

AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

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Recovery & Reinvestment Act: Your Community, Your Work, Your Money

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) continues to advance the President’s goals of stabilizing the U.S. economy and creating or retaining jobs for Americans. Its progress can be measured in dollars spent and opportunities created. The Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management has spent \$781,784,929 in ARRA funds to date, creating or saving 13,700 jobs.

Financial Progress:

Site	Spend Plan	Obligated to Contracts	Spent to Date
Argonne National Laboratory	\$98,500,000	\$79,000,000	\$3,311,975
Brookhaven National Laboratory	\$42,355,000	\$42,355,000	\$12,934,278
ETEC	\$54,175,000	\$54,162,338	\$811,092
Hanford (Office of River Protection)	\$326,035,000	\$326,035,000	\$39,341,554
Hanford (Richland)	\$1,634,500,000	\$1,634,500,000	\$235,777,603
Idaho	\$467,875,000	\$467,175,000	\$97,743,388
Los Alamos National Laboratory	\$211,775,000	\$211,775,000	\$7,984,987
Moab	\$108,350,000	\$108,350,000	\$19,788,132
Mound	\$19,700,000	\$19,700,000	\$703
Nevada Test Site	\$44,325,000	\$44,325,000	\$9,675,648
Oak Ridge	\$755,110,000	\$652,844,198	\$68,480,598
Paducah	\$78,800,000	\$78,800,000	\$3,167,156
Portsmouth	\$118,200,000	\$118,200,000	\$12,931,082
Savannah River	\$1,615,400,000	\$1,614,000,000	\$284,390,492
SLAC	\$7,925,000	\$7,925,000	\$2,851,914
SPRU	\$51,775,000	\$51,775,000	\$3,978,813
WIPP	\$172,375,000	\$170,553,000	\$23,298,649
West Valley	\$73,875,000	\$73,875,000	\$9,812,448
Title X Uranium/Thorium Reimbursements Management & Oversight	\$68,950,000	\$32,270,555	\$31,870,555
Management & Oversight	\$30,000,000	\$11,905,663	\$4,578,606
Unallocated	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$6,000,000,000	\$5,799,525,754	\$872,729,673

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Field Progress at the Portsmouth Site

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) received a personalized gift from EM Assistant Secretary Inés Triay during his November 9th visit to the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. It was a hard hat inscribed with the signatures of workers who have been hired at the site with funds provided by ARRA.



Assistant Secretary Triay and Senator Sherrod Brown take a look at progress on ARRA funded projects at the Portsmouth Site.

Each name represented a story—like Rodney Johnson, who had been working multiple jobs to make ends meet since losing his job at an electronics plant in Circleville, Ohio, in 2004.

Or Anthony Howard, who lost his job at a trucking company in January when the economic downturn cut into its business.

And 26-year-old Ray Spradlin of Portsmouth, Ohio, who was laid off from his job at a steel plant just across the Ohio River in Ashland, Ky., and firmly believes the ARRA funding “was a godsend” to provide for his family.

All of them were hired this year by LATA/Parallax Portsmouth to work on cleanup projects at the site. Their signatures were on the hard hat along with those of many others who were among the more than 180 workers that LATA/Parallax has hired this year to work on five different cleanup projects at the southern Ohio plant site.

During the visit, Triay, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office Manager William Murphie and Portsmouth Site Lead Joel Bradburne, gave Brown a tour of the projects. Brown has a strong interest in the progress of the work as he was instrumental in passing ARRA earlier this year. He was part of a bipartisan group of eight senators who had pushed for the \$787 billion bill to include \$6 billion in funding to speed the cleanup of former nuclear weapons complex sites around the country.

Brown had high praise for the cleanup program that is bringing more than \$118 million in additional funding to a region experiencing greater than 15 percent unemployment. “These funds represent a new federal commitment to partnering with

southern Ohio to promote long-term economic growth,” Brown told community officials, union leadership, workers, and media attending a briefing following the site tour.

Triay introduced Brown as a strong advocate for accelerated cleanup at the Portsmouth Site funded by the Recovery Act. She also said following the field visit that she “was very impressed with the ongoing work activities and the ‘can do’ attitude by everyone to work safely.”

During their tour, Triay and Brown met with workers at a project site on the east side of the plant where work is underway to treat groundwater contaminated with trichloroethylene. Soil is being excavated there to a depth of 30 feet so a chemical oxidant can be used to treat the groundwater. The project is slated to be completed by September 2011.

The tour included visits to three major decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) projects underway at the site to remove a 21-acre electrical switchyard, an 18-acre cooling tower complex and an 8,000-square foot chemical engineering building. In addition, Triay and Brown were briefed on plans to repackage approximately 1,200 metric tons of surplus uranium materials and ship them to the Nevada Test Site to be dispositioned. All of the projects they visited are being funded by the Recovery Act. By September 2011, nearly 400 workers are expected to be working on ARRA projects at the site.

Message from the Savannah River Site Recovery Act Communications Team

Getting the Word Out on the Recovery Act



Left to right: DT Townsend, Catherine Thomas, Paivi Nettamo, Angie Emmons and Clif Webb go over Recovery Act communications materials.

One of the central elements in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is a mandate for transparency in sharing information with the public about how \$787 billion in stimulus money is put to work. For the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site (SRS), that mandate has been the wellspring of a vibrant and engaging communications plan.

“Our goal was to deliver best-in-class communications for the Recovery Act within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Complex from day one,” said Clif Webb, vice president and director of public affairs for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), the management and operations (M&O) contractor for SRS. “We saw an opportunity to make a

positive difference in the lives of thousands of people looking for work, and in resolving environmental issues as much as 40 years ahead of schedule through the Recovery Act. Our job was to document and communicate that progress.”

Webb contacted senior SRNS management just days after assuming his new position in June. “We spent a day reviewing the objectives needed for effectively communicating Recovery Act progress. We looked at where SRS needed to be by the completion of Recovery Act funding to establish a ‘future state’ concept with the goal of being considered the best. Then, we crafted an integrated communications plan that would assure SRS reaches that goal.”

Webb assigned Paivi Nettamo to head a special team of communications specialists to focus solely on Recovery Act communications. Nettamo had been in the Aiken, S.C. area for three years as a Fluor Government Group public relations specialist prior to SRNS’ successful M&O contract bid. Thus, her understanding of the area’s needs and communications challenges was vitally important to the selection of her communications team. “My efforts were to build a small cadre of professionals I could count on,” she explained. “We are a close-knit group with a singular focus on success that is very high energy. The team includes two former newspaper reporters who can effectively tell a great story, experts in Web site development, a graphic artist, a public relations strategist, an event planner and a media buyer. We also tapped the resources of our in-house media services organization for photography and video.” The team developed a high impact graphic design element for all of its communications and a theme for SRS’s Recovery Act activities termed ‘The Recovery Act At Work’ that is carried through on everything we publish to build brand identity.”

“Getting senior project management support from the start was absolutely essential and we continue to have that support on a daily basis,” said Webb. He and Nettamo confer every day with the SRNS Recovery Act Project Team on a 7 a.m. conference call where information is shared on communications efforts, daily challenges and work progress. Guidance is then passed on to the Recovery Act Communications Team.

The team’s first challenge was to assure that every person looking for a Recovery Act job had the chance to apply. Six job fairs were held in a six week period at locations ranging from Columbia, S.C., to Augusta, Ga. “We had up to 4,200 people show up in small towns like Allendale and Barnwell at the height of summer heat,” Nettamo recalled. “We quickly adjusted plans to first assure that people were safe and comfortable as they waited for their opportunity to visit with a staffing firm representative during the job fairs.” They did it by making sure cold bottled water, tents and fans, group discussions and printed materials were all available to applicants.

To spread the word about the job fairs, the team didn’t just rely on news releases. “Only about 18 percent of today’s population reads the newspaper, so we went the extra mile by printing posters and flyers,” Nettamo said. “We hand-carried flyers into large and small towns; we took posters to churches, barber shops and convenience stores to assure everyone knew of the opportunity. This is true engagement with our communities and that extra effort was respected and appreciated by the people we touched.”

More than 13,000 people attended the six job fairs. They were hailed as a success by both the local news media and applicants.

The team’s writers have been connecting with recently hired workers to tell stories of how Recovery Act jobs have transformed individual lives. Those stories range from a single mother with new hope for the future to special programs that have helped pull people from abject poverty into worthwhile jobs through the Recovery Act.

The team stays in touch with project managers in the Field to find stories about the progress of the work that may be of interest to the community. Those stories are then relayed to the public through DOE’s local office to the news media.

Stories are also relayed directly to the community through www.srs.gov/recovery. The Web site also provides the latest metrics on the number of Recovery Act jobs created or saved, as well as the dollars awarded in contracts overall, and to local businesses. A bi-weekly newsletter is posted on the site that provides both the latest statistics and human interest stories and accounts of work progress. The web site also hosts comments from area stakeholders and rotating video segments on Recovery Act progress prepared by the media services department.

“Our video progress updates are used on the web site and converted into video news releases, then distributed to television news departments across the region,” Nettamo said.

SRNS is also sharing the good news of the Recovery Act via billboards that are updated weekly with the number of jobs saved or created at SRS. The billboards also feature the faces and hometowns of workers who found jobs through the Recovery Act and a toll-free telephone number for information on jobs.

With the majority of Recovery Act hiring complete, the team is now fielding a ‘Road To Recovery Tour’—a series of mobile events being done in partnership with state employment commissions. The events are held in One Stop job centers in small towns in South Carolina and Georgia. A team of trained customer service representatives spends time with each visitor to help them build an effective resume, learn how to access job opportunities in their area using the Internet and acquire a free e-mail account.

“We foresaw that transparency was a key element of the success of the Recovery Act at SRS,” said Webb, “and we are leading the way in relaying our progress, the number of jobs created and the dollars spent on a regular and consistent basis. We are proud of our Recovery Act communications thus far and monitor its progress on a daily basis.”

SPRU: Building D&D Makes Significant Progress

Significant progress is being made in the decontamination and demolition (D&D) of two contaminated buildings at the Separations Process Research unit (SPRU) in Niskayuna, N.Y. The two buildings, designated G2 and H2, are contaminated with radioactivity and contain large quantities of hazardous materials such as asbestos. They are located at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL) in Niskayuna, which is a Department of Energy--Naval Reactors site. The work is being performed by Washington Group International (WGI). About half of WGI’s work at SPRU is funded by ARRA.



Excavation of soil over the H2 tank vaults.

A number of important activities continue to be accomplished at the Separations Process unit in New York. During a site-wide electrical outage in October, work was done to disconnect most site power from Buildings G2 and H2, and install temporary power. This allowed asbestos removal work to continue. The waste is being packaged in inter-modal containers and shipped off site for disposal. Asbestos removal is a major part of preparing the buildings for demolition. In addition to asbestos removal, radiological and chemical characterization is being done in previously inaccessible areas of the SPRU buildings. Some of these were last entered in the 1960s. The buildings are expected to be “demolition ready” next August.

SPRU was a research project located at KAPL in the early 1950s. It was used to research chemical processes for separating plutonium and uranium from irradiated materials. The SPRU cleanup project includes remediation of approximately 30 acres of contaminated soil, in addition to D&D of the SPRU buildings

SPRU: Contaminated Soil Removal Begins in North Field

A \$14.8 million project to remove radioactively-contaminated soil (primarily consisting of the radioactive material cesium-137) in a 15-acre area located on the SPRU site at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory began on November 3, 2009. About 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated dirt will be removed from the North Field. The soil will be packaged in lift bags and transported off site for disposal. Intrusive work began in mid-October with roto-tilling vegetation and tree and stump removal. As of late October, The North Field project had created 26 jobs. This project is entirely funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The contamination in the North Field resulted from the storage of waste drums there that leaked and spread contamination.

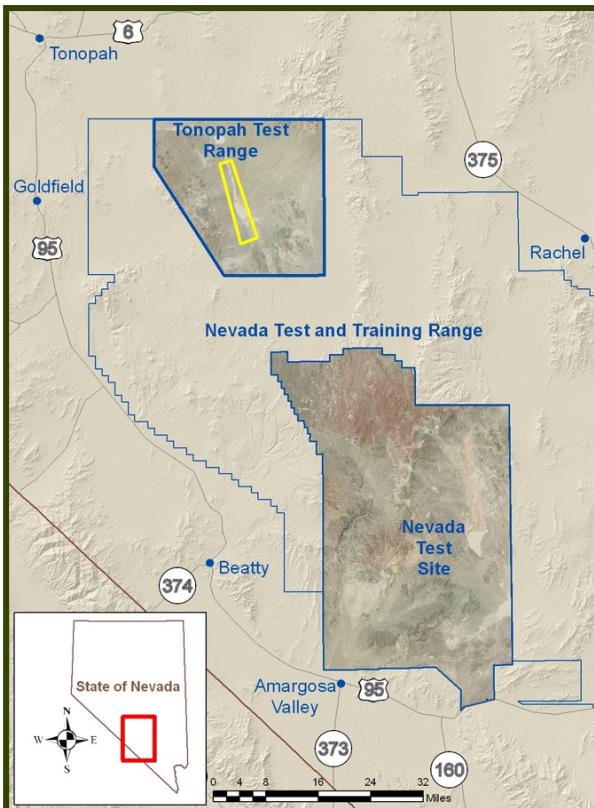
Work will continue through the winter removing soil from the North Field, it is anticipated that the project will be complete in mid-2010.



Soil removal operations underway at the North Field.

Tonopah Test Range Bomblet Target Areas to Be Cleared

More than 1,200 acres of the Tonopah Test Range in central Nevada are being cleared of munitions and explosives using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Environmental cleanup of this area, known as the Bomblet Target Area, is the responsibility of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office in accordance with the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO).



Bomblet Target Area is outlined in yellow (Above)

From the late 1960s to 1985, the Bomblet Target Areas were used by DOE to test cluster bomb delivery systems to more effectively cover targets. Today, the Bomblet Target Areas (controlled by Sandia National Laboratories) contain potential explosive hazards and possible soil contamination from spent munitions and depleted uranium used in prototype munitions.

In order to clean and close these areas, planned activities must be approved by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the regulatory authority for the FFACO. The NDEP reviews and approves proposed closure strategies and corrective actions based on public health and environmental considerations. The FFACO-approved approach to cleaning and closing the Bomblet Target Areas is to remove any unexploded ordnance; identify and remediate pits previously used for the disposal of construction debris and spent munitions; collect soil samples; and remove any contaminated soil.

The complexity of this project created more than 10 key technical jobs that were filled using Recovery Act funding. The Bomblet Target Areas cleanup, which began July 30, 2009, is expected to be complete in September 2010.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and radiation control technicians conduct a surface clearance survey at the TTR Bomblet Target Areas (Right)



WIPP to Improve Access Road to Facility

The South Access Road leading to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, N.M., officially known as County Road 802, will soon receive a complete overhaul. The 3.8-mile stretch of road, which provides secondary access to the WIPP facility, was vacated by Eddy County to DOE. While the road is not currently used for WIPP shipments, it is heavily used by employees and others doing work at the WIPP facility. DOE made the decision that it would be safer and more beneficial if the road was improved and brought up to highway standards. Following discussions with Eddy County, the county agreed to vacate the road to DOE. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management has agreed to extend the right-of-way on both sides of the road to allow it to be widened.

Surveying and geotechnical analysis of the road and roadbed have been completed. Before actual construction can begin utilities that are currently in the existing right-of-way must be relocated and access points from the new road established.

The new road will be constructed to meet New Mexico Department of Transportation standards. It will consist of two 12-foot driving lanes with an 8-foot shoulder on each side. The requests for proposals are expected to be issued in late November, with actual construction work beginning just after the first of the year. The project is expected to take 18 months to complete.



The South Access Road—highlighted in yellow—leading to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).



Providing Opportunities in Northern New Mexico

With \$212 million in funding and about 300 jobs projected to be saved or created, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) environmental cleanup project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has also taken steps to proactively offer opportunities to local businesses and workers. “We’re bringing together local businesses and workers impacted by the economic downturn with subcontractors who will perform the Recovery Act work,” said DOE Federal Projects Manager Everett Trollinger. “Our project has hired about 211 people already, and we want people to be aware of Recovery Act opportunities in northern New Mexico.”

A business networking forum on October 22 gave local small businesses the chance to meet prequalified subcontractors face-to-face and promote their businesses. More than 100 participants from 65 companies attended the event. “Team(s) implemented a very impressive organizational approach to these meetings,” wrote one subcontractor following the event. “You can tell that you truly care about the success of these programs. Best of all, we have identified future partners.” Job seekers in northern New Mexico were also able to talk directly with hiring managers for the project. A Job Fair held on October 29, at the Ohkay Owingeh conference center near Española, drew nearly 500 participants and 10 employers seeking to positions such as project managers, administrative staff, writers, truck drivers, heavy equipment operators and laborers.

The Walls Come a Tumblin’ Down

Three small buildings at Technical Area 21 (TA-21) at LANL have been demolished as part of the Recovery Act work. The fourth and largest building (210) is scheduled for demolition on December 1. It was built in 1964 and used for office space and is expected to take five days to demolish.

The occasion will be marked with a ceremony to which elected officials and other dignitaries have been invited. “The deactivation and decommissioning of buildings at TA-21 are progressing very well,” said Al Chaloupka, program director for Recovery Act D&D projects. “Crews are performing asbestos abatement, hazardous material removal and equipment removal in Building 210 and it will be ready for demolition in December.”

Enclosure Ensures Safety: Moveable building to go up over MDA-B

A moveable building designed to ensure safety during excavation was scheduled to be erected on the historic landfill known as Material Disposal Area B (MDA-B) in November at LANL. The 60’ x 60’ metal building will enclose the section of the site undergoing excavation. It will [correct?] feature HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filtering to protect the public, workers and the environment. A 2,000-foot strip of land on the south side of DP Road, MDA-B received waste related to LANL processes from 1944 until 1948. The area may contain radioactive and chemically contaminated laboratory wastes. All waste excavated from the site will be screened, separated and shipped to appropriate waste disposal facilities. Extensive soil sampling, document review and interviews with former employees were conducted to ensure safety. MDA-B will be cleaned up to residential standards. Excavation will begin in February 2010.

Groundwater Wells Monitor Water Quality

The first of 16 groundwater monitoring wells, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), is complete and the second is nearing completion at LANL. The purpose of the wells is to monitor the regional aquifer for any type of contamination. With an average depth of 1,000 feet, each well takes seven to nine weeks to drill and construct and costs about \$2.5 million. Seven of the wells will be clustered around Technical Area 54, historically the waste area for the Lab, and the rest will be located strategically throughout the 37 square miles that comprise the Laboratory.

The project also includes the installation of two alluvial wells, which are only about 20 feet deep and monitor water flowing in rock and soil on top of the bedrock. “These new wells allow us to monitor the regional aquifer,” said Project

Manager Ted Ball. “We want to be protective of our water supply.” The wells will be drilled and installed by September 30, 2011. The well water will be sampled quarterly. In addition, Recovery Act funding will finance the plugging and abandonment of six old wells installed in the 1950s.

Oak Ridge: Cleanup Operations at Y-12 Complex

Thanks to Recovery Act funding, cleanup of the 7-acre Y-12 Complex Old Salvage Yard is now underway. The salvage yard is located both within and outside the high security area of the Y-12 National Security Complex. The scrap at the salvage yard is generally contaminated with depleted uranium. Before 1995, the site received scrap into open piles. Since 1995, and prior to shutdown, procedures required that all scrap metal be placed inside containers. On October 12, 1999, the salvage yard ceased operations.

Sanitary waste is being sent to a Y-12 landfill. When cleanup operations began, the yard contained more than 31,000 cubic yards of scrap metal. 133 B-25 boxes of radioactive waste that had been previously containerized have been sent to the Nevada Test Site. Complete disposition of all material is expected by June 2011.



Much of the debris from the K-25 building demolition project is being shipped to the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) at Oak Ridge.



Historic Iron Room Relocated at DOE's Idaho Site

A 55-ton iron room made with pre-WWII steel from a ship's hull was recently relocated from the Materials Test Reactor Wing Laboratory (MTR) to the TRA-678 laboratory at the Reactor Technology Complex (RTC), located at the Department of Energy's Idaho Site. The iron room was moved so that Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) crews could continue to prepare the MTR Wing Laboratory for D&D with Recovery Act funding.

The iron room being set into place at its new home – the TRA-678 lab.

Constructed on-site at the RTC in the 1960s, the iron room's eight-inch-thick walls were fabricated with pre-WWII steel. "There is a slight possibility that steel constructed *after* WWII may contain traces of man-made radioactive isotopes, which could have interfered with sensitive measurements gathered in the iron room. Therefore, a low activity, pre-WWII steel was chosen for fabrication," said Chris C. Jensen, a scientist and engineer for Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA).

The iron room contributed to a "great range of scientific measurements," according to Jensen. One such measurement allowed scientists to indirectly measure the amount of neutrons in the reactor and study the fuel. Iron room measurements also contributed to the development of the Chart of the Nuclides – a two dimensional graph of all known isotopes. The iron room remained within the MTR laboratory until mid-October, when D&D activities mandated relocation.

Moving the 55-ton iron room was no easy task for ICP D&D crews. First, crews removed the iron room from the MTR lab and prepared it for transport to the TRA-678 lab on a specially modified semi-truck. Next, TRA-678's roof was removed so a crane could lower the iron room into its new home, where it will continue to be used to gather sensitive measurements on radioactive materials. D&D crews then replaced TRA-678's roof.

Most recently, crews have been safely re-routing and moving condensers from the facility's roof to the ground level, stripping the lab's mechanical and electrical systems, tearing down non-load-bearing interior walls, weatherproofing the exposed portion of the main floor and installing steel plates over the main floor to prevent future demolition debris from falling into the basement – which will continue being used by BEA. Demolition of the remaining above-grade portions of the facility is planned to be completed by the end of FY10.

For more information on EM Recovery Act work, please visit <http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery/>, <http://www.recovery.gov/>, and <https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/>. Feel free to send questions and comments to EMRecoveryActProgram@em.doe.gov. Your feedback is welcomed.
