating from 1951 to 1984 and the new HB Line operating from 1983 to 2020.

HB Line is operated by the Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management.



HB Line control room



HB Line facility (orange dashed line)

The HB Line facility



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