



EM RECOVERY NEWS

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT NEWSLETTER

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DOE-Savannah River's Assistant Manager for Closure Project Karen Guevara discusses the Savannah River Site Recovery Act Project at a meeting of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness.

Recovery Act Boosts Savannah River Site's Thriving Relationships in Community

AIKEN, S.C. – The Savannah River Site (SRS) is committed to performing the Cold War-era cleanup safely and with transparency. Oversight and direction provided by stakeholders is key to keeping American taxpayers informed of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act spending and progress as America works toward economic prosperity.

SRS's \$1.6 billion Recovery Act package invests in the workforce and area

businesses to complete important cleanup projects years ahead of original projections.

"We are pleased that the community is interested and supportive of our mission. The Recovery Act's benefits are far reaching and cover the cleanup of Cold War relics and legacy waste," said Jack Craig, DOE-Savannah River acting manager. "Now halfway through the Recovery

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Stakeholders Share in Rewards of Recovery Act

Unprecedented transparency is vital to the Office of Environmental Management (EM) as it works to complete \$6 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects.

The EM Recovery Act Program is steadfast in communicating to the public how Recovery Act funds are spent. EM is actively engaged with community groups, regulators, Tribal Nations, and other groups through regularly scheduled conference calls and meetings throughout the year to inform them on Recovery Act progress, answer questions, and obtain input.

In this 16th issue of *Recovery News*, we draw attention to the Recovery Act Program's benefits to stakeholders such as community groups, Tribal Nations, and regulators. Read about Joe Patti, a businessman in West Valley, N.Y, who talks about the positive impact of the Recovery Act work in his community. In Washington state, Recovery Act dollars are cleaning up a large stretch of land of historical significance to regional Tribal Nations. There's also a story about the Oak Ridge Office in Tennessee, and its work with regulators, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, which provide guidance to Recovery Act projects and participate in the

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Savannah River Site

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and sub-contractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: **\$1.6 billion**

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: **\$712 million**
(by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: **2,244 workers**
(April to June 2010)



Stakeholders Share in Rewards of Recovery Act



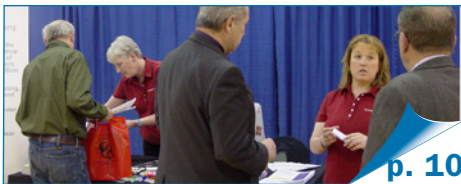
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Recovery Act Career Outreach Expands to Tribal Nations at Hanford Site



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Nevada Site Supports Complex-Wide Cleanup with Low-Level Waste Program

This 16th issue of *Recovery News* focuses on the Office of Environmental Management American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program's benefits to stakeholders such as community groups, as well as Tribal Nations and regulators. We highlight Savannah River Site's (SRS) work with community groups such as the Citizens Advisory Board, which provides advice to SRS on its cleanup. In another article, we provide a perspective on the Recovery Act's impact in West Valley, N.Y. In Washington state, we show how Recovery Act dollars are cleaning up a large stretch of land of historical significance to regional Tribal Nations. We also focus on the Oak Ridge Office in Tennessee, and its work with regulators.



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Act work, we have a strong history of support from the community.”

Citizen Advisory Board Provides Advice, Input

One of those community groups is the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), which was formed in 1994 to provide SRS and regulators advice on cleanup decisions and strategies. National and state agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control provide input and recommendations to CAB.

Comprised of 25 citizens from South Carolina and Georgia, CAB functions as a sounding board for the general public and brings citizens into the decision-making process through information exchanges and public workshops.

“We have committed to keep the public informed, and that promise is central to all that we do,” said Garry Flowers, president and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the SRS management and operating contractor. “We are fortunate to have organizations in place that help us disseminate information. The forums they provide are essential to moving many of our cleanup projects to closure.”

“What you are doing plays an important role in our nation’s future. You are doing it safely and you are on target.”

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, on the Savannah River Site cleanup



The Citizens Advisory Board provides SRS and regulators advice on cleanup decisions and strategies, based upon input and recommendations from national and state agencies.

Citizens Group Advises SRS

The 2,500-member Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is a non-profit, grassroots pro-nuclear organization. CNTA conducts educational programs to provide information about the benefits and risks of nuclear technologies and advocates specific new missions at SRS.

Dr. Clint Wolfe, CNTA’s executive director, cited a June breakfast meeting where SRS representatives updated about 120 community members on nearly 100 Recovery Act-funded projects at SRS.

“That was an opportunity for the community to hear about the size and magnitude of the project,” Wolfe said.

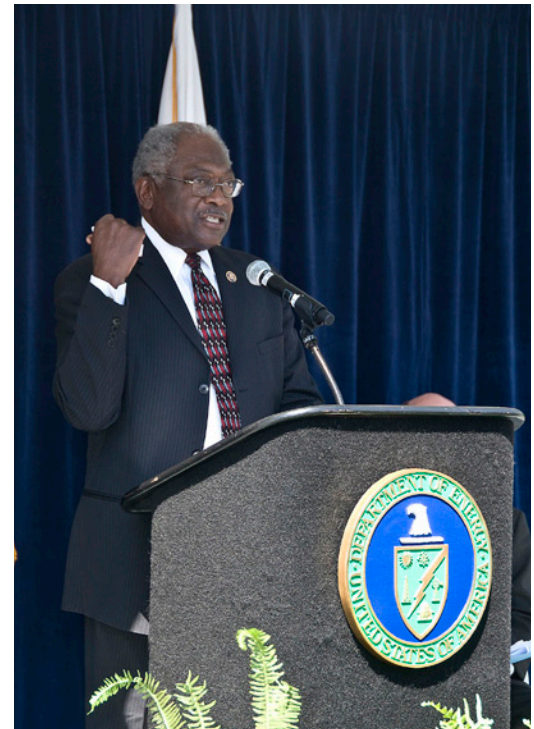
In addition, Wolfe was in a 40-member delegation that met with legislators and DOE officials in Washington D.C. earlier this year.

“We talked to EM, we talked to congressional leaders, we talked to (U.S.) Rep. Jim Clyburn,” Wolfe said.

Clyburn is a key stakeholder who stays keenly aware of Recovery Act progress at SRS.

“You are making a critical investment in our nation’s future by cleaning up some of the most hazardous materi-

als in the state,” the South Carolina lawmaker said in front of workers, stakeholders, community leaders, and elected officials at SRS in July. “What you are doing plays an important role in our nation’s future. You are doing it safely and you are on target.” □



U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina speaks at Savannah River Site.

Recovery Act Helps Clean Up Mountainside Reserve Significant to Tribal Nations

RICHLAND, Wash. – Recovery Act funds are contributing to the cleanup of an area of historical significance to regional Tribal Nations at the Hanford Site.

The Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve is a 120-square-mile area on the eastern flank of Rattlesnake Mountain. Over the years, the site supported various missions, including anti-aircraft defense for the U.S. Army, telephone and radio communications, and wildlife reserve and environmental research.

Cleanup of the reserve is a \$10.2 million Recovery Act project that will help preserve the site's cultural and biological resources and help DOE meet its goal of shrinking the cleanup footprint of the 586-square-mile Hanford Site by more than 40 percent in 2011.

Historical literature, oral narratives and archaeological sites suggest that the mountain has a cultural and sacred legacy for the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Wanapum band that dates back several thousand years. The reserve is also home to a native grassland ecosystem in a quantity and quality not found elsewhere in the Columbia Basin.

While the reserve has been closed to the public since the early 1940s, which helps preserve some of the area's sensitive resources, Recovery Act funding has allowed DOE to accelerate removal of manmade structures and debris from the mountain. Since early 2010, the DOE contractor responsible for the cleanup, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, has removed more than 31,000 square feet of facilities and 95 percent of debris piles located throughout the reserve. □



The Recovery Act funded the use of a helicopter to airlift an abandoned vehicle in July from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain. Airlifting was considered the safest way to remove the vehicle so workers didn't have to navigate the steep terrain and disturb native vegetation. The truck rolled from the top of the mountain in the 1970s, and was considered one of more than 200 debris piles located across the Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve.

Richland
Site

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and subcontractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: **\$1.6 billion**

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: **\$662 million**
(by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: **2,645 workers**
(April to June 2010)



A worker views video footage of storm sewers from cameras set up by cleanup crews to evaluate current conditions before excavating soil and replacing piping.

Recovery Act Funds Accelerate Regulatory Milestone Achievement in Oak Ridge

OAK RIDGE, T.N. – The Oak Ridge Office (ORO) works closely with state and federal regulators overseeing cleanup progress on Oak Ridge’s 34,000 acres. These regulators include the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), both of which provide guidance and help establish regulatory milestones for cleanup work performed at ORO.

Although much progress has been made, ORO’s Office of Environmental Management still has numerous cleanup projects to perform based on advanced technologies to treat, control, and dispose of radioactive waste, and the need to remove excess aging structures. To efficiently and safely accomplish this work, ORO works cooperatively with regulators to prioritize projects based on their environmental impact.

Through the Recovery Act, Oak Ridge and DOE sites around the country now have funds to accomplish key milestones assigned by regulators, and projects that ensure a safer, cleaner environment.

“With Recovery Act funds, ORO has been able to fast-track many cleanup projects important to regulators, including critical water and soil contamination concerns,” said ORO Assistant Manager for Environmental Management John Eschenberg.

Recovery Act funds allow ORO to accomplish many of the regulators’ key priorities by excavating contaminated soil and treating contaminated groundwater at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

The West End Mercury Area storm sewer cleanup project, Y-12’s greatest environmental concern, is a prime example. The Recovery Act accelerated this milestone project by providing \$8.3 million

Oak Ridge Site

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and subcontractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: \$755 million

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: \$255 million (by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: 1,860 workers (April to June 2010)

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Recovery Act Funds Protect Aquifer at Idaho Site, Benefiting Community

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – The Recovery Act is benefiting thousands of Eastern Idaho residents by helping protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer, their sole drinking water source.

Using \$8.2 million of its Recovery Act funds, the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) has begun fieldwork on grouting that will inhibit rain and snow melt from infiltrating buried waste.

In what's called the In Situ Grouting Project (ISG), grouting will be injected

into 21 buried waste locations to impede migration of contaminants underground. Through October, 2,168 injections of grout, which is a cement mix, will be completed.

The waste products targeted in the grouting effort are from reactor research and operation at the Idaho National Laboratory in the 1960s and 1970s. Waste includes glass and resins contaminated with mobile forms of technetium-99 and iodine-129.

Ultimately, an engineered barrier will be built over the entire project area to prevent infiltration. But with the end of buried waste retrieval operations years away, grout provides protection in the meantime.

The latest grouting project has been part of the cleanup plans since the 2008 Record of Decision was signed by DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Idaho. With the arrival of Recovery Act funding in April 2009, ISG's limited duration made it an ideal candidate for acceleration.

"This is the best possible near-term solution until we build the surface barrier," said Brandt Meagher, project manager of CH2M-WG Idaho, which manages the ICP. "Now, all the preparation's over. We've got a good crew and our focus for the next few months will be getting this work done and done safely." □

Idaho National Laboratory

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and sub-contractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: \$468 million

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: \$236 million (by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: 907 workers (April to June 2010)

Laney Callahan - ARGONNE, ILL.



Laney Callahan was five months pregnant when she was laid off last year; her former employer had strong ties to the auto industry and took a big hit when the economy faltered.

Callahan was worried about looking for a new job, afraid her noticeable belly would make her an unappealing candidate. In addition, the loss of her income put a strain on her family's finances at a time when her husband had started a new job in sales. He wasn't due for a full paycheck for months.

"We're a young couple," she said. "We have two kids. We just built a house. I wasn't planning on quitting the workforce."

The Recovery Act rescued Callahan. Hired by Argonne National Laboratory in January, she now works as a project specialist in waste removal.

"The people are friendly and the environment is beautiful," Callahan said. "I am really happy for the opportunity to work here." □



Recovery Act Cleanup in West Valley Community

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – The status of underground waste tanks and a contaminated groundwater plume — both a focus in Recovery Act work at West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) — have been of interest to the local community for several years.

Take Joe Patti, a longtime area resident, local business owner, and founding member of the West Valley Citizen Task Force.

He is happy nearly \$63 million in Recovery Act funds went to WVDP, which is using the money to increase deactivation and decontamination activities and accelerate waste processing activities.

“The added funding provided under the Recovery Act has effectively accelerated the environmental cleanup at West Valley,” Patti said.

About \$4 million in Recovery Act funds are being used to install a tank and vault drying system to evaporate remaining residual low-level radioactive liquids from the tanks, where high-level waste was removed in 2002.

“It’s another step in the right direction,” Patti said.

With \$6.5 million in Recovery Act funds, WVDP is installing an 850-foot-long trench this fall to prevent the spread of the contaminated groundwater plume, caused by a leak in a process pipe in a commercial facility that reprocessed spent nuclear fuel from 1966 to 1974.

Patti also believes the Recovery Act funds have been targeted to the right cleanup projects.

“The Recovery Act funds have been spent responsibly in areas that needed to be cleaned up and in areas that were ready to be cleaned up,” he said.

In addition, the Recovery Act has reinvigorated the local economy and increased local jobs, Patti said.

As owner of West Valley Hardware, Patti reported that he has experienced an increase of more than 50 percent in business volume. The increased activity at WVDP has had a direct positive impact on his business. □

Stakeholders Share in Rewards of Recovery Act...

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“The feedback I’ve gotten from the public over the last nine months is that thanks to Recovery Act funding, 200 people from the area now have jobs that allow them to support their families while protecting the well-being of millions of people who depend on water from the Colorado River.”

Bob Greenberg, co-chair of the Moab Mill Tailings Project Steering Committee, a committee independent of DOE that reports to Grand County, Utah, and which meets to discuss issues about the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project.

establishment of regulatory milestones for cleanup work. The Recovery Act Program has 46 accelerated compliance milestones, and 23 of them have been met already.

The collaborative nature of the Recovery Act Program is nothing new. Since its start in 1989, EM has partnered with numerous intergovernmental associations and other groups to reach out to affected states, Tribes, local governments, and community groups. This cooperation has provided EM with a sounding board to gauge new ideas and programs while ensuring EM’s work remains at its highest quality.

The partnerships will only continue to grow. On Nov. 8-10, EM site managers will participate in the annual Combined Intergovernmental Meeting in San Diego. The meeting is an opportunity for state, local, and Tribal groups to interact, while EM senior managers provide updates and engage in productive dialogue with the various organizations attending. □

West Valley

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and subcontractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: \$63 million

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: \$32 million (by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: 136 workers (April to June 2010)



Like a Good Neighbor, Lab Keeps Pueblos Informed on Recovery Act Work

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – Los Alamos National Laboratory strives to be a good neighbor to surrounding Tribes.

The Lab keeps local Tribes informed about Recovery Act activities. Eight northern pueblos, or Native American villages, are scattered throughout the mountains of northern New Mexico. Tribal officials are interested in waste transportation on local highways and in any other activity that may impact land surrounding the pueblos.

“We’ve been in close communication with the pueblos since before the project began,” said Bruce Schappell, director of the Lab’s Recovery Act projects.

“Our goal is to keep them well informed and to answer any questions they may have.”

Aided by the Lab’s Tribal Liaison, project staff have met regularly with environmental staff at local pueblos and conducted presentations for the Governors and Tribal Councils of local pueblos.

“We’ve met with the governor and Tribal Council of San Ildefonso Pueblo, whose land is just down the hill,” Schappell said. “As you might imagine, the Tribes are interested in our environmental cleanup efforts and the final disposition of the land.”

“ We do our best to be proactive with our Tribal neighbors.” ”

Bruce Schappell, director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Recovery Act projects

The project team made a commitment early on to communicate with Tribes and to coordinate waste shipments with the pueblos’ ceremonial or feast days to avoid increasing traffic. Tribes also receive weekly updates on waste shipments that are transported on roads that bisect the pueblos.

“Being a good neighbor means that you are proactive, responsive and keep people informed,” Schappell said. “We do our best to be proactive with our Tribal neighbors.” □

Los Alamos National Laboratory

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and sub-contractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: **\$212 million**

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: **\$105 million** (by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: **421 workers** (April to June 2010)

D.T. Luu – Richland, Wash.



The Recovery Act rescued D.T. Luu from a job search that carried on for more than a year. He was hired as one of 230 Recovery Act-funded nuclear chemical operators (NCOs) at the Hanford Site. Luu’s new schedule is more desirable than that of his previous job.

“I will no longer have to work on a rotating shift, which allows me more time with my growing family,” Luu said.

His family is expecting its second child later this year.

Luu will work on the transuranic waste retrieval project, a Recovery Act-funded effort that is helping remove transuranic waste from the Hanford Site.

NCOs are trained in a range of areas including waste management, radiological controls, occupational safety, as well as forklift, crane and rigging operations.

“I was looking for new career opportunities and extensive training like the position provides,” Luu said. □



Savannah River Site's Regulatory Partnerships Recovery Act Success

AIKEN, S.C. – The Savannah River Site (SRS) works as a team with regulators to ensure successful cleanup in Recovery Act projects.

Each project has a core team comprised of U.S. Department of Energy counterparts, representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Atlanta and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) in Columbia, S.C., and project leaders with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the management and operations contractor at SRS,

according to Chris Bergren, an SRNS project manager.

“Together, the team makes decisions real time,” Bergren said. “We look at it holistically instead of piecemeal. It is much more cost-effective and it allows us to determine upfront what the end state will be.”

Precedent-setting projects, such as the P and R Reactor deactivation and decommissioning, are benefiting from this approach. Recovery Act funds are being used to close these Cold War relics.

“A core team from the EPA, DOE, and SCDHEC meet regularly to review progress of P-Area closure. It is anticipated that decommissioning of the facility will be completed in 2011, five years ahead of schedule,” Bergren said. The closure plan for R Reactor parallels P Reactor, except that it will be complete six years ahead of schedule.

Savannah River Remediation LLC (SRR), the SRS liquid waste contractor, also has a close working relationship with regulators, enabling smooth and efficient progress.

At SRR, Recovery Act activity is focused on accelerating salt and sludge waste processing and infrastructure improvements to support waste tank closure. SRR's commitment to close 22 liquid waste tanks in eight years also relies on trusted working relationships with regulators such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, EPA and SCDHEC.

SRS representatives and regulatory staff members convene inclusive, early discussions known as scoping meetings to clearly define the expectations and end states. This process is now used elsewhere in the DOE complex.

Ginger Dickert, SRR manager of closure and waste disposal, said the keys to regulatory success in closing radioactive liquid waste tanks at SRS are obtaining early and inclusive input, recognizing the responsibilities of all parties involved, and ensuring that the interests and expectations of all are fully considered.

“Decisions protective of human health and the environment can be made more

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“ Communication with regulators allowed SRS to make prudent decisions that benefited overall projects. ”

DOE-Savannah River Acting Manager Jack Craig

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded Accelerated EM Cleanup

JAN. President Obama Inaugurated

FEB. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enacted funding accelerated cleanup

MAR. First Oak Ridge remote-handled transuranic waste shipment to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

APR. First Savannah River remote-handled transuranic waste shipment to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

MAY Oak Ridge Y-12 National Security Complex kicks off Recovery Act work with worker safety briefings

JUNE The first Recovery Act shipment of radioactive waste off-site at Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge

JULY Los Alamos remote-handled transuranic waste cleanup completed

AUGUST The 1000th worker hired at the Savannah River Site Recovery Act Project



CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company hosted a job fair in April for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

the future,” said CH2M HILL Human Resource Specialist Jamie Hafer.

Hafer helped organize two of the events, which welcomed other Hanford contractors. As a member of the Tribal Subcommittee, she works to create awareness not only of job opportunities but also safety measures that are taken to protect workers on the Hanford Site.

Since Recovery Act funding was awarded in 2009, CH2M HILL has participated in 15 job fairs and received more than 21,700 resumes and applications from people interested in joining the workforce to accelerate cleanup efforts at the Hanford Site. □

Recovery Act Career Outreach Expands to Tribal Nations at Hanford Site

RICHLAND, Wash. – DOE contractors are increasing efforts to share career development and Recovery Act hiring opportunities with Tribal Nations local to the Hanford Site.

Since late 2009, human resources representatives with DOE contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) have participated in three career and informational workshops for the Nez Perce, Confederated Tribes of

Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Yakama Nation Tribes. The workshops are part of CH2M HILL’s efforts to establish a workforce to put its \$1.3 billion Recovery Act contract to work accelerating cleanup and demolition at the Hanford Site.

“These events allow us to reach out into the local Tribes to share information about the work we’re doing and how they can become involved now and in

“ These events allow us to reach out into the local Tribes to share information about the work we’re doing and how they can become involved now and in the future. ”

CH2M Hill Human Resource Specialist Jamie Hafer

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded Accelerated EM Cleanup





Recovery Act-Funded Decontamination Trailers Improve Safety at Hanford Tank Farms

RICHLAND, Wash. – About \$1.3 million in Recovery Act funds are being used at Hanford to purchase four new, mobile decontamination trailers that will greatly improve worker safety in the tank farms.

The trailers house heated showers and eyewash stations and will be placed near job sites where workers might be exposed to liquid waste or corrosive chemicals.

The trailers are a direct response to employee safety concerns. An accident prevention task team listened to employee concerns over several months and recommended that new equipment be purchased to better respond to incidents involving corrosive chemicals and radioactive contamination.

The units being replaced are riddled with potential problems.

The money used to purchase the trailers is part of the Office of River Protection’s allocated \$326 million in Recovery Act funds. □

Recovery Act Funds Increase Tank Storage Space at Hanford

RICHLAND, Wash. – Construction crews recently completed work on six of Hanford’s underground waste storage tanks that will lead to an increase in the operating level of the tanks by about 100,000 gallons each. The project was paid with \$736,000 in Recovery Act funding.

The increase in tank space allows for additional retrieval and storage of waste from the single-shell tanks until it can be sent to the Waste Treatment Plant, which is under construction at Hanford.

The project faced several challenges, including high radiological and contamination risks. Because of those risks, it was decided that mock-up demonstration training was needed to minimize the threat to workers.

“Getting this job safely completed in the field was truly a team effort,” said Project Manager Todd Erickson. □

Office of River Protection

FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and sub-contractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED: \$326 million

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: \$126 million (by August 2010)

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: 479 workers (April to June 2010)

Doug Stevens - Moab, Utah



Moab native Doug Stevens was one of more than 200 employees hired with Recovery Act funding for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project.

Infused with \$108 million in Recovery Act funds, the Moab Project has accelerated shipments of mill tailings from a former uranium-ore processing site in Moab to a nearby disposal site.

Previously a mechanic at a local construction company, Stevens is glad he joined the Project. He appreciates the quality of the management.

“This project is important because we’re cleaning up a watershed (the Colorado River) in the western United States. The Recovery Act funding not only gave a ‘shot in the arm’ to the local economy, but it is helping a real industry,” Stevens said.



Nevada Site Supports Complex-Wide Cleanup with Low-Level Waste Program



The Nevada National Security Site, formerly the Nevada Test Site, receives waste from Recovery Act waste generator sites shown here

NNSS remediation projects and other generator sites that strive to reach their cleanup goals faster work closely with National Security Technologies (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for NNSS, to ensure shipping and disposal processes run as efficiently as possible. NNSS has made several logistical improvements, according to NSTec Radioactive Waste Program Manager John Wrapp.

Those improvements include opening a new trailer drop staging area to optimize use of shipping companies and disposal operations resources at the Area 5 RWMS. A new access point into the RWMS was added to handle increased waste volumes.

The generator sites are making provisions as well, including scheduling shipments so that loads are distributed evenly throughout the week.

A major efficiency in the workforce was achieved at NNSS by redirecting five employees from projects that were concluding on the NNSS to support disposal operations at the Area 5 RWMS during the heavy shipping campaign. These laborers and technical staff will be reassigned to other NNSS activities once the increased need at Area 5 is diminished. □

LAS VEGAS – Low-level radioactive waste disposal at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), formerly the Nevada Test Site, has gone into high gear as a result of Recovery Act funding.

Recovery Act funding has sparked an acceleration of cleanup work throughout the DOE complex. In turn, there's been a need to expand waste disposal capabilities at the NNSS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS).

Recovery Act funds account for nearly half of the \$22 million needed to operate the Area 5 RWMS this fiscal year.

NNSS disposal operations ramped up to allow for up to 318,000 cubic feet of low-level and mixed low-level waste per month at the Area 5 RWMS. Monthly volumes have gone up as much as 90 percent over the normal monthly volumes, which on average are 100,000 cubic feet. The waste originates from

sites conducting remediation work, including NNSS.

Waste generated by remediation activities funded by the Recovery Act at NNSS and other DOE locations makes up “more than 60 percent of the total volume disposed this fiscal year,” according to Federal Sub-Project Director Jhon Carilli.

As of the end of July 2010, more than 1.8 million cubic feet of Recovery Act waste has been accepted at NNSS. The Recovery Act forecast calls for NNSS to accept 2.23 million cubic feet of waste this fiscal year.

Nevada National Security Site
FederalReporting.gov lists full-time equivalent employees, which include prime contractors and subcontractors.

RECOVERY ACT FUNDS BUDGETED:	\$44 million
RECOVERY ACT FUNDS SPENT: (by August 2010)	\$29 million
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES: (April to June 2010)	144 workers



New Waste Monitoring Equipment for Hanford Tanks Paid With Recovery Act Funds

RICHLAND, Wash. – Workers have successfully installed a corrosion probe into another one of Hanford’s double-shell tanks, an upgrade important to monitoring waste chemistry and potentially reducing the cost of treating tank waste. The new probe was built, assembled and installed with \$736,000 in funds provided by the Recovery Act.

The probe, a 50-foot-long piece of monitoring equipment installed in the tank, provides confidence that Hanford’s double-shell tanks can safely store high-level radioactive waste during the time it is waiting to be processed for disposal.

The probe provides a real-time measurement of the impact of waste on the integrity of the tank. Sensors installed at various points along the probe help measure chemical makeup of the waste and simulate the expected corrosion rate of the tank wall.

It’s the second Recovery Act-funded corrosion probe installed this summer. □

Recovery Act Funds Accelerate...

Continued from page 5

to modernize and upgrade the storm sewers, which will help prevent off-site mercury transport. Video inspection of the storm sewers is complete, and operations are underway to remove contaminated soils, clean and reline 12,000 linear feet of piping, replace catch basins, and treat contaminated water. □

“With Recovery Act funds, ORO has been able to fast-track many cleanup projects important to regulators, including critical water and soil contamination concerns.”

ORO Assistant Manager for Environmental Management John Eschenberg

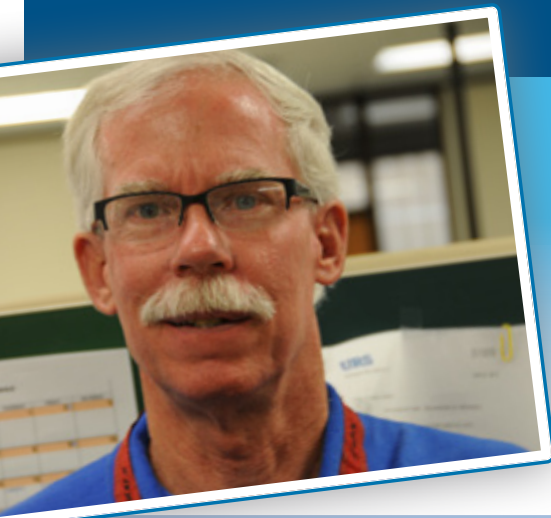
Savannah River Site’s...

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quickly and cost-effectively for the mutual benefit of all involved,” Dickert said.

DOE-Savannah River Acting Manager Jack Craig said effective teams can streamline the most daunting projects, and productive relationships with regulators help.

“Communication with regulators allowed SRS to make prudent decisions that benefited overall projects,” Craig said. □



Tom Duffin - Carlsbad, N.M.

The Recovery Act has brought a new beginning to Tom Duffin, who retired as Carlsbad’s fire chief in 1999.

Duffin was hired as a senior training coordinator at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and travels throughout the U.S. to train emergency responders along existing and planned routes for transuranic waste shipments headed to WIPP.

The WIPP site, a deep geologic repository mined in salt, is the final disposal destination for transuranic waste that resulted from past U.S. defense activities. The Recovery Act has accelerated waste cleanup activities and increased characterization of transuranic waste to be sent to WIPP.

**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:

EMRecoveryActProgram@em.doe.gov

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (EM)



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