EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Recovery Act Changes Hanford Skyline with Explosive Demolitions

RICHLAND, Wash. – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers at the Hanford Site recently used explosives to demolish industrial structures that supported plutonium processing for national defense. The explosive demolitions took down two 250-foot-tall exhaust chimneys, two 90-foot-fall air filter structures, and a 140-foot-tall water tower. The water tower was marked by a "Work Safely" motto that greeted workers. "Given the sheer height of the structures, explosive demolition was selected as the safer method of demolition," said Kurt Kehler, vice president and decommissioning and demolition project manager of CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, DOE's contractor at the Hanford Site. The structures supported the 284 West Power House, which was built in 1943 as part of the Manhattan project. The power house operations ended in 1992. The demolitions were funded by a portion of the $1.6 billion the Richland Operations Office received from the Recovery Act.

The support facilities and stacks of the 284 West Power House at the Hanford Site were taken down using explosives during demolition work on Feb. 18, 2011.

"The 284 West demolition went off exactly as planned -- we couldn't ask for a better result. Not only was the work completed safely, but it allows us to move forward with traditional demolition on the main power house building."

Al Farabee, DOE's Federal Project Director for Hanford's 200 Area Remediation Project

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