



EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Recovery Act Exceeds Major Cleanup Milestone, DOE Complex Now 74 Percent Remediated

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Office of Environmental Management’s (EM) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program recently achieved 74 percent footprint reduction, exceeding the originally established goal of 40 percent. EM has reduced its pre-Recovery Act footprint of 931 square miles, established in 2009, by 688 square miles. Reducing its contaminated footprint to 243 square miles has proven to be a monumental task, and a challenge the EM team was ready to take on from the beginning.

In 2009, EM identified a goal of 40 percent footprint reduction by September 2011 as its High Priority Performance Goal. EM achieved that goal in April 2011, five months ahead of schedule, and continues to achieve footprint reduction, primarily at Savannah River Site and Hanford. Once EM achieved the original target, new targets were set for the balance of fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013. These targets were surpassed and additional gains are not expected through the balance of the Recovery Act program.

“This milestone represents true success in our site cleanup mission and makes it possible for us to consider other uses for our site assets,” EM Recovery Act Program Director Thomas Johnson said. “The vast majority of our cleanup challenges have involved chemicals and radioactive contamination. This achievement indicates that vast areas of the EM sites can now support other beneficial uses.”

In recent years, largely due to Recovery Act funding, sites have made huge gains in a short time period to greatly accelerate the cleanup process across the DOE Complex. Cleaned up sites have met regulatory requirements and are now available for potential reuse by DOE or other entities. Significant soil and groundwater cleanup and facility decontamination and decommissioning was accomplished at the 18 sites that received Recovery Act funding. Below are a few highlights from the major contributing sites.

Savannah River Site

With over \$1.615 billion in Recovery Act funding, SRS reached a major milestone by remediating 85 percent of the site’s footprint. This success contributed greatly to the overall DOE national goal of 40 percent footprint reduction by cleaning up more than 260 square miles of the site’s 310 square miles.

- **D Area Closure** – Early remediation activities accelerated area cleanup by six years, reducing the site footprint by 10 percent (over 31 square miles).
- **M Area Completion** – Strategy integrated decommissioning and demolition with soil remediation to complete cleanup.
- **P and R Closure** – The 30-month effort to close the P and R nuclear reactors included grouting the facilities to ground level with approximately 254,000 cubic yards of concrete.



Workers prepare for roof installations on portions of the P Reactor at Savannah River Site that are expected to remain after facility decontamination and demolition efforts.

Hanford

In September 2011, Hanford workers wrapped up a record amount of cleanup work with the \$1.635 billion allocated to the DOE Richland Operations Office under the Recovery Act. In total, RL reduced its footprint by 423 square miles (72% of the 586 square mile starting point) by August 31, 2012.

- Tore down 67 buildings, remediated 73 waste sites, drilled 303 groundwater wells, and completed construction on two large-scale groundwater treatment systems.
- The Hanford Reach National Monument and Rattlesnake Mountain – Clean up of debris and buildings that remained from military use of these areas during World War II and the Cold War.
- Removed legacy waste and fuels from onsite inventory and underground storage.
- Constructed a network of wells, pipelines and treatment systems to expand and enhance groundwater treatment capabilities by millions of gallons per day.



Workers safely demolished a 175-foot-high exhaust stack at the Hanford Site

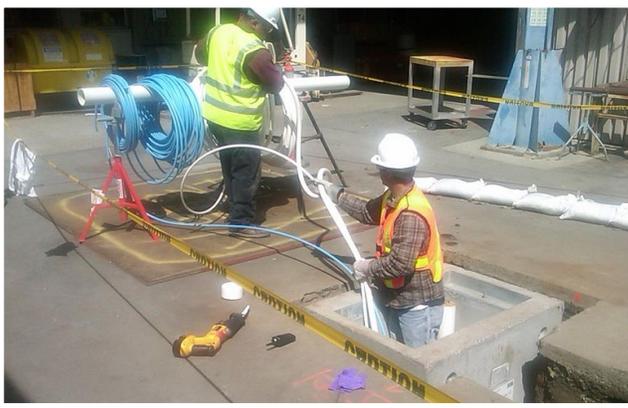
Portsmouth

The nearly \$120 million Recovery Act investment in the site completed the site's original Recovery Act scope ahead of schedule and under budget. About \$23 million in savings from that original scope was used for additional cleanup. Recovery Act reduced the site's footprint by more than 1.6 million square feet.

- Decommissioning of the Recirculating Cooling Water Complex, which included 58 cooling tower cells and a pump house.
- Decommissioning of the Switchyard, which included removal of asbestos-containing material, buildings, high-voltage transmission towers, switchyard equipment, and foundation and slabs.
- Decommissioning of the Chemical Engineering Building, which included removal of the building structure, a concrete slab, piping, and other utilities.
- Packaging, transport, and disposal of more than 1,300 tons of uranium material from the Uranium Management Center.
- Remediation of the Groundwater Contamination Plume. Workers blended contaminated soils with an oxidant to significantly reduce high concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE), which had been used as an industrial solvent at the site to degrease equipment.



Recovery Act workers demolished a cooling tower complex and nearby electrical switchyard that together spanned more than 40 acres on the northeastern portion of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.



In addition to removing contaminated soil and debris that was shipped to local disposal facilities, Recovery Act workers installed three new groundwater treatment systems.

SLAC, Mound, and Idaho

Many other sites contributed to the success of the Recovery Act's footprint reduction goal.

- **SLAC** – Invested \$14.3 million in the cleanup of nearly 35,000 cubic yards of soil and debris legacy waste and the construction of three groundwater extraction systems to remediate affected groundwater. Work included excavating soil and debris from about 10 acres of land that included a large former landfill and shipping the waste to local disposal facilities.
- **Mound** – Disposed nearly 20,000 cubic meters of soil and demolition debris in the cleanup, which focused on a former mixed-waste landfill. The Recovery Act cleanup was the final remediation project at Mound.
- **Idaho** – Demolished 81 of 89 structures and facilities, retrieved 1.76 acres of buried waste, and processed 118 of 150 containers of RH-TRU. Processing and shipping RH-TRU waste to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) was a key part of the Idaho Site's Recovery Act work and in keeping commitments with the state.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

WIPP received a total of \$172 million in funding from the Recovery Act. The goal was to accelerate TRU waste characterization at generator sites, and complete infrastructure enhancements and upgrades at the WIPP Site. Many of these upgrades included construction of water management structures and site access roads and the procurement of new equipment to replace existing aging equipment. Additionally, these funds resulted in the cleanup of eight small quantity sites ahead of what was originally scheduled. For more information on the success of WIPP's Recovery Act workers, visit <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/pr/nr.htm>.



New TRUPACT-III transportation packages funded by the Recovery Act.