



# AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

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## Readiness Process Developed at Oak Ridge Now Serves as Model for DOE's ARRA Program

Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC (BJC), the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Site contractor, has developed a new assessment program to verify that funded projects and activities are ready to safely and compliantly begin operating. Linda Rogers, BJC's Assessments and Readiness Program Manager, and her team created the 'Ready to Operate' assessment program to meet new DOE requirements for all American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded activities.

As part of that program, the BJC team created a Readiness Checklist that outlines the steps to be followed in planning and executing work projects performed under the Recovery Act. The checklist provides a blueprint of how to analyze and document each step in the project planning and execution process including when independent oversight review must be obtained and when project managers and DOE representatives must be advised of a contractor's readiness to start work.

The Office of Environment Management was impressed with the BJC approach and decided to use it as a template for creating its own new plan, *Project Safety Oversight and the Recovery Act Readiness Evaluation Process (RARE)*. This is the blueprint that EM now plans to use to perform Recovery Act Readiness Evaluations throughout the complex.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Readiness Process Developed at Oak Ridge Now Serves as Model for DOE's ARRA Program .....	1
Recovery Act Employment Highlights .....	2
Message from EM's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary .....	2
Recovery Act Projects Keeping Safety First .....	3
EM Continues Cleanup Efforts With ARRA Funding .....	3
ARRA Funding Stimulates Employment Interest .....	6
"Thanks to the Recovery Act Funding!"—Testimonials—.....	6
New Contracts Awarded Through Recovery Act Funding .....	7

## Recovery Act Employment Highlights

*\$5.9 of the \$6 billion provided to EM has already been allocated to EM sites*

*Over two-thirds of EM Recovery Act funds have been obligated to EM contracts*

*More than \$249 million of Recovery Act funds have been spent to save or create jobs and accelerate cleanup*

*More than 49,000 applicants have sought employment opportunities*

*More than 26 job fairs have been held across the nation at EM sites to make employment opportunities available*

## Message from EM's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

Recovery Act funding has brought many opportunities for the country to combat the economic recession, and has provided EM with an excellent opportunity to clean up our sites ahead of schedule. We are clearly seeing the impact of the stimulus funds and the demand for employment across the country. For example, there were nearly 10,400 applications for Recovery Act positions at just the Hanford Site, and more than 49,000 applicants nationally.



*Dae Chung*

However, as we accelerate cleanup activities, introduce a new workforce, and retrain our existing workforce, the attention to safety on the job must be integral and robust from the outset. In addition to rigorous safety readiness evaluations prior to the start of Recovery Act work, we are tracking all safety occurrences and injuries, providing prompt feedback to the field, and sharing lessons learned across the complex to prevent future occurrences. We also continue to emphasize effective work planning and oversight in the field as a key factor in avoiding workplace injuries.

We have also been working diligently and cooperatively between the base program and the Recovery Act projects to ensure effective project management techniques are applied to improve overall project performance and oversight processes. DOE's Office of Engineering and Construction Management (OECM) has been working with us in a true partnership to achieve a more streamlined project management structure for many of EM's cleanup projects.

It is exciting to see the old legacy facilities being dismantled as we speak—the beginning of the massive “footprint reduction” envisioned by Assistant Secretary Triay. And by getting the Recovery Act work done now, including the Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) of site facilities, we will save money in future years as we no longer have to pay for surveillance and maintenance at these buildings. As such, I feel fortunate to be in the position of EM's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at a time when the major investments are being made and I can help shape the landscape of what the EM program will look like in the future.

Finally, I want to recognize the entire Recovery Act program team at Headquarters and in the Field for their outstanding leadership, commitment, and hard work toward getting us on the right path for success.

Dae Chung  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

**❖ To date more than 4,700 jobs have been saved or created in 12 states with Recovery Act funding!**

## Recovery Act Projects Keeping Safety First

### Y-12 Passes the Safety Inspection

Babcock and Wilcox Corporate Assessment Company completed a safety review of ARRA's Y-12 National Security Complex. The purpose of the review was to analyze the program's implementation of Integrated Safety Management (ISM). Sam Easterling, Environment, Safety, and Health ARRA Project Representative, said, "The assessor reviewed planning documents for Recovery Act projects, attended the subcontractor Y-12 safety meeting, and the subcontractor monthly evaluation meeting. The assessor also conducted interviews of involved personnel and visited at least two projects in the field." The reviewers noted that eight exceptional safety practices were identified in regard to existing work control and ISM.

Easterling believes "an independent review from a corporate safety professional provides valuable feedback at this early stage in Recovery Act projects." ARRA project team member Susie Jackson agreed. "The assessment also allowed Recovery Act project teams to evaluate their work processes and quickly address any unmet expectations of working safely and efficiently." Easterling and Jackson both credit the success of their evaluation to team work—employees, they said, "have cultivated the idea of practicing and promoting work safety."

## EM Continues Cleanup Efforts with ARRA Funding

### Oak Ridge Completes Video Inspection of Y-12 Sewers

During the Cold War, Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge used a lithium separation process to speed production of nuclear weapons. The timely production of those weapons helped support national security. But a byproduct was mercury contamination at the site—particularly in the West End Mercury Area (WEMA).



*Employees reviewing WEMA Storm Sewer Remediation project with the subcontractor's video surveillance technician.*

The WEMA Storm Sewer Remediation Project was established to address mercury contamination in a building where mercury was used, as well as storm drains and contaminated soil adjacent to the facility. Recently, with the help of Recovery Act funding, over 22,000 linear feet of sewer system piping in the area was inspected by video. The results of the inspection will determine the scope and magnitude of the cleanup project that will take place in the area.

"We expect this project to make great strides in soil and stream remediation at Y-12," explained David Lind, WEMA project manager. "With this funding, many storm sewers will be relined or replaced, and catch basins will be repaired or replaced as needed. By the end of the project, we will be mitigating mercury contamination and improving our environment by providing a cleaner and a much improved storm drain system."

### Moab Mill Tailings Project Makes Recovery Act Progress

Recovery Act funding allocated to Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project has allowed contractors to hire approximately 100 new employees and save the jobs of 22 current employees. Under ARRA, the project will ship an additional 2 million tons of mill tailings from Moab to Crescent Junction, Utah, over the life of the project.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year 2011. Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director, said the funding from the Recovery Act has allowed Moab Mill to accelerate its cleanup efforts by adding new jobs and has also helped strengthen DOE's relationships with the community and state and local stakeholders.

The project increased the frequency of its rail shipments of mill tailings this month to help meet its deadline for completion. The initial plan was to make shipments once a day and rely on longer trains to meet the accelerated cleanup goal. However, after further evaluation and discussion with Pacific Railroad, DOE and contractor EnergySolutions agreed that the support of additional staff will permit multiple shipments each day.

Running multiple trains per day avoids weekend shipments and encounters with recreational visitors at train crossings on those days. The project also plans to start construction this month on an underpass off State Route 279 that will further reduce interactions between the public and project traffic. The work is expected to be completed in November.

“Continual refining of our operations will maximize our Recovery Act funds to ship more tailings,” Metzler said.

### **Idaho Cleanup Project Transports First Shipment of HFEF-5 Canisters under Recovery Act**

The Idaho Cleanup Project successfully transported the first shipment of Hot Fuel Examination Facility (HFEF-5) canisters last month. The fuel was transported from Idaho Site's Material and Fuel Complex (MFC) to the Idaho Nuclear technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). The scope of the project involves the receipt and processing of roughly 130 HFEF-5 canisters that will be shipped in specially designed storage containers. Once at INTEC, the waste will be stored, repackaged, and then sent to Carlsbad, New Mexico, for final disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).



*The 500<sup>th</sup> cubic meter of low-level waste leaves the Idaho site on its way to permanent disposal at the Nevada Test Site.*

The first MFC shipment required an approved transportation plan that closed U.S. Highway 20 from MFC to INTEC for a short time in the early morning hours during non-peak traffic. Additional shipments will occur over the next several months, with occasional closures of U.S. Highways 20 and 26. The project has created 20 new jobs.

## Regulators Visit Brookhaven Lab to Observe Recovery Act Work in Progress

Using Recovery Act funding, DOE and Brookhaven Science Associates are accelerating a number of environmental cleanup projects at Brookhaven National Laboratory.



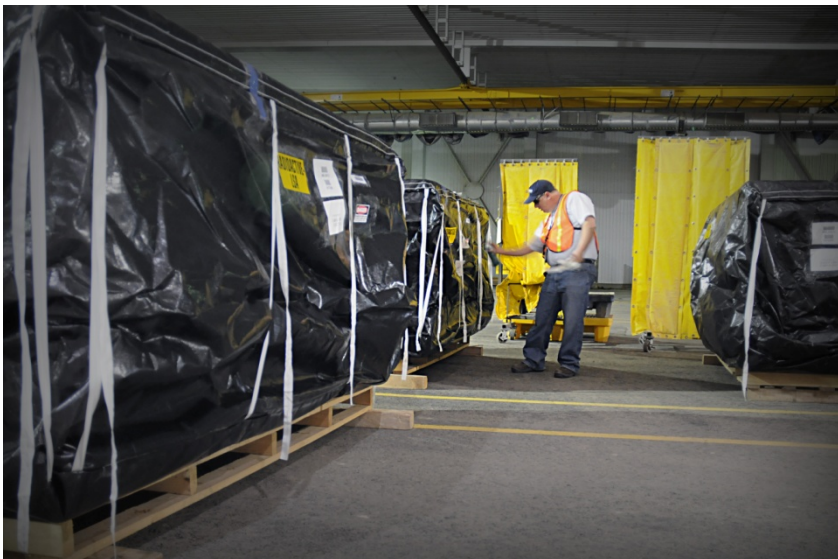
*Dave O’Hehir and Chek Ng with Lloyd Nelson and Chuck Armitage.*

Recently, federal and state regulators visited Brookhaven Lab and toured project sites to observe work in progress. The group included Doug Pocze of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Chek Ng and Dave O’Hehir of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. They toured the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor, the Former Hazardous Waste Management Facility Perimeter Area, and the High Flux Beam Reactor all of which are being cleaned up under the Recovery Act.

## Idaho’s AMWTP Completes First ARRA Radioactive Waste Shipping Assignment

It may have looked like “just another shipment” of low-level waste, but when shipment AML09015 rolled out the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) gate at DOE’s Idaho Site on August 16, it carried the 500<sup>th</sup> cubic meter of low-level waste, completing the project’s first ARRA-funded shipping assignment.

“We’re very encouraged by the progress that the contractors have made in shipping this waste out of Idaho—significantly ahead of schedule. The project has provided jobs to Idaho residents who are in turn contributing to their local economies,” said DOE Idaho Operations Deputy Manager Rick Provencher.



*Checking the labels on a low-level waste shipment destined for disposal at the Nevada Test Site, is shipper Bill Krueger, who lives in Idaho Falls and works for North Wind, thanks to funds provided by the Recovery Act.*

The AMWTP project is managed for the Department by Bechtel BWXT Idaho. Using ARRA funding, Bechtel BWXT Idaho has subcontracted work to North Wind, a small environmental management company located in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to help ship mixed low-level and low-level wastes. The two companies are running ahead of their scheduled commitments.

“Our employees funded by the Recovery Act are working safely and compliantly, enhancing our productivity,” said Jeff Mousseau, president and general manager of Bechtel BWXT Idaho. “They are also contributing to the project’s nearly 8.8 million hours of work without a lost time accident, enabling production work to continue at a safe pace.”

## ARRA Funding Stimulates Employment Interest

### Augusta Job Fair Caps Successful Forums for Recovery Act Applicants

A job fair in Augusta, Georgia on July 20 marked the end of a five-event campaign committed to bringing staffing firms face to face with the public. The application process was designed to be convenient and efficient for local residents, granting them access to apply for 3,000 available positions at the Savannah River Site through the Recovery Act. The event drew 13,500 attendees.



### “Thanks to Recovery Act Funding!” — Testimonials —

#### SRS Recovery Act Funding Enriches Lives and Builds Bright Futures



*Stephanie Schauer*

Stephanie Schauer, a native of Lawrence, Kansas, and recent University of Kansas graduate, is grateful for the opportunity she received at the Savannah River Site (SRS) as a direct result of ARRA funding. Schauer holds a B.S. in environmental geology and is using her academic background as a new hire at SRS. She works with a team assigned to remediation projects. “The training I am receiving is priceless,” Schauer says. “The technologies and training available to employees are fantastic. I get to think outside the box, and gain experiences with state-of-the-art technologies, many of which are being implemented for the very first time here at SRS. This opportunity will enhance my marketability once my assignment with this project is complete.”

Bobby Jones is an Islandton, South Carolina, native and one of the 798 SRS employees whose job was saved with Recovery Act Project funding. He is grateful for the help. “If the Recovery Act funding had not come about, it would have probably meant a layoff for me,” said Jones, who has worked at SRS for 27 years. He believes the D&D work he is doing is essential to creating a safer Savannah River Site.

Jamie Bing of New Ellenton, South Carolina, received a call not many would expect during an economic downturn. Bing, who was laid off from SRS last summer, got word he’d be going back to work at the site under the Recovery Act. “I couldn’t believe it,” Bing said. “With the economy suffering, I knew good jobs were hard to come by. A job with the Recovery Act at SRS was almost too good to be true.”



*Bobby Jones*



Jamie Bing

Bing's first stint at the Site was in construction from 2001–2008, but, due to budget constraints, his position was eliminated in July 2008. He sees his position at SRS as a stepping stone for future career endeavors. "The Recovery Act Project funding gave me a great job that is teaching me new skills that I'll be able to take to another job in this field," he said.

More than 1,500 jobs have already been retained or created at SRS through the Recovery Act. The jobs are almost equally divided between those with technical and professional qualifications, skilled crafts and trade, and general employment. ARRA also funds the acceleration of environmental cleanup projects that will reduce the site's physical footprint by 40 percent, freeing up additional land within the site for future projects.

## **New Contracts Awarded Through Recovery Act Funding**

### **Local Firm Selected to Improve Traffic Flow into the Savannah River Site**

Grade South, a local road construction company in Aiken, South Carolina, has received a contract for at least \$300,000 from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) to improve traffic flow through two primary checkpoints that lead into the 310-square mile Savannah River Site (SRS).

SRNS believes the construction project will afford safer traveling conditions for the 2,000 new workers at the site as well as the existing workforce. Ron Bartholomew, Director, Office of Safety, Security and Emergency Services, DOE Savannah River Operations Office stated, "In order to limit congestion at the site's entrances and make coming to work as convenient as possible for our employees, we decided to invest in a new traffic flow system. This funding will make sure our check points are as safe and effective as possible, eliminating potential traffic issues at the site."

Grade South began a construction project the third week of July. It involved creating two additional lanes, leading up to and through the New Ellenton Checkpoint located on South Carolina Route 19. Construction workers have been laying new asphalt and restriping the lanes preceding the checkpoint. Lanes leading up to the Jason Checkpoint on Highway 125 will also be restriped by Grade South to reduce traffic congestion in the right lane. Additional improvements to increase traffic flow will continue to be evaluated.

### **Small Business Award Contract for Expansion of Environmental Management Waste Management Facility at Oak Ridge**

The Recovery Act is funding a \$35 million expansion of the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) at Oak Ridge. The EMWMF is a permitted low-level radioactive, hazardous, and mixed waste disposal facility. It serves as the on-site landfill, accepting cleanup waste from DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation. The expansion, known as Cell 5, will increase the total capacity of the facility to an estimated 1.7 million cubic yards. The scope of the expansion includes construction, quality assurance, quality control, design support, and project oversight.

Many subcontractors will work on the project providing a variety of services to support the cell expansion. The businesses and their assignments include:

- Avisco, a woman-owned small business based in Oak Ridge, construction labor and equipment for earthwork;
- Benchmark, a small business based in Knoxville, civil survey support for construction;
- BESCO, a small business based in Knoxville, electrical instrumentation and controls;
- Aquaterra, a small business based in Chattanooga, construction quality assurance;
- AECOM, with offices in Oak Ridge, design engineering support; and
- Professional Engineers Inc., a small business based in Knoxville, quality control services.

Subcontracts for geosynthetic materials and installation, leachate pipe materials and installation and fencing are yet to be awarded. The expansion of Cell 5 will be completed by the end of June 2010, and following approval by federal and state regulators, it is expected to be put to use by the end of August 2010.

Gerald Boyd, Manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Office stated, "Completion of the EMWMF expansion will provide essential disposal capacity for waste generated by new initiatives included in the Recovery Act, and waste from our ongoing environmental management project

### Digging Deeper into Nevada Test Site Groundwater

Recovery Act funds are underwriting the drilling of a new groundwater characterization well at the Nevada Test Site. The \$6 million project calls for drilling well ER-20-8 on Pahute Mesa where 82 underground nuclear tests were conducted near and below the water table between February 1966 and March 1992.

Valuable geologic and hydrologic information will also be obtained from cutting samples taken during drilling to address data gaps in the computer transport model under development. The more quality information that goes into the model, the better the model's prediction will be as to if, when, and where contamination from underground nuclear tests may show up.

Drilling activities at ER-20-8 began on July 12 and will continue until a depth of approximately 3,700 feet is reached. "Plans are to drill through three aquifers and prepare the well so that water samples can be taken from each one separately during long-term monitoring activities," said Bill Wilborn, the Nevada Site Office Federal Sub-Project Director.

Well construction, sampling, and data logging at the ER-20-8 is expected to be complete by the end of the fiscal year. However, as mobilization begins for drilling at the next site, ER-EC-11, the information gathered from ER-20-8 will undergo further review and analysis. Plans call for nine wells to be drilled over the next three years (including one more funded by the Recovery Act) to enhance the existing network of more than 115 wells, on and off the site, that are sampled regularly to protect the public.



*Casing is guided into position for installation in well ER 20-8 located on Pahute Mesa at the Nevada Test Site.*



*Drill rig mobilized at ER 20-8 at the Nevada Test Site.*

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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](mailto:EMRecoveryActProgram@em.doe.gov). Your feedback is welcomed.