



# AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

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## ARRA Continues to Put Your Money and Your Community to Work

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) continues to advance the President’s goals of stabilizing the U.S. economy and creating or retaining jobs for Americans. Its progress can be measured in dollars spent and opportunities created. The program has spent \$652,278,996 to date, creating or saving 12,760 jobs.

### Financial Progress and Accountability

Site	Spend Plan	Obligated to Contracts	Spent to Date
Argonne National Laboratory	\$98,500,000	\$79,000,000	\$2,431,705
Brookhaven National Laboratory	\$42,355,000	\$42,355,000	\$10,528,042
ETEC	\$54,175,000	\$54,162,338	\$272,879
Hanford (Office of River Protection)	\$326,035,000	\$326,035,000	\$28,362,639
Hanford (Richland)	\$1,634,500,000	\$1,634,500,000	\$160,298,029
Idaho	\$467,875,000	\$467,175,000	\$81,264,672
Los Alamos National Laboratory	\$211,775,000	\$211,775,000	\$6,062,988
Moab	\$108,350,000	\$108,350,000	\$6,450,149
Mound	\$19,700,000	\$19,700,000	\$0
Nevada Test Site	\$44,325,000	\$44,325,000	\$8,707,343
Oak Ridge	\$755,110,000	\$652,844,198	\$47,955,914
Paducah	\$78,800,000	\$78,800,000	\$1,733,074
Portsmouth	\$118,200,000	\$118,200,000	\$6,201,983
Savannah River	\$1,615,400,000	\$1,614,000,000	\$226,181,142
SLAC	\$7,925,000	\$7,925,000	\$1,326,399
SPRU	\$51,775,000	\$51,775,000	\$1,958,894
WIPP	\$172,375,000	\$172,375,000	\$20,491,698
West Valley	\$73,875,000	\$73,875,000	\$7,253,319
Title X Uranium/Thorium Reimbursements	\$68,950,000	\$32,270,555	\$31,870,555
OMB Q4 Unallocated	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0
Management & Oversight	\$30,000,000	\$10,899,734	\$2,927,571
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,000,000,000</b>	<b>\$5,800,341,825</b>	<b>\$652,278,995</b>

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## Hanford at Work

### New Hires

Under the Recovery Act, thousands of new employees have been hired at Hanford to help accelerate the cleanup efforts at the Site. At the T Plant, for instance, new nuclear chemical operators (NCOs), radiological control technicians, and others have joined CH2M HILL for waste drum repackaging. The new workers are a mix of individuals who have never done cleanup work and some veteran employees, like Mike Maffeo, who are back for a second go round.

“After a 17-year hiatus from Hanford, I am proud to be back here and to be an NCO again,” said Mike Maffeo, an NCO at T Plant. “Now I work at T Plant and feel like I was drafted by a winning team: All 11 of us new NCO’s have been welcomed onto the team and senior NCO’s go out of their way to assist in our ongoing training. Working at the mighty T Plant is great and it’s an opportunity that might not have come along without the Recovery Act funds.”

Levi Lindman, another recently trained NCO, managed a wholesale distribution warehouse that supplied construction materials for the Portland, Ore., area before he started work at Hanford. “As was the case with many places, things slowed way down around October of 2008. I had been thinking about pursuing a career in the energy field for some time prior to the recession. After the downturn, the decision to look for other work was clear,” Lindman said. “Now, at a time when many good, hard-working people are amongst the unemployed, I feel fortunate to have a job that not only pays well, but also offers good benefits. The training that my fellow new hires and I received has been excellent. We have been given a clear mission as to what kind of work we are expected to do, and I believe we will be given the tools to do it.”



Levi Lindman

The additional hiring and worker training programs funded under the Recovery Act are helping Hanford to accelerate the cleanup and waste repackaging activities at facilities like the T Plant, which will allow for faster shipment of waste off the Hanford Site.

## Washington Employment Security Commissioner Visits Hanford Site

In September, Karen Lee, Washington State Employment Security Commissioner, visited the Hanford Site for the first time and toured the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center. Her goal in coming to Hanford was to learn about the Site, but more specifically, what she can do at the state level to help find qualified workers to fill job openings. Lee met new ARRA hires at the training facility and made several stops around the Site to see environmental cleanup projects funded by the Recovery Act. Lee sits on Washington Governor Christine Gregoire's Executive Cabinet, and oversees the Employment Security Department for the Governor.



Left to Right: Front row Karen Lee and Randy Coleman (HAMMER Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) Training Coordinator); Middle row Bob Legard (HAMMER Central Washington Building and Construction Trades Training Director), Todd Dixon (Manager Columbia Work Source), Gary Karnofski (HAMMER Planning & Business Management Manager), Back row Rich Buel (DOE-Richland Operations Office) and Max Webb (Columbia Work Source)

## D&D of Hanford's 100 K Area in Full Swing

With the help of Recovery Act funding, DOE contractor CH2M HILL is demolishing a dozen structures, remediating nearly 50 waste sites, and removing thousands of tons of contaminated soil from the 100 K Area of the Hanford Site in Washington State.

Progress to date includes the removal of the K East Reactor basin and four gas storage tanks that were used to transfer or remove gasses, air or water to the reactor core or other systems. And most recently, a structure that was used to store radioactive control rod tips was demolished. Debris from the cleanup activities was sent to Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility for disposal. The work was accomplished with the help of over 130 new hires.



Removal of contaminated soil under the former location of the K East Reactor Basin  
This aerial shot (left) shows heavy equipment (right) excavating contaminated soil from a site next to the K East Reactor where a basin once stored 2,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive sludge.



The gas storage facility before and during demolition  
CH2M HILL completed demolition and disposal work on four tanks in just a few weeks with Recovery Act funds. Removing these structures is part of a larger effort to prepare for the disposition of two former nuclear reactors.

## Hanford's Disposal Facility "Ready to Serve"

To handle the growing volumes of contaminated soil and waste material being generated by environmental cleanup work at the Hanford Site, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) is being upgraded and expanded with the help of ARRA funding.

Several upgrades were completed in September and the facility declared it is "ready to serve" and take in materials from other projects across the Site.

The facility upgrades included:

- building a new container area where waste containers are staged before disposal
- building two new disposal ramps within the facility
- building a new scale to weigh incoming trucks and containers
- building new access roads for super dump trucks, or super dumps
- building a new access road into the facility to reroute heavy equipment flow for greater vehicle/pedestrian safety
- paving a second entrance to the facility to accommodate increased traffic

New equipment, including six trucks to haul an additional 150 25-ton-capacity waste containers, as well as two new bulldozers, has also been purchased.

The facility is now ready to accommodate an additional 160 containers per day. Additional ARRA-funded work is underway at ERDF, including construction of two new disposal cells, which will double the existing disposal capacity. That work is to be completed in late 2011.



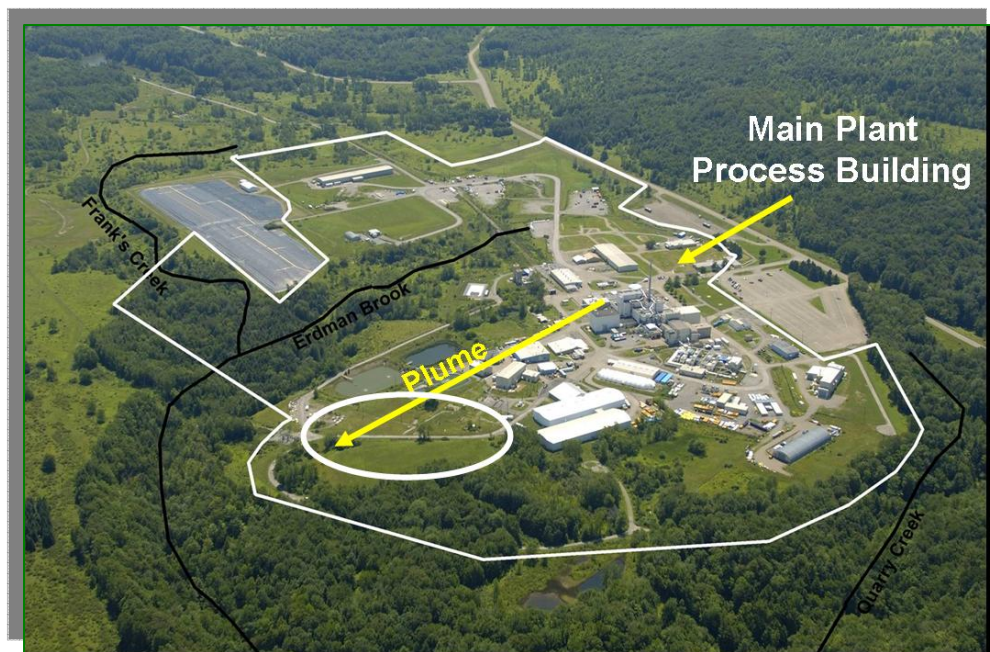
Members of the ERDF team who participated in making the facility "Ready to Serve" are pictured. The major upgrade was supported by workers from DOE, Washington Closure Hanford, Eberline Services Hanford, S.M. Stoller, DelHur Industries, American Electric and others.

## West Valley North Plateau Groundwater Plume Mitigation

A plume of groundwater contaminated with Strontium-90 (Sr-90) extends northeast from beneath the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) across the North Plateau at the West Valley site in New York. It is roughly 1,800 feet long and ranges from 300 to 600 feet wide. Although there are no known health or safety issues related to the plume, DOE decided to mitigate the spread of the contamination and was able to make use of an existing contract with West Valley Environmental Services (WVES) to design a permeable treatment wall (PTW) to curb the spread of the Sr-90 groundwater plume. Using Recovery Act funds, DOE directed WVES to proceed with installation of the PTW.

To prepare for installation of the PTW in 2010, the following activities have been completed or are in progress:

- Field characterization, during which more than 80 borings and microwells were installed.
- A laboratory testing program of naturally occurring ion-exchange materials, called zeolites, started at the University at Buffalo in February 2009. The goal of the program is to provide data on the zeolites' exchange capacities to use in modeling potential Sr-90 removal performance in the field.
- Evaluation is being done for a one-pass trenching technology that can dig trenches over 25 feet deep by three feet wide, and simultaneously fill the trench with the zeolite material.



The Main Plant Process Building that covers the North Plateau at the West Valley Site in New York.

## Idaho Cleanup Project's Accelerated Retrieval Project: Saving Jobs and Moving Forward Ahead of Schedule

Cleanup work funded by the Recovery Act is moving quickly as targeted waste is exhumed and repackaged at the Idaho Site's Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). The Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) III is 13 months ahead of schedule and has already saved 85 jobs.

The Idaho Cleanup Project contract for the Waste Area Group 7 Waste Exhumation Project includes five retrieval areas encompassing 2.55 acres of targeted waste exhumation. ARP I was completed in April 2008 with the safe exhumation of .50 acres. ARP II, completed in July 2009, involved the unearthing of .34 acres. This work completed the removal of high plutonium contaminated waste and volatile organic compounds.

The work covered by ARP III – the retrieval area that is 13 months ahead of schedule – includes exhuming waste from the eastern portion of Pit 6. This area contains some of the highest densities of radioactively-contaminated waste and solidified solvents at the Idaho site. By the time ARP III is complete in December 2009, an additional .37 acres of targeted waste will have been exhumed.

Building on lessons learned from ARP I and ARP II, ARP III includes enhanced safety systems, a larger service bay for equipment maintenance and an experienced workforce to increase productivity.

A new, specially modified loader was purchased for ARP III. The loader removes overburden – the soil covering buried waste – more efficiently, allowing waste retrieval to begin at the waste seam, and easing the way for efficient backfilling.

ARP III has faced challenges, but they were “nothing that an exceptional team couldn't overcome with a little ‘out of the box thinking,’” according to Hoss Brown, Buried Waste Senior Project Director.

In its entirety, Operable Unit 13/14 Record of Decision calls for targeted waste exhumation of 5.69 acres and the packaging of at least 7,485 cubic meters of targeted waste. The project involves the retrieval, identification, repackaging and shipment of targeted transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, NM. Other classes of targeted wastes will be sent to off-site treatment or disposal facilities.

Targeted waste includes process sludges, filters, graphites and oxidized (depleted) uranium. These materials originated at the Rocky Flats Plant near Denver, CO, and were packaged into shipment containers and sent to Idaho for disposal.



An excavator exhumes waste inside the retrieval area.

CWI workers sort through the exhumed waste.



## Safety First: Los Alamos Crews Prepare Buildings for Demolition

More than 20 unused buildings and structures are slated for demolition at the LANL's Technical Area 21 as part of projects funded by the ARRA. LANL crews took down one small structure, known as 21-370, on September 15, 2009. Each of the buildings and structures is undergoing thorough preparation to ensure worker and public safety during demolition. "These buildings have been unused for decades in some cases and we don't have good drawings [showing electrical lines or other design data]," said Gordon Dover, Deputy Director of LANL's Recovery Act cleanup projects. "We can't have a live wire. That's a safety risk to our people," Dover stated.

To prepare for demolition, crews will disconnect all utilities, such as electricity, gas and water; remove asbestos, lead paint or other wastes; and remove leftover equipment, machinery or piping.

When hazardous wastes are removed in advance, they can be segregated from the general building rubble. That means less waste volume going to specialized disposal areas and lower costs. Crews also recycle "clean" metal - metal that was never used in a radiological area - and salvage any usable equipment. "There's a nuclear industry-grade diesel backup generator in one of those buildings that's in great shape," Dover said.

LANL crews will do the early demolition. Then, crews from four small business subcontractors will perform the remaining phases of demolition. Subcontractors were pre-selected in August to bid for individual demolition tasks.

## Testimonials:

### SRS Recovery Act Liquid Waste Work Opens Door to Opportunity

"It was a leap of faith but it worked for me" said new SRS Recovery Act employee Heather Still in describing her role as an ARRA project employee at SRS. Concerned about a possible layoff from her previous job, Still accepted the Recovery Act position in human resources with Savannah River Remediation LLC (SRR), the liquid waste contractor for SRS, and started work on September 28, 2009.

A University of South Carolina, Aiken graduate in business management, Still sees her employment with SRR as a "great opportunity" to develop valuable job skills that are likely to lead to long-term career possibilities.

Still's position will require her to learn about the intricacies of DOE's project reporting requirements, particularly those relating to the administration of federal acquisition contracts. Among her first assigned responsibilities was assisting in the preparation of reports detailing SRR progress and accomplishments under the SRS Recovery Act Project.

A mother of two young children and an active community volunteer, Still praised her management team for providing this growth opportunity. "I've learned so much in such a short time" she said, adding the SRS Recovery Act position "is an opportunity I probably couldn't have found elsewhere."



Heather Still (standing) meets with SRR Recovery Act Project Human Resources Manager Machel Mims.



## Idaho: Greater Opportunities through Recovery Act Funding

A few months ago, Jake Maynard—born and raised in the Arco area—was working any side job he could find to make ends meet. When he wasn't on a job, most nights he could be found at the College of Idaho taking classes to become a licensed journeyman electrician. Outside of studying and working side jobs—welding and wiring pivots—he had little time for family and his financial outlook was grim. “I was making it by the skin of my teeth every month,” Maynard says. “A day here, a day there.”

All that changed on July 29, 2009, when Maynard was hired as a Hazard Reduction Technician laborer supporting the electricians on College of Idaho CWI's Decontaminating and Decommissioning (D&D) team. Maynard heard about the job opening from his sister, a Senior Radiological Technician at the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC), and applied through the company's Web site.

The ARRA has invested \$437 million into accelerating work at the Idaho Cleanup Project and about half of that will go to the D&D of 80-plus facilities and structures. This additional funding has created more than 250 jobs that impact the day-to-day lives of employees like Maynard. “Now the stress factor has decreased, just knowing I have a steady paycheck and that I can provide for my wife and two children with ease,” he says.

Maynard has already helped prepare facilities for D&D by providing assistance to the electricians in rerouting power at the Power Burst Facility and MFC. He says the work itself is satisfying, and welcomes the company's emphasis on safety 24/7 with a sense of relief. “I couldn't be happier with the safety culture here. I've *never* had an employer that put safety first. It's always been based on productivity concerns or convenience, but not here.”

Maynard credits three weeks of rigorous training with preparing him for the work at hand. Courses covering fall protection, personal protective equipment, excavation safety, hazard communication, hazardous waste operations and emergency response/ hazardous communication, and conduct of operations represent a small sampling of the curriculum Maynard tackled to be safe and ready for his new job.

He says the safety training “has definitely spilled over into my routine day outside of work. I find myself paying more attention to the small things, like being careful to not cut toward myself, or picking up my tools after a job.”

Even though he considers the training and work rewarding, Maynard feels the people are the most exciting part of his work day—hands down. “I'm meeting a lot of neat people—co-workers, the foreman and my supervisor. They've all been great to work with. I appreciate that everyone really looks out for everybody,” he says.

To Maynard, a huge benefit of his new job is more time at home with his family. He is still committed to his goal of becoming a licensed journeyman electrician. And as Maynard can tell you, the current path forward looks pretty bright.



Maynard looks on as he prepares for work.

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. Your feedback is welcomed.