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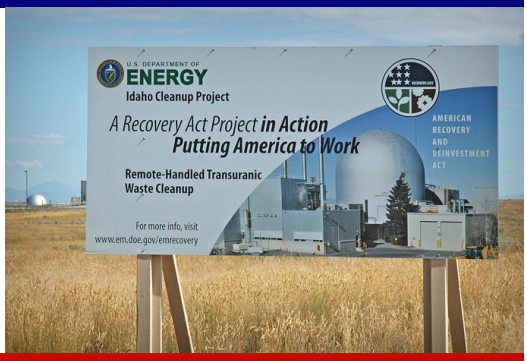


# AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

Issue 6
September 2009

## ARRA Progress: Continuing to Invest in the Future

Since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was enacted, the program has continued to progress to meet the President's goals to stabilize the U.S. economy and create or retain jobs for Americans. As the program closes on the 2009 fiscal year, its progress can be measured, literally, by job retention and sustainability.

### *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 | $54,175,000 | $285,541 |
| Hanford (Office of River Protection) | $326,035,000 | $326,035,000 | $28,359,395 |
| Hanford (Richland) | $1,634,500,000 | $1,634,500,000 | $160,353,179 |
| Idaho | $467,875,000 | $467,175,000 | $81,389,270 |
| Los Alamos National Laboratory | $211,775,000 | $211,775,000 | $6,062,988 |
| Moab | $108,350,000 | $108,350,000 | $12,460,397 |
| 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 | $50,216,610 |
| Paducah | $78,800,000 | $78,800,000 | $1,507,942 |
| Portsmouth | $118,200,000 | $118,200,000 | $10,399,142 |
| Savannah River | $1,615,400,000 | $1,615,400,000 | $226,383,778 |
| SLAC | $7,925,000 | $7,925,000 | $1,651,633 |
| SPRU | $51,775,000 | $51,775,000 | $4,339,002 |
| WIPP | $172,375,000 | $172,375,000 | $20,364,612 |
| 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 | $10,360,688 | $2,788,500 |
| **Total** | **$6,000,000,000** | **$5,801,215,441** | **$667,352,953** |

### IN THIS ISSUE

# *Making Progress in Job Creation*

**EM Job Applicants, Jobs Saved & Created, and Job Fairs**
**(October 8, 2009)**

| | Applicants | Saved | Created | Headcount | Job Fairs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argonne (IL) | 1,705 | 13 | 42 | 55 | 8 |
| Brookhaven (NY) | 39 | 30 | 95 | 125 | 0 |
| ETEC (CA) | 456 | 132 | 2 | 134 | 0 |
| Hanford-ORP (WA) | 12,452 | 0 | 581 | 581 | 12 |
| Hanford-Richland (WA) | 15,043 | 285 | 2,826 | 3,111 | 10 |
| Idaho (ID) | 5,672 | 1,229 | 332 | 1,561 | 9 |
| Los Alamos (NM) | 742 | 107 | 50 | 157 | 1 |
| Moab (UT) | 2,692 | 37 | 144 | 181 | 0 |
| Mound (OH) | 12 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 0 |
| Nevada (NV) | 27 | 307 | 34 | 341 | 0 |
| Oak Ridge (TN) | 9,661 | 277 | 1,270 | 1,547 | 8 |
| Paducah (KY) | 4,885 | 0 | 102 | 102 | 4 |
| Portsmouth (OH) | 3,033 | 36 | 79 | 115 | 3 |
| Savannah River (SC) | 15,210 | 798 | 1,357 | 2,155 | 6 |
| SLAC (CA) | 90 | 101 | 12 | 113 | 1 |
| SPRU (NY) | 40 | 52 | 38 | 90 | 0 |
| West Valley (NY) | 1,128 | 0 | 247 | 247 | 0 |
| WIPP (NM) | 79 | 37 | 213 | 250 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 72,966 | 3,469 | 7,426 | 10,895 | 62 |

## Portsmouth/Paducah

- Four events held in August for Portsmouth and Paducah sites
- Sites selected for accessibility to those in areas of high unemployment
- Marketed through electronic billboard, flyers, local websites, newspapers, radio, and television

## West Valley Demonstration Project

- Classroom training completed for the 49 new WVES employees hired under ARRA
- New hires brought diverse mix of skills and qualifications
- WVES developed systematic approach to assessing individual qualifications and tailoring training requirements to the individuals
- Site familiarization tours and on-the-job training were a big success

❖ *To date more than 10,895 jobs have been saved or created in 12 states with Recovery Act funding!* ❖

## *Making Progress in Getting Work Done*

### Nevada (Nevada Test Site)

- Initiated demolition of the movable shed and nuclear furnace piping at the Test Cell C Facility
- Completed drilling of the first groundwater well in Pahute Mesa
- Initiated characterization activities for two contaminated soil Corrective Action Units
- Initiated remediation activities at buried ordnance CAU 408

### Ohio (Mound)

- Field work on Operable Unit-1 to begin on or before October 1, 2009
- OU-1 Work Plan provided to the regulators

### Washington State (Richland)

## Washington State (Hanford-Office of River Protection)

- Meeting schedule milestones for Tank/Farm upgrades for Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant feed readiness including:
  - Electrical modifications in SY farm
  - Removal of the 242-T HEPA exhaust filters
  - Removal of the P-28 exhauster in SY Farm
  - Continued fabrication of split plugs for SP & SY farms

## New York (Separations Process Research Unit)

- Completed design and began construction of the evaporation pond
- Road installation completed in August 2009
- 6 intermodal containers of waste shipped in August
- Mobilization has begun for the North Field

## New Mexico (*Waste Isolation Pilot Plant)*

- Completed accepted knowledge review at Hanford to start visual examination activities
- Deployed non-destructive assay personnel at Hanford to prepare for certification
- Initiated remote-handled waste certification for disposal at ANL
- Started second shift at SRS for container characterization
- Performed design and survey work for the South Access Road reconstruction

## *Los Alamos National Laboratory*

- Initiated Material Disposal Area-B geo-probe data collection activities
- Resumed equipment removal and waste packaging activities at the Tritium Systems Test and Assembly facility
- Initiated Electrical Isolation Work in TSTA and Building 370

## Tennessee

## *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*

- Building 3026 Wooden Superstructure:
  - Continued preparation of waste profiles
  - Began exterior siding removal
  - Began clearing pipe and equipment from face of Cell Banks 1 & 2
  - Began construction of windbreaks for vent modifications
  - Stabilized off-gas piping with acrylic
  - Utility isolations being completed by UT-B

## *East Tennessee Technology Park*

- Building K-27 Pre-Demolition Activities
  - Began removal of wood/fence walls within the vaults
  - Continued removal of combustibles on the vault and cell floors
  - Conducted pre-bid walkdown for the Asbestos Abatement subcontract

## *EM Recovery Act Program has achieved approximately 136 percent of small business goals*

- EM prime contracting small business goal for FY 2009 was 4.8 percent
- EM Recovery Act program targeted more than 4.8 percent, or $288 million of the $6 billion in ARRA funds, for small business primes
- EM Recovery Act Program has obligated approximately $393M to Small Business prime contracts, representing approximately 136% of our goals.
- Each EM site is expected to meet or exceed EM's corporate small business goal and maximize small business prime and subcontracting opportunities

# Safety

## Safety: The #1 priority for all EM Recovery Act projects

- Fully implement DOE Order 413.3A
- Phased release of funding based on performance
  - Integrates project, contract and funds management
- Ensure projects stay on schedule and within cost
- Conduct regular reviews to track and monitor performance
- On-site Headquarters representatives will closely observe project performance
- Maintain regular communications with regulators, Tribal Nations and stakeholders
- External oversight reviews by the IG and GAO

## Safety On The Ground

- Essential activities to maintain a safe and secure posture in the EM complex
- Radioactive tank waste stabilization, treatment, and disposal
- Spent nuclear fuel storage, receipt, and disposition
- Special nuclear material consolidation, stabilization, and disposition
- High priority groundwater remediation
- Transuranic (TRU) and mixed/low-level waste disposition
- Soil and groundwater remediation
- Excess facilities deactivation and decommissioning (D&D)

## More on ARRA Progress

*• EM allocated more than 99 percent of ARRA funding to the sites performing the work within the first 6 months*

*• Modifications issued to 29 of 35 existing contracts covering ARRA work*

*• 3 additional new contracts pending*

*• Over 9,650 jobs created and preserved in 12 States*

*• Modifications issued to 29 of 35 existing contracts*

*• Balance of EM ARRA funding is planned for three new awards (~$150M)*

*• Nearly $5.9 billion obligated to contracts for EM Recovery projects*

*• Nearly $427 million spent on Recovery work*

*• Achieved 122 percent of EM small business contracting goal*

*• Monthly monitoring of project execution and performance*

*• Active engagement with stakeholders and regulators*

## Message from EM's Budget Officer:

## Debra Rucker

In February of this year, I came to EM to put my financial management knowledge and experience to use in a new role as a Project Manager for the Office of Small Sites. ARRA was signed into law during my first week on the job - offering an immediate and unique opportunity to serve as the Budget Officer on EM's Recovery Act Program Integrated Project Team. My primary responsibilities include serving as advisor to the RA Program Manager on all financial matters; developing budget guidance; monitoring/tracking funds execution; and serving as the liaison with EM sites, the DOE CFO, and OMB. The establishment and maintenance of financial control processes was a key element to ensuring compliance with appropriation restrictions and the authorizing language. Now that we're at the end of the initial fiscal year, much of my time is spent developing financial forecasts and initiating apportionment/allotment actions needed to successfully implement the program.

With the advent of the new fiscal year, I will remain engaged in variance analyses on planned versus actual execution of funds. Additionally, I expect to implement budget validation reviews at the sites as a means to document that EM's Recovery Act funds are being used for their intended purposes. The greater accountability and transparency of the $6 billion in RA funding appropriated to EM remains a challenge. The program has done well with its 98 percent obligation rate so we can expect continued scrutiny in our rate of expenditure. I look forward to representing the program in working groups to resolve cross-cutting financial management issues and problems. The Administration is clear in its expectation that every taxpayer dollar spent on economic recovery is accounted for and the associated financial records are transparent. My focus is to ensure EM can meet the challenge.

Debra Rucker
Budget Officer

## RA Funds Accelerate Cleanup at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP)

CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) is accelerating the cleanout of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) with the help of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. Recovery Act funds allowed CH2M to hire additional employees, which helped accelerate the decontamination and removal of equipment from the PFP facilities to support the Department of Energy's goal of cleaning out and demolishing the plant by 2013, three years earlier than the 2016 regulatory milestone.

Workers are cleaning out the largest of the PFP facilities, the 234-5Z building, containing three plutonium laboratories and multiple plutonium production lines. CH2M HILL has removed 14 glove boxes and laboratory hoods from the building. The plant is considered one of the most hazardous facilities on the Department of Energy's Hanford Site located in Southeast Washington State.

The pictures below display workers preparing to remove the large sealed containers once used to produce plutonium and handle plutonium production samples. Preparations include disconnecting laboratory hoods and glove boxes from electrical and mechanical systems, as well as deactivating fire detection and suppression systems.

## CH2M Hill Completes Demolition of 15 Above-Ground Tanks

With Recovery Act funding, the CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) finished demolishing and disposing of 15 large, above-ground tanks next to a chemical separations facility, known as U Canyon, on the Central Plateau of the Hanford Site in Washington State. During Hanford's production era (1940s to the 1980s), the tanks were used to store nitric acid and other chemicals generated during uranium recovery operations inside U Canyon and operations at PUREX, another large chemical separations facility at Hanford.

Demolitions of the tanks are part of the U-Plant Ancillary Facility Demolition Project, which also includes demolition of three processing and storage facilities that supported chemical processing. These ancillary facilities have been deactivated and certified as "cold and dark," with demolition expected to be finished in spring 2010. Removal of these tanks and ancillary facilities is a prerequisite to the demolition and final disposition of the U Canyon, the first of five former chemical separations plants to be remediated at Hanford. The project was not funded previously due to higher priority work elsewhere on the Hanford Site, but with the support of Recovery Act funds, CH2M HILL plans to have U Canyon ready for demolition by September 2011.

Before demolition: ten 100,000-gallon tanks and five 40,000-gallon tanks stood next to U Canyon, a former chemical separations plant at the Hanford Site in Washington State.

After demolition: Contractor CH2M HILL finished demolishing all 15 large tanks in July and disposed of the demolition debris in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility at the Hanford Site.

## Safely Disposed: Hanford Site Completes All Shipments of Backlogged Waste

At the Hanford Site in Washington State, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) completed all planned shipments of backlogged low-level waste scheduled for fiscal year 2009 using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The team is moving directly into their fiscal year 2010 Recovery Act work scope.

The shipments, completed July 9th, totaled 197m³ of low-level waste and included three legacy polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) transformers (38.7m³) along with 398 containers of backlog soils (158.4m³). The materials were shipped from the Hanford Site's Central Waste Complex (CWC) to Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility for disposal.

The transformers — from the 100K, 100N and 200 East Areas — have been stored at the CWC since the 1980s in large metal boxes that range in size and can be up to 10.5 feet long, 8 feet wide and 9 feet high. The transformers contain residual amounts of PCBs, therefore, the empty spaces within the boxes and the transformers are filled with grout before the boxes and their contents are disposed

Recovery Act funding provides the opportunity to finally disposition the waste, reducing the inventory of stored materials and reducing future storage costs.

Workers at CH2M HILL work to safely remove backlog low-level waste soils off the Hanford Site.

## Legacy Low-level Waste Oils Shipped Ahead of Schedule

The CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) has completed all six planned shipments of Legacy Low-Level Waste Oils to Perma-Fix Northwest in Richland, WA to be processed. The shipment, treatment and disposal of 486 drums (100 cubic meters by volume) of oils were scheduled for fiscal year 2010. Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, shipment of the waste offsite for treatment was completed ahead of schedule in fiscal year 2009. Shipments began in June and the last shipment was completed July 23rd. The treatment and disposal of these oils will remain on schedule for fiscal year 2010.

The waste resulted from the shutdown of Hanford's N Reactor and the oils had been stored at Hanford's Central Waste Complex since the early 1990s. CH2M HILL evaluated several different avenues for treatment of the oils and chose the method with the best overall final management of the waste as well as the best value to the Department of Energy (DOE). Perma-Fix has a contract with CH2M HILL to treat this type of waste. When the oils are destroyed in a Bulk Processing Unit at Perma-Fix, they contribute sufficient latent heat to allow the facility to use less energy when burning other waste. After the oils are processed, the waste residues will be repackaged and shipped back to Hanford for disposal in the Mixed Waste Disposal Units.

Legacy waste is waste that has been in storage for several years. This work reduces a significant portion of the backlog of legacy, low-level waste that had been building up at Hanford for several years.


Using Recovery Act funds, CH2M HILL completed all scheduled fiscal year 2010 shipments of Legacy Low Level Waste Oils that had been stored in Hanford's Central Waste Complex since the 1990s.


Recovery Act funds have allowed CH2M HILL to ship Legacy Low-Level Waste Oils from the Hanford Site's Central Waste Complex (above) to Perma-Fix Northwest in Richland, WA for processing, freeing up more room for solid waste that is being retrieved from burial grounds at the Hanford site.

## Idaho Cleanup Continues at ATR Complex

The Idaho Project continues safe environmental cleanup through decontamination and dismantlement work progression at the Advanced Test Reactor Complex. Recently, a massive track hoe with an attached hammer pulverized concrete and other material from the last of the south wing extension on laboratory facilities. The demolition was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, helping the Idaho Cleanup Project retain 16 jobs to complete the work.

# Moab Project Shipping Second Train of Mill Tailings Each Weekday Under Recovery Act

Using Recovery Act funds, the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project in Utah began a second train shipment each weekday. On August 17th, Remedial Action Contractor Energy*Solutions* began shipping 17 railcars, four containers per railcar, on each train and is gradually increasing that number to 34 railcars by mid-November. A nightshift was implemented to get the second train ready. "I am very impressed with the eagerness of the night crew workers and their understanding of the importance of getting the job done safely," said Federal Project Director Donald Metzler. As of mid-September, Recovery Act work has created or saved 167 jobs, which is more than the original estimate of 160.

The first train leaves the Moab site at about 2:30 p.m. and the second train leaves 12 hours later, at about 2:30 a.m. Construction of an underpass of State Route 279 began the week of September 14th and will be completed by mid-November. Permanent lighting fixtures are being installed to illuminate work areas and haul and access roads.

*A reach stacker lifts a container off a haul truck.*

In addition, the Moab Project is supplementing the 32.5-ton-capacity containers that carry the uranium mill tailings with 160 containers that hold 40 tons. "We knew we needed to more than double our original quantity of 3,000 tons shipped per trainload to meet our commitment of transporting an additional 2 million tons of tailings by the end of fiscal year 2011 under the Recovery Act," Metzler commented. As of mid-September, a total of about 65,500 tons of tailings has been shipped under Recovery Act.

## Testimonials

**Thomas Ellis:** Unemployed since the company he worked for filed for bankruptcy in October 2008, Thomas brings 15 years of experience as a certified asbestos supervisor to the WVDP. He also has HazMat supervisor experience. While he found learning the site's extensive list of acronyms "a bit overwhelming," Thomas was able to quickly put his experience to work removing asbestos material in the Main Plant Process Building as it is being prepared for demolition. Regarding the Recovery Act, Thomas says, "It's working. There are 47 people (in the field) who now have jobs. And that helps the local economy, too." Thomas notes that the economic benefits of the Recovery Act have a far-reaching positive impact on the communities where the newly-hired employees live. Vendors who are suppliers to the WVDP are also benefiting from increased subcontracting opportunities.


**Dusty O'Hara:** Dusty was a certified welder fabricator with extensive stainless steel welding experience when she started work at the WVDP on June 8, 2009. She had been placed on furlough in March 2009 by a local employer who was affected by the downturn in manufacturing. "My earliest call back date was January 2010. I just wanted to get back to work." Like Thomas, Dusty's skills are also being put to work in the Main Plant, where she is part of a dismantling and decontamination crew involved in size-reducing vessels and piping. Dusty has found the site's attention to safety to be extraordinary and especially values an individual's ability to stop work to address safety concerns.

**Steve Smith:** For the first time in his 35 years as a self-employed dairy farmer, Steve Smith faced serious profitability issues on the farm as a result of the 2009 economic recession. The amount of money he received for his raw milk was at its lowest point in years and the costs for fuel, seed, and fertilizer were through the roof. Keeping his family farm in operation was a losing proposition. "I'm thankful for this opportunity, even though it was a bold change…I sold my dairy cows and haven't looked back." Steve's experience with equipment operation and outdoor maintenance made him an excellent candidate for a position with a site operations crew. While Steve experienced culture shock in making the transition from crops and cows to classroom training, he has found that he really likes his new job.


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.