



Aerial View of Hanford Community. Reprinted from Richard G. Hewlett and Oscar E. Anderson, Jr., *The New World, 1939-1946*, Volume I of *A History of the United States Atomic Energy Commission* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1962).

west, but the rate of worker turnover dropped substantially.

Groundbreaking for the water-cooling plant for the 100-B pile, the westernmost of the three, took place on August 27, less than two weeks before Italy's surrender to the Allies on September 8. Work on the pile itself began in February, with the base and shield being completed by mid-May. It took another month to place the graphite pile and install the top shield and two more months to wire and pipe the pile and connect it to the various monitoring and control devices.

At Hanford, irradiated uranium slugs would drop into water pools behind the piles and then be moved by remote-controlled rail cars to a storage facility five miles away for transportation to their final

destination at one of the two chemical separation locations, designated 200-West and 200-East. The T and U plants were located at 200-West, while a single plant, the B unit, made up the 200-East complex (the planned fourth chemical separation plant was not built). The Hanford chemical separation facilities were massive scaled-up versions of those at Oak Ridge, each containing separation and concentration buildings in addition to ventilation (to eliminate radioactive and poisonous gases) and waste storage areas. Labor shortages and the lack of final blueprints forced DuPont to stop work on the 200 areas in summer 1943 and concentrate its forces on 100-B, with the result that 1943 construction progress on chemical separation was limited to digging two huge holes in the ground.<sup>37</sup>