



Photo by Lloyd Trunk

B-1 STAND at Plum Brook Station.

B-1 Stand Operational

The Nuclear Rocket Engine Dynamics Stand is one of three in a complex being built at the Plum Brook Station. It is the first to be operational.

The stand — commonly called B-1 — is being used for conducting tests on the propellant system start-up characteristics of the NERVA (nuclear engine for rocket vehicle application.)

So far three runs with liquid hydrogen have been completed at the B-1 Stand.

Ronald R. Roskilly, head of the Nuclear Rocket Systems Section, is in charge of the work at the facility.

Other stands in the complex are the Nuclear Rocket Dynamics and Control Facility, or B-3 Stand, and the B-2 Stand — the Spacecraft Propulsion Research Facility.

B-3, now under construction, is a 200-foot high stand — the highest at Plum Brook. It will be used for non-nuclear tests of various components of large nuclear rocket engines such as will be needed for interplanetary travel.

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