U.S. Department of Energy | Office of Environmental Management

EM Recovery News

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October 2010 | Issue 17

Workers install a liner in a disposal facility at the Hanford Site to protect the groundwater from contamination. The Recovery Act is funding the expansion of the facility to increase its capacity by 50 percent, enough to hold more than 16 million tons of low-level waste from environmental cleanup activities at the Hanford Site.

Recovery Act Report: Fast Progress at Hanford Site

RICHLAND, Wash. – About one year of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act work remains, but the $1.6 billion Recovery Act investment provided to the Richland Operations Office at the Hanford Site has already accelerated dozens of cleanup projects, created work for thousands of people, and helped hundreds of small businesses.

As of late September 2010, the Richland Operations Office had spent more than $727 million of its Recovery Act allocation since launching work in April 2009, and progress in cleanup projects has been swift.

Workers have demolished 30 facilities, remediated 23 waste sites, and installed more than 250 wells for monitoring and treating groundwater. They have excavated 3.3 million cubic yards of soil for two new disposal cells that will increase capacity at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility by 50 percent, to 16.4 million tons of waste. In addition, workers have built a new groundwater treatment facility next to the Columbia River, and they have retrieved and treated hundreds of cubic meters of contaminated solid waste.

"Recovery Act investments have created jobs and accelerated cleanup work, while investing in the local community by training workers and hiring contractors and subcontractors who are getting the job done at the Hanford Site," said Matt McCormick, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office.

The Recovery Act work has changed the landscape of the Hanford Site as the footprint of cleanup projects continues to decrease. With the help of Recovery Act funding, the Richland Operations Office will meet its commitment to reduce the footprint of active cleanup on the 586-square-mile site by at least 45 percent, or more than 260 square miles, by the end of September 2011. The office also is on pace to meet a long-term commitment to reduce the site's cleanup footprint by 90 percent, or nearly 530 square miles, by the end of September 2015.

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At the Richland Operations Office, 13 major Recovery Act projects are on schedule and running 11 percent below the cost previously estimated for them. The Richland Operations Office has identified about $150 million in savings to fund more work.

Between April 2009, when Hanford Site received its Recovery Act funds, and June of this year, Recovery Act funding benefited more than 6,000 full-time, part-time, and temporary workers, including prime contractors and subcontractors, according to EM data.

The economic impact of funding extends beyond those individuals. Hundreds of companies have benefited from Recovery Act funding through contracts with Hanford Site contractors CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) and Washington Closure Hanford (WCH). CHPRC has awarded $524 million in subcontracts to more than 500 companies, and 56 percent of that funding has been awarded to small businesses. WCH has awarded nearly $122 million in subcontracts to 94 companies, with 98 percent of that money awarded to small businesses. □

“We’re supporting the nation by achieving our Recovery Act goals.”

Matt McCormick, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office

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Savannah River Site Enters Final Recovery Act Year with Many Accomplishments

As the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) gears up for the final year of the $6 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act environmental cleanup, the October issue of Recovery News pauses to highlight the overall performance and many accomplishments at Recovery Acts sites in the past 18 months. Thousands of workers have safely cleaned up and demolished Cold War-era facilities, in most cases ahead of schedule and under budget. They have worked quickly and safely to dispose of nuclear waste and treat contaminated soil and groundwater. Additionally, the Recovery Act has funded the installation of wells to monitor for groundwater contaminants at Los Alamos National Laboratory, infrastructure improvements to underground waste storage tanks at the Hanford Site, and the decommissioning of research reactors at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

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Recovery Act Report: Fast Progress at Hanford Site

EM Recovery Act Program Director Cynthia Anderson, fourth from right, visited LANL as the last of 246 waste containers from LANL's Tritium Systems Test Assembly Facility were shipped to a disposal facility in Clive, Utah. Anderson is pictured here with EM Recovery Act Program Manager John Mocknick, second from right, as well as representatives of the National Nuclear Science Administration's Los Alamos Site Office, Los Alamos National Security, LLC, and MP Environmental Services.

EM Recovery Act Director Visits Los Alamos, Witnesses Final Waste Shipment from Facility

LOS ALAMOS, N.M – During a visit to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Sept. 14, DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program Director Cynthia Anderson viewed the significant progress of a cleanup funded by $212 million in Recovery Act funds.

"I am excited by the Recovery Act's success at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Recovery Act funds are not only supporting this important cleanup efficiently, safely, and ahead of schedule, but also creating jobs and spurring economic activity. That's a tremendous accomplishment," Anderson said.

Anderson visited LANL as workers finalized a Recovery Act milestone: they shipped the last of 246 waste containers from the former Tritium Systems Test Assembly (TSTA) to a disposal facility in Clive, Utah.

A former fusion research facility, the 16,000-square-foot TSTA was demolished earlier this year under budget — over a year ahead of Recovery Act completion goals.

Other LANL Recovery Act projects include decontamination and demolition of 24 buildings at the Technical Area 21, a Manhattan Project and Cold War-era production site. As of September 2010, 19 of the buildings have been demolished.

The Recovery Act is also funding the cleanup of the Lab's first waste disposal pit, the Material Disposal Area B, used in the 1940s.

Anderson also spoke with EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) members attending the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting in Santa Fe, N.M. The board provides EM with information, advice, and recommendations concerning issues affecting the EM program.

The board members toured cleanup projects at LANL and were briefed on the successes of Recovery Act-funded projects. Board members expressed appreciation for EM's efforts to accelerate work at EM sites with Recovery Act funding. □

Read about the LANL Recovery Act Cleanup at http://www.lanl.gov/environment/cleanup/stimulus.shtml

Watch the TSTA demolition at http://www.youtube.com/user/LosAlamosNationalLab#p/u/7/SC0dKo4AV1Q

Leon Tangren – MOAB, UTAH

For 22 years, Leon Tangren had worked for a company in Grand Junction, Colo., until it shut down and sold its operations to an out-of-state firm.

But Tangren found a new opportunity in the Recovery Act, and was hired to prepare additional shipments of mill tailings at the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project.

Infused with $108 million in Recovery Act funds, the project has accelerated shipments of mill tailings from a former uranium-ore processing site in Moab to a nearby disposal site. Tangren was one of more than 200 employees hired with Recovery Act funding for the project.

Tangren moved to Moab from Grand Junction with his young daughter after he was hired last fall.

He is a gantry crane operator on the nightshift. The project uses the cranes to transfer containers carrying mill tailings to and from trains for shipment to the disposal site.

"I jumped at the opportunity and I am grateful to have a job," Tangren said.

Road to Recovery: Stimulus Spending is 'Right on Track' at Hanford Tank Farms

RICHLAND, Wash. – With many key Recovery Act accomplishments already under its belt, the Office of River Protection (ORP) is busy at work on more than 100 projects planned for completion by September 2011.

ORP is on pace to complete projects that upgrade the infrastructure of the Hanford tank farms and improve essential nuclear operating facilities that support ORP's long-term mission of safe, permanent waste disposal.

"The Recovery Act program is right on track at the Office of River Protection," Recovery Act Federal Project Director Tom Fletcher said. "We are creating new jobs, upgrading mission-critical infrastructure, and accelerating the important work we have to do here. Over the long haul, completing our work earlier will save taxpayers millions of dollars – doing cleanup at today's prices instead of tomorrow's prices."

As of late September 2010, ORP has spent more than $140 million of its $326 million in budgeted Recovery Act funds to complete projects that support ORP's mission of waste vitrification, a process that converts liquid waste into solid glass. The waste is then isolated for thousands of years while its radioactivity decays.

Recovery Act accomplishments so far include the construction of an interim moisture barrier over the top of one of the tank farms. The

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Workers install a liner in a disposal facility at the Hanford Site to protect the groundwater from contamination.

Workers demolish a building on Y-12 National Security Complex's Engineering Row.

Oak Ridge Achieves Recovery Act Goals, Fast and Furiously

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. – Not long after the launch of the Recovery Act in early 2009, officials at the Oak Ridge Office assembled a list of projects to start as soon as the site's $755 million in Recovery Act funds became available.

Fast forward to October 2010, and broad changes are occurring daily at the Oak Ridge Reservation, all the result of the Recovery Act investment.

Workers are currently employed by five prime contractor and 92 subcontractor companies, and they are working on 36 Recovery Act projects that aim to reduce the footprint of the Cold War era at Oak Ridge.

"Oak Ridge is answering the call of the Recovery Act by providing excellent oversight and leadership to allow the Recovery Act funds to accomplish their goal: getting people to work and getting work done," Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for Environmental Management John Eschenberg said.

Continued on next page

> **"Oak Ridge is answering the call of the Recovery Act by providing excellent oversight and leadership to allow the Recovery Act funds to accomplish their goal: getting people to work and getting work done."**
>
> *Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for Environmental Management John Eschenberg*

Oak Ridge has assigned all $755 million of its budgeted Recovery Act funds to specific projects, and has spent more than $274 million of that total. And due to efficient planning and work, Oak Ridge has saved money, allowing for the addition of 12 Recovery Act projects. Those projects include facility demolitions and soil remediation at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Y-12 National Security Complex, where nuclear material is stored and nuclear weapons components are dismantled, among other things.

At ORNL, demolition work is changing the landscape of the site and clearing the way for future development. There, workers removed Building 3026, a facility that supported the Manhattan Project by producing radioisotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses. The east portion of the 2000 complex, a multi-use facility that formerly conducted radiological studies, also has been demolished.

Starting this fall, demolition of an additional 34 facilities will occur across the Lab's central campus, ridding Oak Ridge of unneeded facilities and freeing land for reuse.

A dramatic footprint reduction will occur at Oak Ridge's East Tennessee Technology Park, which formerly produced enriched uranium for use in atomic weapons operations in World War II. Workers will demolish the 1.4 million-square-foot K-33 building.

Substantial footprint reduction also is occurring at Y-12. The Recovery Act is funding demolitions on Engineering Row and in the Biology Complex. □

Road to Recovery...

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barrier acts as a protective shield, preventing rainwater from seeping into the soil and pushing leaked radioactive and chemical waste deeper into the ground.

Other Recovery Act achievements have increased tank storage capacity and improved tank monitoring systems. Workers also have upgraded electrical systems and waste transfer lines, replaced old valves and filters, and decontaminated operating facilities.

The Recovery Act also has supported projects that meet long-term goals for ORP. For example, the funding helped ORP establish the infrastructure needed to send high-level waste to the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) for processing and storage. That facility is under construction at Hanford.

"Recovery Act funding is vital to both parts of our mission," said Chuck Spencer, president and project manager at Washington River Protection Solutions, ORP's tank operations contractor. "It helps us meet all of our near-term milestones related to waste retrieval and allows us to put in place the systems we're going to need long term as we prepare for commissioning of the WTP."

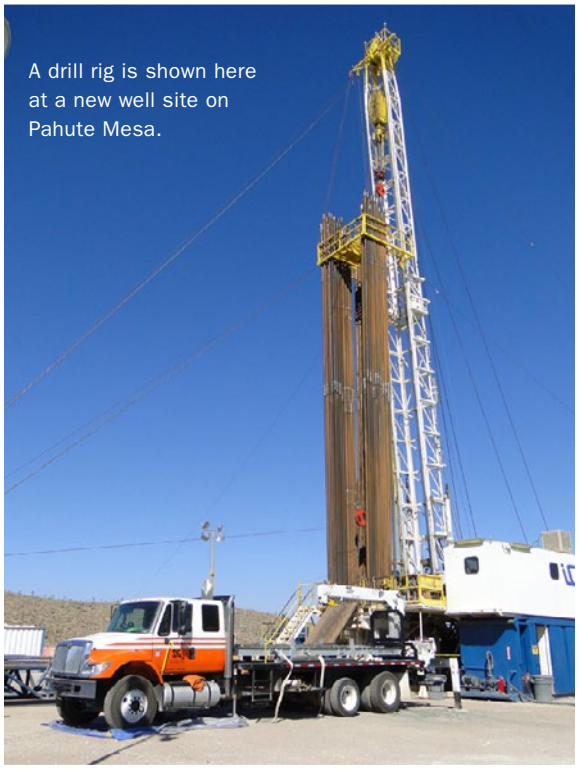
Crews recently completed work on an interim moisture barrier over the top of a Hanford tank farm. The Recovery Act-funded project will prevent rain and snow melt from driving leaked tank waste deeper into the soil.

Other ORP Recovery Act highlights:

- No accidents have occurred that caused workers to lose time from Recovery Act work at Hanford's tank farms.
- Small businesses received nearly $65 million in Recovery Act contract awards as of July 2010.
- Local firms received almost $77 million in Recovery Act subcontract awards as of July 2010. □

Recovery Act Boosts Environmental Cleanup at Nevada Site

Crews remove remaining debris at the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility.



A drill rig is shown here at a new well site on Pahute Mesa.

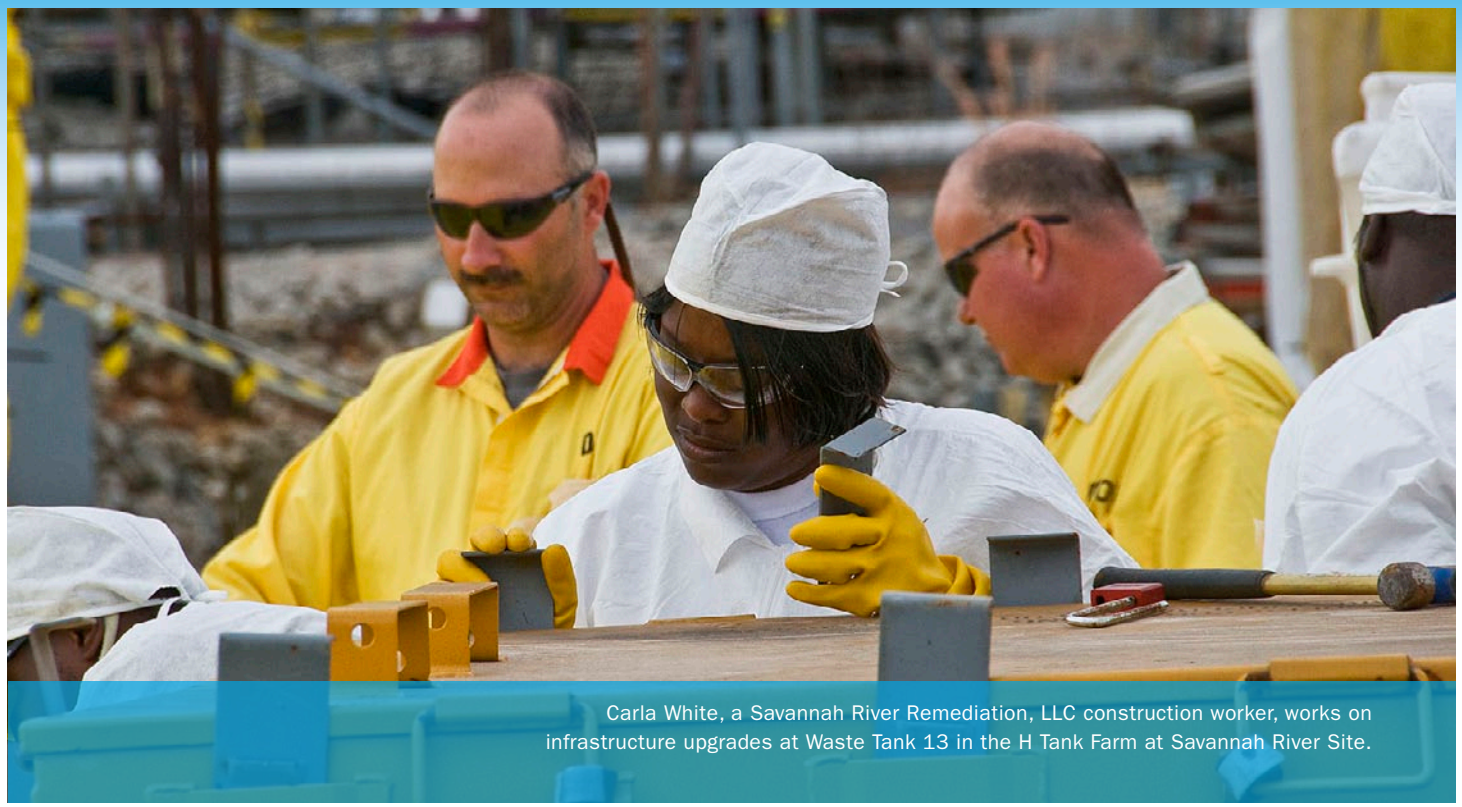
LAS VEGAS – Environmental cleanup work at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), formerly the Nevada Test Site, has escalated due to an influx of Recovery Act funds.

The estimated $54 million in Recovery Act money allocated to NNSS has accelerated soil remediation and building demolition. The funding, which includes about $10 million for waste disposal, is moving NNSS toward its cleanup goals faster and increasing its capabilities to dispose nuclear waste originating throughout the DOE Complex.

Already, more than $36 million in Recovery Act money has been spent to complete projects at NNSS. And since its inception, the Recovery Act has benefited about 620 workers at the site, including full-time, part-time, and temporary workers, according to figures collected by EM.

Work at many NNSS sites was on hold due to lack of funds prior to the Recovery Act investment in 2009. The Recovery Act funding has since allowed the Nevada Site Office (NSO) to revisit many projects and make major progress in the following:

- Completed installation of a groundwater monitoring well at Pahute Mesa, a nuclear test region at NNSS, in September 2009. A second well will be drilled in coming months.
- Demolition of the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility, which was constructed for the development of nuclear rocket reactors, was completed in July 2010.
- Demolition of two structures at the Test Cell C Facility, which was used for the development of nuclear rocket reactors in the space program, was completed in September 2009.
- Assessment and closure of contaminated railroad tracks, used to transport material between several complexes involved in nuclear rocket development, is ongoing.
- Demolition of the Pluto Disassembly Facility, which was used to develop the world's first nuclear-powered ramjet engine, is ongoing.
- Assessment of five contaminated soil sites and identification of corrective actions is ongoing.
- Removal of depleted uranium and remediation of buried ordnance is ongoing.
- Increased capacity for disposal of nuclear waste to aid cleanup efforts throughout the DOE Complex is ongoing. □



Carla White, a Savannah River Remediation, LLC construction worker, works on infrastructure upgrades at Waste Tank 13 in the H Tank Farm at Savannah River Site.

Savannah River Site Enters Final Recovery Act Year with Many Accomplishments

AIKEN, S.C. – In just a year and a half, the Recovery Act's $1.6 billion investment in Savannah River Site (SRS) has sparked dramatic progress, putting thousands of people to work to complete cleanup projects, such as safely processing nuclear waste for storage and reducing the footprint of the Cold War-era at SRS.

"The result of this Recovery Act funding is successful projects, consistently performed on time and under budget." DOE-Savannah River Acting Site Manager Jack Craig said.

As SRS heads into its final year of Recovery Act work, here are some highlights from the past year and a half, as well as continuing projects being conducted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the management and operating contractor at SRS, and Savannah River Remediation, LLC (SRR), SRS's liquid waste operations contractor:

- SRS imploded the K Cooling Tower, built in 1992 to cool water used by the once-active K Reactor, which supported national defense initiatives. The tower was 450 feet tall and 345 feet wide.
- SRR is accelerating the processing of radioactive liquid waste for disposal at SRS's Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). About $7 million in Recovery Act funds support improvements to nearly double the amount of liquid waste the facility processes into glass waste, which provides for safe, stable, long-term storage. The improvements include the installation of new bubbler technology, which consists of tubular devices that bubble argon gas into the molten glass waste mixture to maintain an even temperature, produce an effective glass form and increase canister production.
- SRS recently freed up funds for additional projects, such as the cleanup of C Area, a major industrial area, and Par Pond, a cooling water reservoir for two nuclear reactors. The SRNS cleanup of these sites will increase the SRS footprint reduction target to 75 percent by September 2012.
- In an estimated $400 million project, two Cold War reactors at SRS's P and R Areas are being sealed and left intact in an in situ decommissioning project being conducted by SRNS. The reactor buildings are expected to remain in place for 1,400 years to nearly eliminate their radioactivity. To accomplish these projects, an estimated 200,000 cubic yards of concrete grout is being poured into the reactors'

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Savannah River Site Enters Final Recovery Act Year...

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underground areas. Evaporators also are removing 4.6 million gallons of water from the 105-P Reactor Disassembly Basin as part of closure plans.

- Workers at SRNS lowered a 75-foot-high stack that provided ventilation to a nearby building that housed Cold War efforts benefiting national defense. The stack's reduced height of 28 feet prevents the possibility of it falling on a nearby high-hazard building, releasing plutonium.

- The Recovery Act funded the $4 million D-Area Thermal Detritiation Unit, which heat-treats concrete to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit and soil to 212 degrees Fahrenheit. In this process, the radioactive levels of tritium, which was formerly produced for nuclear weapons, are lowered so it can be safely released into the atmosphere.

- SRS has launched a vigorous schedule to ship legacy transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in Carlsbad, N.M. The shipments of the waste will occur up to five times a week, and will continue until all the legacy TRU waste inventory is gone from SRS. TRU waste is contaminated with radioactive elements that have atomic numbers greater than uranium.

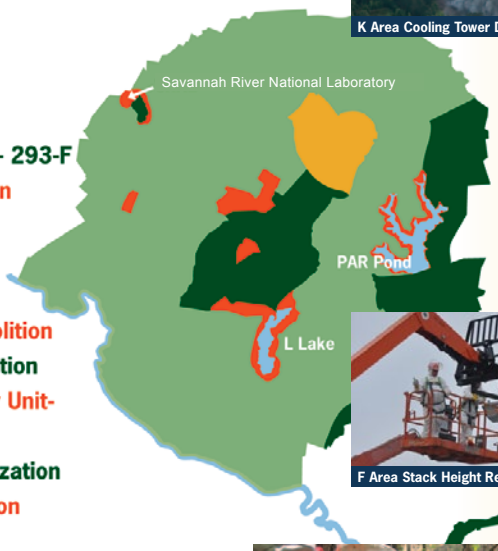
- SRR launched substantial improvements to its large underground waste tanks as they are prepared for closure. The improvements include submersible mixing pumps and other systems to clean the tanks, which hold nearly 37 million gallons of legacy nuclear waste. Removing the waste from the tanks faster and more reliably allows for quicker tank closures. Robotic technology, funded in part by the Recovery Act, is helping workers test waste samples. □

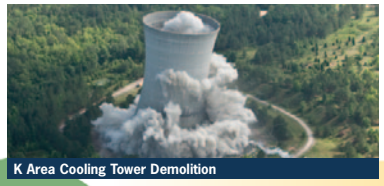
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Savannah River Site

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

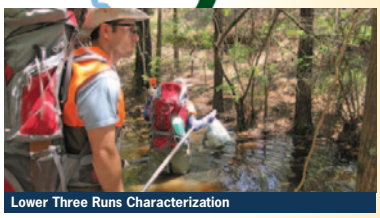
ARRA Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Projects Completed

- M Area Closure
- Batch Plant Construction
- Purex Final Shipment
- F Area Stack Height Reduction - 293-F
- K Area Cooling Tower Demolition
- Gantry Crane Removal
- Big Top Construction
- 710-B Warehouse Demolition
- Small Arms Training Area Demolition
- Lower Three Runs Characterization
- Thermal Detritiation Treatability Unit- First Load at Unit 1
- R Area Groundwater Characterization
- H Base Groundwater Remediation System Installation
- ECODS Characterization
- P and R Area Cask Car Railroad Tracks
- Gunsite 012 Remedial Action
- R Area Wireless Installation
- C Burning Rubble Pit Facility D&R
- PSA 3A/3B Well Installations and Chemical Injections Completion




K Area Cooling Tower Demolition


F Area Stack Height Reduction - 293-F


Lower Three Runs Characterization


Purex Final Shipment

Lab Accomplishes Significant Milestones with Recovery Act Funding

A transuranic waste shipment leaves Argonne National Laboratory, en route to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

ARGONNE, Ill. – The Recovery Act is critical to helping Argonne National Laboratory reduce the amount of radioactive material held on site, in some cases expediting the removal process by several years.

Since receiving $79 million in Recovery Act funds in 2009, Argonne has made swift progress in key areas, from reducing its inventory of nuclear waste to demolishing former reactor sites. The Recovery Act work has led the laboratory to meet important milestones and achieve other successes.

This year, the Lab completed one of its greatest efforts so far in reducing legacy waste. The Lab reclassified a key building after removing a significant amount of highly radioactive test material. Building 205, which was once used for fuel experiments, was reclassified from a "Nuclear Hazard Category 2" facility to a "radiological facility" after the removal of 36, 55-gallon drums of irradiated test material.

In October 2009, the laboratory accelerated its efforts to remove transuranic (TRU) waste, so called because it originates from elements heavier than uranium, as part of the Next Phase TRU Waste Campaign. The laboratory has so far shipped 53 drums of waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico since October 2009 using Recovery Act funds. The Lab expects to ship an additional 150 drums by the end of 2011.

The laboratory will remove nearly all irradiated fuel specimens at the Alpha Gamma Hot Cell Facility, a research site where tests on the fuel specimens occurred. The highly radioactive material will be shipped as waste to WIPP or to Idaho National Laboratory for additional processing. This material must be expertly packaged in custom-designed containers before it can be loaded into specialized shipping casks that provide safe transportation.

While these projects have helped the laboratory meet milestones, there have been many other successes.

The former site of Chicago Pile-5, a historic reactor, was demolished this summer. Workers restored the land to native vegetation.

Building 310 is in the final planning stages for full decontamination and demolition, thanks to Recovery Act funding. The building formerly supported experimental work and waste processing, including research on food irradiation. □

Workers load drums of transuranic waste into a custom-designed container to be transported to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico for disposal.

Idaho Cleanup Project Finishes Recovery Act Project to Protect Aquifer Early

Workers break ground on an $8.2 million Recovery Act project to grout buried waste, work that helps protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – The Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) has completed an $8.2 million Recovery Act project five weeks ahead of schedule that helps protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

ICP contractor, Hayward Baker, Inc., injected a cement-based grout into 21 buried waste locations at a radioactive waste landfill called the Subsurface Disposal Area (SDA) at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The grout inhibits rain and snow melt from infiltrating the contaminated waste produced during historical operations at INL.

"This is an example of how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is putting people to work and getting things done," DOE Idaho Federal Project Director Mark Arenaz said. "Everyone worked with an objective to complete the project on time and within budget, all the while making sure we did the job safely."

The grouting project, which was completed in late August, is part of work resulting from a 2008 Record of Decision signed by the DOE, EPA, and the State of Idaho to remediate the 97-acre SDA at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

Recent data shows Recovery Act funding at the Idaho site has accelerated:

- Demolition of 64 out of 87 facilities
- Processing of 99 of 150 containers of remote-handled transuranic waste
- Exhumation of 0.76* acres of targeted buried waste
- 22 of 88 shipments of remote-handled transuranic waste sent out of Idaho □

"This is an example of how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is putting people to work and getting things done."

DOE Idaho Federal Project Director Mark Arenaz

Recovery Act Projects at Los Alamos: Ahead of Schedule with Cost Savings

"We're getting more bang for the Recovery Act buck."

Bruce Schappell, executive director of the Recovery Act projects at Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area 21

Multiple Recovery Act projects are ahead of schedule at LANL, including the demolition of 24 buildings at Technical Area 21.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – Bruce Schappell is delighted to live a project director's dream. The work funded by $212 million in Recovery Act funds is ahead of schedule. Project costs are lower than expected, allowing for additional work, including the decontamination and demolition of additional buildings and the installation of another groundwater monitoring well.

"Our projects were ready to go when we received funding in July 2009, so it didn't take us long to ramp up," said Schappell, executive director of the Recovery Act projects at Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Technical Area 21. "In addition, we found cost savings, so we were able to increase the scope of work. In effect, we're getting more bang for the Recovery Act buck."

Efficient decontamination practices at Technical Area 21, a Manhattan Project and Cold War-era production site, allowed the team to increase the number of buildings to be decontaminated and demolished from 21 to 24. To date, 20 of 24 buildings have been demolished.

The initial scope of work also included drilling 16 groundwater monitoring wells, 15 of which are already complete. Buying materials in bulk and efficient scheduling, which resulted in lower mobilization costs, saved $3.15 million, or 7 percent of the overall $45 million budget. Those funds can now be used to drill another well and conduct a sampling study of three wells installed several years ago.

The expanded workscope resulting from the savings means more work for the hundreds of people that have already been compensated by Recovery Act funds, which is good news for them, their families, and the regional economy. The increased workscope also means additional environmental remediation, bringing the Lab closer to meeting requirements of the state's environment department.

"Recovery Act funding not only has allowed us to create jobs, but also to perform additional important remediation work through efficient practices," Schappell said. "It's been a win-win situation." □

Brookhaven Lab on Track to Complete Legacy Environmental Cleanup in 2011

UPTON, N.Y. – Nearly $71 million in Recovery Act funds are putting Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) on track to wrap up several legacy environmental cleanup projects at two research reactors by September 2011.

The completion of the Recovery Act projects at BNL will end all EM legacy cleanup activities at the Lab.

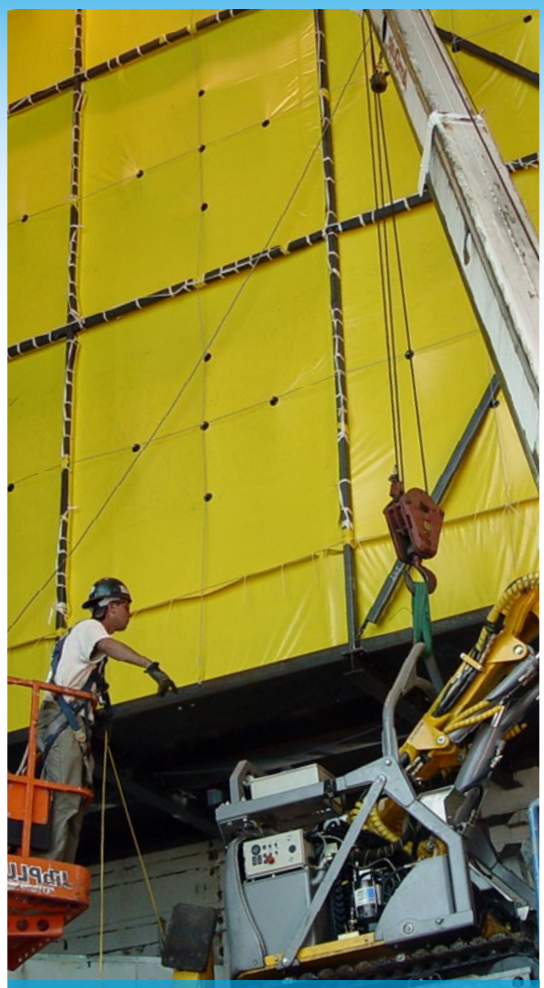
In the next year, BNL will complete work to decommission the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR), the world's first reactor built solely for peaceful research purposes. At the High Flux Beam Reactor (HRBR) complex, workers will demolish ancillary structures, remove contaminated utilities, and dismantle a 320-foot concrete stack that had served both reactors.

In the past year, BNL celebrated two significant Recovery Act milestones. At BGRR, workers completed the most difficult part of decommissioning: the safe removal of more than 700 tons of radioactive graphite from the reactor's core. Graphite blocks were loaded into "super sacks" made of heavy-duty material. Cranes transferred the sacks to about 250 steel shipping containers, which were shipped to the Nevada National Security Site for disposal.

With the graphite pile removed, BNL will dismantle a 4,760-ton shield made of concrete and steel that surrounded the pile. The project team also will install an impermeable cap to prevent moisture from entering the reactor building.

The second milestone occurred in August 2010 when BNL competed work allowing the HFBR to enter into a hibernation of up to 65 years, the period needed for radiation levels to naturally decay so the reactor can be demolished. The work included removing contaminated underground utilities.

In addition to accelerating environmental restoration projects, the infusion of Recovery Act funds has created jobs and supported small businesses. More than 180 people have been employed on BNL Recovery Act projects, and the Lab has awarded nearly $23 million in contracts to small businesses as of August 2010. □



A worker prepares a 4,760-ton shield that had surrounded a graphite pile at the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor for removal.

Steve McCarty - PADUCAH, KY.

The nation's troubled economy was taking a toll on Steve McCarty's small electrical contracting company.

As he faced the need to lay off his last remaining employee amid dwindling work opportunities, McCarty found himself on a path toward a promising future in Recovery Act work that began at a job fair.

There, he found immediate opportunities in a contractor's organization, and soon began work on one of three projects at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant funded by the Recovery Act. He also found a job for his remaining employee with a company not associated with the Recovery Act.

"The job fair came at just the right time," McCarty said. "This opportunity provided me much needed stability. I could provide for my family."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EM RECOVERY ACT WORK PLEASE VISIT:

http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery/

http://www.recovery.gov

http://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov

EMAIL ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO:

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