



# AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

Issue 12  
May 3, 2010

## Message from Cynthia Anderson: EM's Recovery Act

In the last year, the Office of Environmental Management has continued to meet the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by creating and saving jobs, spurring economic activity and investing in long-term growth. While implementing these goals and spending Recovery Act funds, the program has fostered unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency.



Cynthia V. Anderson

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Cynthia Anderson ..... 1
- Secretary Chu Discusses Recovery Act Progress and Job Creation ..... 2
- Clyburn visits Savannah River Site ..... 3
- WIPP – Reaching Out with Recovery Act Funding..... 4
- Recovery Act Funding Keeps Workers Employed at the Idaho Site..... 4
- Accelerated Environmental Cleanup at Brookhaven Lab Stimulates Jobs and Strengthens Small Business..... 5
- From Homebuilder to Hanford Carpenter ..... 7
- Recovery Funds Support Job Retention in Oak Ridge..... 8
- David Glass Construction Management . 8

Reported EM Jobs Using Recovery Act Funding (CY2010)			
Site (State)	CYQ1 2010 (Jan-Mar 2010)		EM Recovery Act Headcount "Lives Touched" (Cumulative from start of project through 03/31/2010)
	Recovery.gov Prime Contractor Jobs (FTEs)	Recovery.gov Prime Contractor plus Subcontractor Jobs (FTEs)	
Argonne (IL)	93	129	263
Brookhaven (NY)	18	93	172
ETEC (CA)	5	15	248
Hanford-ORP (WA)	188	414	1,235
Hanford-Richland (WA)	1,116	2,486	5,197
Idaho (ID)	760	786	1,902
Los Alamos (NM)	120	296	653
Moab (UT)	148	227	229
Mound (OH)	9	42	50
Nevada (NV)	67	110	545
Oak Ridge (TN)	1,141	1,886	3,749
Paducah (KY)	165	253	626
Portsmouth (OH)	142	464	794
Savannah River (SC)	1,389	2,258	3,340
SLAC (CA)	32	42	146
SPRU (NY)	32	119	219
West Valley (NY)	84	128	377
WIPP (NM)	150	270	504
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,659</b>	<b>10,018</b>	<b>20,249</b>

Over \$1.7 billion of EM's Recovery Act funding has been spent to accelerate the cleanup of nuclear waste at sites around the country, with the goal of reducing EM's footprint by 40 percent. Meanwhile, 20,249 people have been touched by Recovery Act spending. This number represents the total number of all full-time, temporary and part-time workers compensated for work performed under each EM project.

To achieve the highest level of transparency and accountability, we hold regular reviews with our sites, as well as maintain regular communications with government regulators, external government auditing agencies, Unions, Tribal Nations and stakeholders.

The EM Recovery Act program is currently in discussions with DOE Management and the Department of Labor to develop a path forward for EM Recovery Act worker transition after September 2011. In addition, the program has asked each of the sites to assist in developing workforce transition plans to meet site specific needs. We will continue to keep the public informed as we move forward on these initiatives.

The Recovery Act has made significant progress over the last year that has provided substantial job growth in communities small and large across the United States. We will continue to strive - working diligently to support American's hard-at-work.

Cynthia V. Anderson  
Director  
EM Recovery Act Program

## Secretary of Energy Discusses Recovery Act Progress and Job Creation During Oak Ridge Visit

When Secretary Chu visited Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) on March 23, there was plenty of good news to tell.

“The entire Oak Ridge site has made tremendous progress on Recovery Act-funded projects—creating nearly 2,000 jobs, accelerating our cleanup efforts, and helping put the country on a path to a clean energy future,” said Secretary Chu.

In his visit to the Department of Energy's ORNL, the Secretary witnessed firsthand the progress made possible through Recovery Act investments at the site. ORNL is using these funds to eliminate 49 unused facilities, build a new Chemical and Materials Science Laboratory and upgrade one of the world's fastest supercomputers. All of these efforts are creating jobs.

During a media event at the new \$95 million Chemical and Materials Science Laboratory which is now under construction, Secretary Chu said nearly 2,000 jobs have been created or saved at Oak Ridge to date using Recovery Act funds.



*During his visit Secretary Chu spoke with reporters about the jobs that have been created at Oak Ridge using Recovery Act funds.*

Of the more than \$1.1 billion in Recovery Act funds received in Oak Ridge, \$1 billion has been assigned to specific projects. This includes funding for science and clean energy programs at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as environmental cleanup projects at ORNL, the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Computer scientists, environmental engineers, and machine operators have been hired at Oak Ridge with Recovery Act funds. They are now working together to eliminate hazardous facilities, cleanup environmental legacies and construct modern infrastructure for advanced energy research. These projects will be a lasting legacy of the Recovery Act.

## Delegation Meets with Savannah River Site Superfund Employees

The 15 graduates of the Superfund Job Training Initiative (SFJTI) Program at the Savannah River Site (SRS) know the value of hard work and going the extra mile – it's what got them their Recovery Act jobs as material handlers and production operators. To hear that same advice from the U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, the U.S. House Majority Whip, only reinforces the work ethic the graduates developed during their extensive training and time on the job.

“People expect you to earn your pay” Clyburn told the group assembled at the site of the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor at SRS. “If you're coming to work and giving a day's work and getting a day's pay, that's what you're expected to do. People really judge you by the extent you go beyond that to be a benefit to those with whom you come in contact.”



*U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, the U.S. House Majority Whip, stands with Superfund Job Training Initiative graduate Kera Woods during his recent visit to the Savannah River Site. Clyburn urged the employees to go beyond what is expected of them.*

Clyburn was at the Savannah River Site along with Congresswoman Donna M. Christian-Christensen (Virgin Islands) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. The group was part of the recent Environmental Justice Tour, during which Jackson and members of the Congressional Black Caucus toured several sites.

Jackson reminded the attendees that the Superfund program fulfills a vision of President Obama's.

“That's what the President talks about all the time,” she said. “This is paid for by Recovery Act money. This isn't just about recovering our economy; this is about recovering our communities.”

The SFJTI was developed by the EPA to provide disadvantaged adults with the job skills necessary to work at a Superfund site. The Savannah River Site is the first Department of Energy site to utilize the program.

The graduates recruited for the program were residents of economically depressed rural areas neighboring SRS. Some of these communities currently suffer from some of the nation's highest unemployment rates. Many students recruited from these areas were also challenged by a lack of role models engaged in technical or professional fields.



Kera Woods, of Aiken, is one of the graduates who met with the delegation. She works in N Area, where she categorizes excess materials – drills, wrenches, tool belts, tool boxes, and nuts and bolts – that have been used on the Site for years. She also inventories janitorial supplies and ships them daily to all points at the Site.

She sees the value of hard work and following instruction, and knows the program is a life-changing opportunity. “The advancement opportunities out here are incredible. As long as I do my job, there is no excuse why I can’t make advancements,” she said.

## WIPP – Doing More with Recovery Act Funding

As part of EM's mission to reduce the nuclear waste footprint, the DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, N.M., is using Recovery Act funds to accelerate transuranic (TRU) waste shipments from several small waste generator sites around the country.

Additional personnel was needed to set up for accelerated activities at the sites, due to the varied infrastructure and capabilities at each site. Thirty-six workers, funded by the Recovery Act, have received assignments at those sites to perform waste characterization activities and to certify and load the TRU waste into shipping containers for shipment to WIPP and final disposal.



*Mobile loading operations load contact-handled TRU waste into a TRUPACT-II shipping container.*

An accelerated waste disposition schedule has also created the need for more workers at the WIPP facility itself. Engineers, surveyors, quality assurance specialists, waste handlers and radiological control technicians have been hired along with additional administrative staff. The additional work scope has also allowed a number of businesses to create jobs and retain employees as well. Petersen Inc., a small, woman-owned business, is an example of the positive impact that Recovery Act funding is having. “As a result of Recovery Act funding, Petersen has hired 16 additional team members. More importantly, it saved 25 current jobs,” said Rob Despain, vice president of business development. “At Petersen Inc., we produce high quality powder-coated Standard Waste Boxes and Ten-Drum Over Packs for the WIPP site. We also support WIPP with other containers and NQA-1 custom equipment.”

## Recovery Act Funding Keeps Workers Employed at the Idaho Site

With three of his five children in college, Alan Olaveson is grateful to be employed at DOE's Idaho site. James “Tony” Thompson hopes the work there will last a long time. Eric King appreciates the stability his job there provides.

Thanks to Recovery Act funding, Olaveson, Thompson, King, Perry and seven others were hired last year by CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI), the cleanup contractor for the Idaho Site, to work on reactivating a hot cell where radioactive materials can be safely handled using remote controls.



*Perry concentrates on operating a robotic manipulator arm at the CPP-659 hot cell, where he was trained for several months before moving to CPP-666.*

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to utilize the skills of these individuals on this important cleanup work,” said Jeff Bradford, a CWI vice president. Not only have they found employment while many Idahoans have been out of work in recent months, they

also are privileged to participate in a historic project – the revival of a large, productive hot cell that has been idle for 22 years.

“The new employees are hard workers and totally dedicated. They all participated in our recent startup and demonstrated that the ‘new guys’ could really operate the robotic manipulators. We could not be working in CPP-666 without them!” said Tammy Hobbes, CWI’s operations director for waste management.

## Accelerated Environmental Cleanup at Brookhaven Lab Stimulates Jobs and Strengthens Small Businesses

DOE and Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA), the management and operations contractor at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in New York state, have been using Recovery Act funds to accelerate environmental cleanup projects at BNL including removal of the 700-ton activated graphite pile from the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR), continuing work on decommissioning of the High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) and remediating legacy contaminated soil.

Through the end of March 2010, these projects have employed 172 people while also creating significant opportunities for small businesses.

The four learned to use robotic manipulators to scrape canisters clean of debris before their contents are sorted and repackaged for shipment to DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

They then started working in hot cell CPP 666.

The \$468 million in Recovery Act funds that the Idaho Site is receiving have not only brought the heavily shielded hot cell back to life, they have also allowed the site to create or retain approximately 650 jobs.

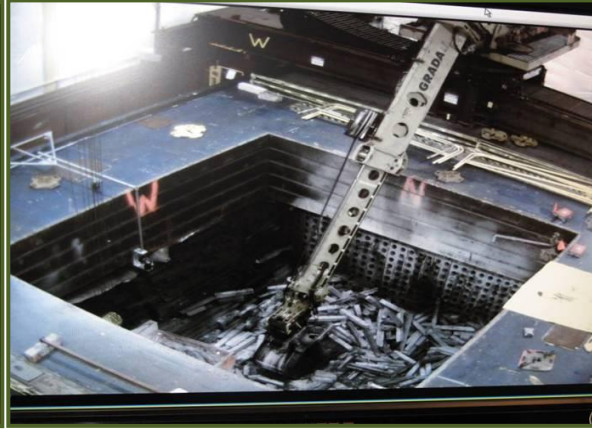


*From left to right are Alan Olaveson, Eric King, Tony Thompson and Ted Perry, four of 11 recent CWI hires at the CPP-666 hot cell.*





Remote Manipulator for BGRR Graphite Removal



Mining Graphite



Removing Underground Waste Transfer Pipes



Packaging Contaminated Soil for Disposal

“Brookhaven Lab actively pursues relationships with small businesses to provide them with subcontracting opportunities at the Laboratory,” said Jill Clough-Johnston, BNL’s Small Business Liaison Officer.



As of March 31, 2010, BNL had placed \$24.5 million in purchase orders and subcontracts using Recovery Act funding. Of this total, \$15.7 million, or 64.1 percent, was awarded to small businesses, exceeding BNL’s goal of 50.2 percent.

P.W. Grosser Consulting, a small business firm based in Bohemia, NY specializing in environmental and engineering services, is providing support services at BNL.

“The Recovery Act has been a boost to our company,” said Paul Grosser, founder, president, and CEO. “We are happy to contribute our project management and engineering expertise to BNL.”

## From Homebuilder to Hanford Carpenter

A year and a half ago, Kery Secrist was working as a successful homebuilder in Rigby, Idaho. He owned his own business, touted a solid reputation and had logged 20 years of carpentry experience in the town where he grew up. Then everything changed.

The economy soured, the housing industry took a nosedive, and the work that provided Secrist's livelihood for the past two decades suddenly dried up.

"I'd never had to look for a job, never had to look for a house to build before the housing crisis hit," Secrist says. "But all of the sudden the work was gone. It shut off like someone flipping a switch."

Secrist, 56, and his wife, Patsy, were faced with the daunting reality of an uncertain future. With large amounts of cash tied up in existing projects and no way to pay the bills, the couple was forced to start over. Secrist began searching for another job. When he had no luck locally, he began looking outside the Rigby area.

About the same time, the Obama Administration announced the implementation of the \$787 billion Recovery Act, which sought to jump-start the ailing economy by offering government funding to qualified employers to help save and create up to three million new jobs. Last year, Washington River Protection Solutions, a prime contractor for DOE's Office of River Protection at the Hanford Site in Washington state, was awarded \$326 million in Recovery Act funding. Secrist was one of several hundred people hired with the help of these funds and on June 8, 2009, he began his new adventure as a Hanford carpenter.

"I think it was a matter of being in the right place at the right time," Secrist says. "This job is a blessing. The Recovery Act money gave me and my family a fresh start."

Co-worker Mike Finn, a Hanford carpenter for 23 years, is glad to have Secrist on board. "We've needed another pair of hands for awhile now," he says. "Thanks to the Recovery Act money, we were able to fulfill a need. Plus it's good to have someone like Kery who not only needs the job, but who is deserving of it and is qualified to do the work."

## Recovery Funds Help Workers at Oak Ridge

A \$1.5 million demolition contract that Safety and Ecology Corporation (SEC) of Knoxville, Tenn., won last year to do work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has created new opportunities for workers like David Rodgers and Branden Price.

Rodgers, 46, is an experienced heavy equipment operator for SEC, who is now working on demolishing multiple buildings at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory that date back to the early days of its nuclear operations.



*Kery Secrist*





David Rodgers

The buildings have a broad range of contamination, so Rodgers' asbestos and hazardous waste training is key for this project. Rodgers, who has worked for SEC as an operator on federal and commercial demolition and construction projects since 2004 and has served as a site superintendent on various projects for SEC in Oak Ridge, says his position was made possible by Recovery Act funding. "If it were not for this stimulus project, I would be drawing unemployment," he said.

Branden Price, 27, was also hired by SEC as a laborer and an equipment operator to work on the demolition project.

Rodgers and Price are not alone. A total of 30 people, including technical, management and

field staff are supporting the project. The group includes SEC employees and Knoxville Business and Construction Trade Council union labor and specialty subcontractors.

The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of May 2010.

## David Glass' Construction Management Skills Prove Viable with F Tank Farm Closure Projects

David Glass' six-foot, 270-pound frame typically generates plenty of conversation about his gridiron glory days. Not for Glass, though. It was his love for math and sciences -- not football -- that spurred him onto academic success as an engineer.

In February, after six months of unemployment, the Pittsburgh area resident packed his bags, bid temporary adieu to his wife and three teenagers and made the trek to Savannah River Site (SRS) after learning about a construction management opportunity funded by the Recovery Act. Working through a local staffing agency, Glass was able to align his skills with Savannah River Remediation (SRR) and their needs as Liquid Waste contractor at SRS.



David Glass

Glass is now helping with the closure projects at F Tank Farm Liquid Waste operations, where he says he's focused on ensuring that SRR stays on target to close 22 waste tanks within the next eight years. "Specifically, my job with Construction Management is to assist with coordinating the isolation of pipes, power and services to the tanks, take design from the engineers and help get the work done safely," he emphasized.

Although Glass has never worked at a nuclear facility, his job skills were transferable. For the past 15 years, he has worked as a contract engineer and recently completed a job with the Federal Aviation Administration.





“When that job ended last August, I was expecting that the next job would have opened up within a week or so. But, in this economy, that wasn’t happening. Six months – that’s the longest it’s ever taken for me to get another job,” said the State College, Pa. native.

As a married father of three children, two of whom are in college, Glass said he and his wife of 26 years, Victoria, were understandably excited to learn about a possible position funded by the Recovery Act. “The Recovery Act surely helped me, and I’m very appreciative of it,” said the 49-year-old Penn State University engineering graduate.

“It’s just nice to have a job,” says Glass, “and know that I’m helping to make a difference in the future of SRS.”

---

---

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.

---

---

