EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Recovery Act Funds are Helping Oak Ridge's Building K-33 Disappear Fast

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers in Oak Ridge are working safely and quickly to complete the demolition of Building K-33, a 1.4 million-square-foot former gaseous diffusion plant in the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).

Diligent work from LATA-Sharp Remediation Services employees is creating remarkable results — a 1.4 percent reduction in the superstructure's footprint per day. Workers already have removed more than 85 percent of the building. Structural demolition is on track for completion in May, four months ahead of schedule.

"This is a pivotal project because it brings us significantly closer to our goal of converting ETTP for beneficial reuse," said John Eschenberg, acting deputy manager and assistant manager for Environmental Management at the Oak Ridge Office. "With the removal of K-33, the Environmental Management division will have removed 60 percent the ETTP's overall footprint to date, or 3.51 million square feet."

Recovery Act workers are resizing and compacting K-33 demolition debris so it can be hauled to an onsite landfill for permanent disposal. That work is progressing at approximately half the pace of demolition and also will be completed well ahead of schedule. More than 30 trucks were recently added to the hauling fleet to accelerate waste disposition.

The K-33 demolition project is being funded by a portion of the $755 million Oak Ridge's Environmental Management division received from the Recovery Act.

K-33 operated from 1954 to 1985 and was one of five gaseous diffusion plants within the Manhattan Project and Cold War-era uranium enrichment production complex at Oak Ridge.

Building K-33 is shown before demolition work (top photo) and during demolition activities (second photo from top).

Second photo from bottom, debris from demolition of Building K-33 is shown here.

Bottom photo, workers conduct demolition activities at Building K-33.