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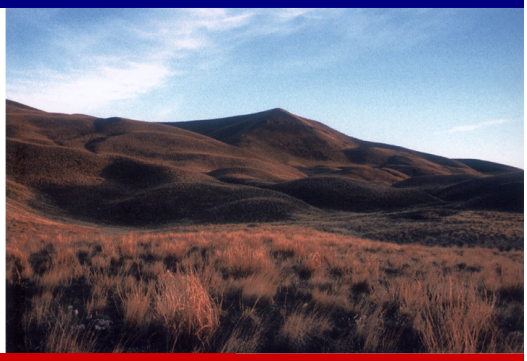

AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

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Recovery Act by the Office of Environmental Management Tops $1 Billion

On January 19, the Office of Environmental Management crossed the $1 billion mark in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Recovery Act") funds spent to accelerate the cleanup of nuclear waste at sites around the country.

Financial Progress and Accountability

Site	Spend Plan	Obligated to Contracts	Spent to Date
Argonne National Lab.	$98,500,000	$79,000,000	$8,473,790
Brookhaven National Lab.	$42,355,000	$42,355,000	$18,893,812
ETEC	$54,175,000	$54,162,338	$958,798
Hanford (Office of River Protection)	$326,035,000	$326,035,000	$44,846,956
Hanford (Richland)	$1,634,500,000	$1,630,603,000	$273,787,956
Idaho	$467,875,000	$467,875,000	$120,940,662
Los Alamos National Lab.	$211,775,000	$211,775,000	$27,927,864
Moab	$108,350,000	$108,350,000	$17,887,790
Mound	$19,700,000	$108,350,000	$2,166,207
Nevada Test Site	$44,325,000	$44,325,000	$13,976,995
Oak Ridge	$755,110,000	$564,976,736	$97,462,084
Paducah	$78,800,000	$78,800,000	$10,643,016
Portsmouth	$118,200,000	$118,200,000	$14,241,446
Savannah River	$1,615,400,000	$1,590,500,270	$388,137,618
SLAC	$7,925,000	$7,925,000	$3,712,462
SPRU	$51,775,000	$51,775,000	$6,322,378
WIPP	$172,375,000	$170,261,957	$34,332,056
West Valley	$73,875,000	$73,875,000	$14,398,013
Title X Uranium/ Thorium Reimbursements	$68,950,000	$38,688,782	$38,288,782
Management & Oversight	$30,000,000	$14,159,588	$6,325,649
Unallocated	$20,000,000	$0	$0
Total	**$6,000,000,000**	**$5,693,342,671**	**$1,143,724,334**

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Message from Frazer Lockhart: EM's Recovery Act Federal Project Director

Frazer Lockhart

The Recovery Act is about jobs, tangible progress and performance in the Field—all topics near to my heart. I joined the Recovery Act team in late February 2009 to contribute my project and Field experience to the unique Recovery Act challenge. Over 22 of my 25 years in DOE have been spent working in the Field, most notably with the completion of the Rocky Flats site closure. The Field is where the mission work of the EM program actually gets done and I am continually invigorated when I see the exceptional progress already achieved under the Recovery Act.

The Recovery Act presented interesting challenges from the perspective of Field execution and project management. EM was simultaneously challenged to ensure tremendous physical performance in the Field while providing for unprecedented availability and transparency of information.

To meet this unique challenge the concept of a Recovery Act Site Representative was developed to provide an extension from the Recovery Act Program to the Field. Recovery Act Site Representatives (RASR) would be located at Field sites, but report to the Recovery Act Program, thus helping bridge the Headquarters-Field communication gap and facilitate information flow up, down and across in the fast-moving Recovery Act environment. I currently manage ten RASRs assigned to seven Field Offices. I serve as the collecting and marshalling point for their information and issues—ensuring they are forwarded to the most appropriate part of the Recovery Act team for action. In addition, I personally visit the Field sites to provide some onsite time in direct coordination with the RASRs. The visits help me keep a firsthand connection with the dynamic suite of Recovery Act projects.

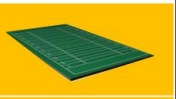
I facilitate coordination with the Program and Site Support Office staff, who have a similar site liaison and coordination role. Several members of the Small Sites Completion Office, in particular, have embraced the role of RASR as a collateral duty directly in line with their existing role. Use of these "collateral" RASRs has allowed me to leverage their expertise to ensure that smaller sites are not left behind due to the pace of the Recovery Act activities.

Recovery Act and EM mission success both require successful Field implementation. I will continue to facilitate the flow of issues and information between Headquarters and the Field and champion the best in project management practices to help EM exceed its Recovery Act goals as well as set the standard for environmental project performance.

Frazer Lockhart
Federal Project Director

Measuring Progress & Getting the Job Done

Performance Measures – Overall Goals, Targets and Accomplishments

Performance Measure	Overall ARRA Goals (Sept. 30, 2011)	Accomplishments (as of Nov. 30, 2009)		
Facility Square Footage Demolished (square feet)	3,636,706	**353,027** (10% of goal)	=	**Over 6 football fields** 
Demolition Debris and Soil Permanently Disposed (cubic meters)	1,205,689	**121,552** (10% of goal)	=	**49 olympic swimming pools** 
Mill Tailings Disposed (tons)	2,000,057	**208,198** (10% of goal)	=	**1,445 rail cars**  ⇨ 
Transuranic Waste Packaged for Disposal (cubic meters)	6,656	**1,890** (28% of goal)	=	**648 TRUPACT-IIs (9,072 55-gal drums) (216 shipments)** 
Transuranic Waste Characterized for Final Disposal (cubic meters)	9,949	**1,111** (11% of goal)	=	**382 TRUPACT-IIs (5,334 55-gal drums) (Over 127 shipments)** 
Transuranic Waste Permanently Disposed (cubic meters)	9,481	**552** (6 % of goal)	=	**190 TRUPACT-IIs (2,650 55-gal drums) (about 63 shipments)** 
Low Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste Permanently Disposed (cubic meters)	72,271	**7,069** (10 % of goal)	=	**Over 33,953 drums** 

Metrics for All Sites Showing Overall Goals and Actual Work Accomplished through November 30, 2009.

The Recovery Act provided $6 billion to continue the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development, production and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.

The stimulus funding is being used to accelerate cleanup work at 17 EM sites around the country and complete 48 regulatory milestones for measuring the progress of EM's cleanup effort. Overall, the Program's goal is to reduce the footprint of land and structures requiring cleanup by 40 to 50 percent by 2011 and by 80 to 90 percent by 2015.

A major responsibility of the Department is to track and monitor progress to ensure that the taxpayers' dollars are being well spent. Management holds monthly review sessions with the sites to evaluate project performance. A selection of program-level performance metrics are shown in the table above.

Metrics representing actual work accomplished (shown in yellow) are compared with estimates or target values, and as needed Headquarters and the sites implement stricter management reviews as part of the process of meeting the goals set under the Recovery Act. The blue column indicates overall performance metrics representing the total amount of work to be completed with ARRA funds by September 30, 2011.

Cleanup of Historic Nuclear Rocket Facility Blasting Off

In the first phase of R-MAD's demolition, a hydraulic hammer was used to dismantle a section of the south block wall and roof.

In the coming weeks, BOOM! will be one of the sounds of stimulus funding at work on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) as explosives are put to use in demolishing the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly (R-MAD) building. The schedule for decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of R-MAD was accelerated with the Recovery Act funding.

The R-MAD building was used from 1959 to 1970 to assemble and disassemble nuclear reactors under Project Rover, an effort to develop nuclear-powered rockets for use in space travel (http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/photos/nrds.aspx). R-MAD's assembly bays were used to load reactor rockets on rail cars for transfer to the test facilities. After the testing was completed, the reactor rockets were transferred back to R-MAD for disassembly. Nuclear fuel associated with the reactor was removed and subsequently transferred to the Idaho National Laboratory for reprocessing.

R-MAD is one of several NTS facilities that supported the Nuclear Rocket Development Station program that ended in 1973. D&D of the 80 room, five-level facility will occur in four phases.

Phase I began last November with traditional (no explosives used) demolition of parts of the building and the small metal exhaust stack. Asbestos in roofing materials and pipe elbow insulation was also removed.

The focus now shifts to Phase II activities including removing lead doors and plates and size-reducing, packaging and shipping building debris for disposal at the appropriately regulated facility on the site.

Explosives will be used during Phases III and IV of the demolition to remove building elements that are still standing. A hydraulic hammer will then break up the remaining pieces into a size (less than three feet) appropriate for disposal.

About ten percent of the R-MAD debris will be buried within the three different basement areas of the building. They will then be capped with approximately one foot of concrete to permanently entomb the debris. This method of disposal achieves significant savings by avoiding specialized packaging and shipping costs. The remaining building debris will be packaged into lined dump trucks and shipped to the NTS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site for disposal. The demolition project is expected to be complete by March.

Planning, Preparation Produces Quick Results at Los Alamos

Planning, preparation and a shovel-ready project led to a quick start for the TA-21 demolition project at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The $212 million Recovery Act funded project consists of decontaminating and demolishing 21 buildings used during the Manhattan Project and Cold War eras. The buildings were used for plutonium and uranium production; polonium, actinide and tritium research; and as offices and labs. The project will reduce the lab's footprint by 167,000 square feet.

Nitrogen tank being taken off the roof of the TSTA building located on the TA-21 site. The tank was sent for metal recycling.

In less than two months, the project team hired and trained workers, prepared plans, isolated energy sources and removed hazardous materials and equipment from four of the buildings to help get the demolition work underway. The first building was reduced to rubble in late September, and plans are well underway to demolish three more.

By mid-December 2009, four buildings at TA-21, including the 22,000-square-foot administration building, were demolished.

"Because our project benefits northern New Mexico in a number of ways we wanted to hit the ground running," said Al Chaloupka, decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) project director. "In addition to the obvious environmental benefits, we knew the project would create jobs for local New Mexicans, and we wanted that to happen as quickly as possible."

As buildings continue to fall throughout the project, the lab's footprint will be reduced, the skyline of the city will change, and pines, juniper and piñon will once again cover the desert mesa where the buildings were located. The economic impact of the work also will help jumpstart the economy of northern New Mexico.

"Recovery Act funding allowed us to accelerate demolition," Chaloupka said. "In addition to hiring people to perform the work, the project provides long-lasting benefits to the environment and communities in the northern New Mexico community."

Christine Salazar

Dedicated to Doing Her Best

Christine Salazar was thrilled when she received the phone call last August offering her a position as an administrative assistant in the Recovery Act project office at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Since then, this 24-year-old dynamo from the tiny town of Coyote in northern New Mexico has been learning skills she can use in the future and has also been instrumental in the project start-up process.

"We started completely new on this project," Christine said. "The work I did to help get the office set up and the work I do to keep things running are really satisfying. This is an interesting project, and I've met people from many different places and backgrounds. Our team is awesome."

After graduating from high school, Christine joined the U.S. Army National Guard and completed basic training in Missouri and Virginia. She has been in the Guard for seven years and is currently an automated logistical supply specialist. She also worked full time in the Guard's human resources, training and recruiting offices for three years. She attended the State Police academy, where she could do more sit-ups than anyone else despite being the smallest person in her 36-member class. But after being both maced and tasered as part of her training, she decided law enforcement was not her optimal career path.

Christine is now studying business administration and requires only two classes for an associate's degree. She also dreams of becoming a certified personal trainer so she can help other women increase their fitness and confidence levels.

"I think I could help a lot of women learn to get fit the right way," Christine said.

SMALL BUSINESS AND THE RECOVERY ACT

EM Reaches its 2009 Goal for Small Business Contracts

During FY 2009, EM awarded $396.5 million in Recovery Act-funded small business prime contracts. That accounted for nearly 7.0 percent of the $5.7 billion in Recovery Act funds that EM has obligated to date. The total was well in excess of EM's goal of awarding $288 million, or 4.8 percent of total Recovery Act spending, to small businesses. Of the 84 Recovery Act contracts EM awarded last year, 63 went to small businesses. EM also provided another $300 million in funding to small businesses through Recovery Act funded subcontracts.

Recovery Act Projects at Portsmouth Support Small Businesses

The DOE's Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, through its remediation contractor LATA/Parallax Portsmouth, awarded nearly $2 million in three small business subcontracts last year to support Recovery Act projects at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in southern Ohio. The contracts support accelerated cleanup on five projects.

The three firms include DKM Construction Company of Piketon, Ohio, a small disadvantaged hub zone business that provides general contracting services. According to Dennis Martin, its owner, the company was hit hard by the demobilization of the commercial centrifuge project at the Piketon plant site last August and had to layoff some workers. But that same month, LATA/Parallax awarded DKM a $530,000 contract to install field trailers at the three Recovery Act projects at the Plant.

Geiger Brothers of Jackson, Ohio is another hub zone small business. It is a general mechanical contractor that was awarded a $520,000 contract by LATA/Parallax to install field trailers, lights to support two-shift operations and other equipment. "The stimulus funds sure did help," said Geiger Brothers President Scott Massie. "Anytime you are spending money close to home, either directly or indirectly, it's a huge benefit for the company."

A.J. Stockmeister, the third small business, is a general contractor based in Jackson, Ohio, that specializes in mechanical contracting and specialty work. It was awarded an $840,000 contract by LATA/Parallax to remove asbestos from two ARRA projects—the X-533 Electrical Switchyard and the X-760 Chemical Engineering Building Decontamination and Decommissioning Projects. "The stimulus has been a boost for our company," said Seth Stockmeister, its president and owner, "providing work through spring 2010."

Hanford's Expansion of Disposal Facility Supports Small Business

Washington Closure Hanford awarded a $4,623,400 contract last July to Delhur Industries, a small business based in Port Angeles, Wash., to excavate more than 1.4 million cubic yards of soil to expand landfill area at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) at the Hanford Site. This project will support the River Corridor Closure Contract at the Hanford Site.

Oak Ridge Soil Remediation Project Awarded to Ohio Small

In September, DOE awarded a $10.1 million contract to an Ohio-based small business to contain and cap contaminated soil on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory site. LATA-Sharp Remediation Services, LLC of Westerville, Ohio will remove areas of radioactive and chemically contaminated soil, and will ultimately install a multi-layer liner cap over two outside solid waste storage areas to minimize the opportunity for groundwater contamination in the Bethel Valley Watershed. This Recovery Act funded work has created or saved 33 jobs and continues environmental cleanup at one of the Department's prized National Laboratory sites.

Recovery Act Projects Support SPRU Small Business

Washington Group International (WGI) is the contractor at the Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) in New York responsible for decontaminating and demolishing the SPRU nuclear facilities, Buildings G2 and H2. These buildings date to around 1950 and were the original SPRU research and waste processing buildings. They have radioactive and chemical contamination, and have a total area of about 50,000 square feet. SPRU received $37 million in ARRA funding for this portion of the project, which has a total cost of approximately $70 million. WGI has retained 19 small businesses so far to work on this portion of the project. Six of these businesses are engaged in ARRA work, and they billed WGI for about $900,000 in FY2009. WGI's largest subcontractor is Safety and Ecology Corporation, whose total contract value is $13 million. Of this, almost $7 million will be provided by the Recovery Act.

Additionally, last May, DOE awarded a $14.8 million task order modification to Accelerated Remediation Company (aRc) to remove radioactively-contaminated soil in the North Field Area at of SPRU, at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, a Naval Reactors site in Niskayuna, New York. aRc is a small disadvantaged business. The scope of the task order modification includes excavating, removing and shipping contaminated soil from the 15-acre North Field area. About 6,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed and shipped to an off-site disposal facility. With the help of Recovery Act funding, this work will be completed in 2010, instead of 2013 as originally planned.

MOAB Small Business supported by Recovery Act

DOE awarded a $150,000 contract to Mike Zimmerman Well Service, a well drilling service in Magna, Utah last November to drill and install approximately 15 wells at the Moab site in Utah. The work is helping the company pay its bills and keep people employed at a time when business is normally slow and workers are let go. The work supports the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action project which is removing 16 million tons of uranium mill tailings from a location near the Colorado River to a disposal facility in Crescent Junction, Utah.

Senator Murray Visits Hanford to Review Recovery Act Progress

Senator Patty Murray

Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.) visited the Hanford site on November 12 to review progress being made on projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

During a press conference at the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) worker training facility, Washington's senior senator highlighted the Recovery Act-funded work that has been accomplished this year. She also talked about the jobs created at Hanford and made special mention of newly hired worker Ty Rose. Rose is a former platoon commander for the U.S. Marine Corps who finished a tour in Iraq in 2008, but soon found himself out of work—for almost five months.

During Murray's remarks, she noted the outstanding training that new workers receive at HAMMER and congratulated the staff on quickly ramping up their training schedules to accommodate the many new hires at the site.

Hanford has received $1.96 billion in Recovery Act funding that Murray helped secure, and has spent $317 million of it through January 19.

DOE's Richland (RL) site manager, Dave Brockman, who spoke at the press conference, said, "Thank you Senator Murray for putting your confidence and trust in us (DOE). While you were fighting for that money, you had to know that somebody back here was going to have to deliver. I can say that we're doing it. We were able to take this money and put it to work immediately."

Brockman also noted the work getting done. "In the last six months we've demolished 15 large chemical tanks; started the expansion of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility; installed many new groundwater wells; demolished three buildings; prepared 50,000 square feet of building floor space for demolition; and removed 20 large glove boxes from the Plutonium Finishing Plant. And, that's just a start."

Rose, who also spoke at the press conference, noted, "The Recovery Act funds have put me in a job, it's taking care of my family, and it's giving hope." During his job search, Rose attended a service academy conference in Washington, D.C. where he met representatives from CH2MHill Plateau Remediation Company, who perform work on Hanford's Central Plateau. They offered Rose a job on the spot as a Field supervisor.

Recovery Act Funds Help Hanford Prepare for Demolition

With help from $35 million in Recovery Act funding, DOE's Hanford site in southeast Washington State is readying its U Plant complex for demolition, and expects to have the work done by September 2011.

U Plant is one of five large chemical processing facilities at Hanford that supported plutonium production during the Cold War. It is the first facility of its type to be demolished in DOE's nuclear weapons complex. The centerpiece of the plant is a canyon building 810 feet long, 70 feet wide and 80 feet high. The reinforced concrete floor of the building is located 30 feet below ground. Its walls are three to nine feet thick and were designed to withstand earthquakes and radiation. The plants often are called canyons because of their high ceilings, narrow width and walls as long as the Seattle Space Needle is tall.

The U Plant canyon was built during World War II to extract plutonium from fuel rods irradiated in Hanford's nuclear reactors but was actually used for training and equipment work; later, in the 1950s, the building was used to recover uranium from waste generated by the other canyon facilities at Hanford. Surplus or spare equipment contaminated by radioactive material was stored on the canyon floor, or deck, and much of that material is still in place.

The stimulus-funded effort to prepare the canyon for demolition includes:

- Demolishing large chemical tanks and ancillary facilities outside the canyon.
- Moving, and in some cases cutting up, equipment from the canyon deck into 40 below-ground process or "hot" cells that are part of the building; hot cells protected workers while they remotely manipulated radioactive materials on the canyon floor.
- Filling the cells and any void spaces with grout, including three galleries that run the length of the canyon.

The exterior (above ,left) and interior (above, right) of the 810-foot-long U Plant canyon on the Hanford site that is being readied for demolition. The canyon contains hundreds of pieces of radioactive, contaminated surplus or spare equipment that will be moved into 40 processor "hot" cells that are also part of the building.

When preparations are complete, the roof and the walls of the canyon will be removed and the remaining structure will be covered with an engineered barrier. Vegetation will be planted on the barrier to prevent surface moisture from pushing contaminants toward groundwater.

The work is being done by CH2M Hill, the contractor responsible for the cleanup of Hanford's central plateau area. Since April 2009, CH2M Hill workers have demolished 15 ancillary tanks and relocated some of the approximately 125 pieces of major equipment into two of the process cells. A comprehensive inventory of chemicals present in the facility has been compiled and workers have applied a latex-based fixative to more than 10,000 square feet of the building to control radiological contamination.

The overall cost of the project will be $52 million. It is expected to establish practices that can be used in cleanup work at the other processing facilities on the Hanford site.

Recovery Act-Funded Accelerated Retrieval Project III Completed at the Idaho Site

Workers prepare the steel structure of the ARP IV facility before the fabric skin can be installed.

Workers at the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) have safely retrieved and packaged 539 cubic meters of targeted waste to complete Phase III of the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP III) at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC), over a year ahead of schedule.

The retrieval work was partially funded through Recovery Act. In all, 389 cubic meters of material were retrieved and packaged using Recovery Act funding. Once the waste is retrieved, it is identified, repackaged and shipped off-site for disposal.

ARP III exhumed some of the highest densities of radioactively contaminated waste and solidified solvents from the RWMC's Subsurface Disposal Area (SDA)—the area where waste from the Rocky Flats Plant was buried.

"We are extremely proud to have completed this work safely and ahead of schedule. The credit goes to the many individuals who were dedicated to completing the work," said Hoss Brown, Buried Waste Senior Project Director for the ICP's contractor, CH2M-WG, Idaho.

With the completion of ARP III, ICP workers are already on to the next phase of the buried waste retrieval project - preparing ARP IV for targeted waste exhumation. This phase of the work involves building a specialized exhumation facility designed to withstand sunlight, snow and wind, and will use negative pressure to contain airborne contaminants. It has been located over Pit 5 of the SDA. Waste exhumations are scheduled to begin next month.

WIPP Buys New Equipment with Recovery Act Funding

DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located near Carlsbad, New Mexico, has bought two new forklifts and has awarded a contract for the design and manufacture of a new Light Weight Facility Cask (LWFC) for remote-handled TRU waste with funds provided by Recovery Act.

The two new 13-ton electric forklifts will be used for contact-waste handling activities. The new forklifts will replace two existing forklifts. The forklifts will be delivered during the first part of 2010.

LWFCs are used to receive waste canisters containing remote-handled waste when it arrives at WIPP. The LWFC is then used to transport the remote-handled TRU waste canister from the surface underground for disposal.

Work Moving Swiftly at Hanford's 618-10 Burial Ground

A North Wind employee prepares to install cone penetrometers into the trenches at the 618-10 Burial Ground.

The 618-10 Burial Ground is located about five miles north of the city of Richland and right off the main Hanford site highway. Road crews are installing turn lanes on the four-lane divided highway to provide a safe entrance and exit for workers and equipment.

After years of analysis, cleanup work has begun at the 618-10 Burial Ground with the help of funding from the Recovery Act. The burial ground was used in the 1950s as a disposal area for radioactive waste generated at Hanford's 300 Area where reactor fuel was fabricated and research on its performance was done. During the mid-1950s and early 1960s, Hanford workers dumped highly radioactive waste into the vertical pipe units (VPUs), which typically consist of five bottomless 55-gallon drums welded end to end.

Last month workers for North Wind, the cleanup subcontractor for the project, began placing cone penetrometers into trenches and around the VPUs at the Burial Ground. Cone penetrometers are hollow steel tubes into which instruments will be inserted to determine the type, location and amount of radioactive materials in the trenches and vertical pipe units within the Burial Ground. In a process called nonintrusive characterization, the instruments will allow workers to determine what materials are in the trenches and VPUs without removing any potentially contaminated material from the ground.

Workers are now installing four cone penetrometers around each of the 94 VPUs, and 100 cone penetrometers throughout the 23 trenches. Once the nonintrusive characterization is completed, Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) staff will meet with DOE officials and environmental regulators to determine the next steps.

"Depending on the results of the VPU nonintrusive characterization, we may well have to do some intrusive characterization," said Nelson Little, of WCH, who is managing the nonintrusive characterization effort and planning the associated cleanup.

"We've learned a lot from our remediation efforts at the reactor sites and in Hanford's 300 Area," Little said. "Because of the activities that were conducted in the 300 Area laboratories, we know we're going to find different types and quantities of radioactive materials than we've encountered before, and that's going to be a challenge," he said. "We have to take this methodical, thorough approach to planning our work if we're going to do it safely and protect workers in the Field," he added.

The characterization work and the remediation of the trenches is funded by the Recovery Act. Cleanup of the entire 618-10 Burial Ground is scheduled to be finished in September 2015.

Portsmouth Recovery Act Worker Shows Spirit of Giving Through Volunteerism

LATA/Parallax employee David Price, left, talks with a Vietnam veteran at the Salvation Army's community Thanksgiving dinner. Photo: Courtesy of the Chillicothe Gazette.

During the holiday season, many charity organizations sought additional volunteers to support the expanded needs on their local communities. One such volunteer is David Price, a newly-hired LATA/Parallax employee at the DOE's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio.

Price was hired November 2, 2009 by LATA/Parallax as a superintendent for the surplus uranium repackaging/disposition project, one of five projects at the Portsmouth site being funded by Recovery Act.

Price was recently featured on the front page of the Chillicothe Gazette, a local newspaper, as a volunteer at the Chillicothe, Ohio Salvation Army's community Thanksgiving dinner. He and his wife, Kelly, saw a flyer on the dinner and called the coordinators to offer their assistance.

Price has been in Ohio just since March, after retiring from the U.S. Navy nuclear submarine program stationed in Jacksonville, Fla. He came to the Piketon site to work on the commercial American Centrifuge Plant, leaving his wife, a school teacher, and their five children to remain in Florida until the school year ended in June. Once the family relocated to Chillicothe, Price was shocked when the centrifuge program demobilized and he was

laid off less than six months into the job. After being unemployed for nearly six weeks, Price said he was extremely fortunate to find Recovery Act-funded job with LATA/Parallax.

Having volunteered in Florida, he enjoyed the small town atmosphere in Chillicothe supporting the Salvation Army. "You are able to get closer to the people who attend and have more one-on-one discussions to understand their needs," said Price. He added that he enjoyed talking with a Vietnam veteran at the dinner, being a veteran himself. During their discussion, the Vietnam veteran told Price he had not worked for eight years. He had a place to stay but would eat sparingly due to lack of money, Price added. "It was an opportunity to help and get on a personal basis with people," said Price.