EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

March 24, 2011

Hanford's Recovery Act Payments Jump Past $1 Billion

RICHLAND, WASH. – The Richland Operations Office's (RL) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act payments at Hanford recently surpassed $1 billion.

RL was allocated $1.63 billion from the Recovery Act in 2009 in order to create jobs and reduce the footprint of active cleanup at Hanford. In key Recovery Act accomplishments, RL:

- Reduced Hanford's cleanup footprint by a total of 143 square miles by removing more than 20 facilities and hundreds of debris sites on the Hanford Reach National Monument, a 300-square mile area around Hanford formerly used for military activity and research.
- Demolished 56 facilities, which reduces surveillance and maintenance costs.
- Completed expansion of Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) ahead of schedule and under budget, increasing its capacity to treat and dispose additional low-level waste by 5.6 million tons.
- Safely removed more than 100 large pieces of nuclear materials processing equipment, called glove boxes, from the site's highest-hazard facility, the Plutonium Finishing Plant, to prepare the plant for demolition.
- Removed security barriers and downgraded security at the Plutonium Finishing Plant. Workers removed more than 1000 feet of security infrastructure in less than a year. The barriers and security were no longer needed after workers removed the last of special nuclear material from the plant in 2009.
- Cleared 125 pieces of major equipment from the deck of U Canyon, a former chemical separations plant, and demolished 53,190 square feet of contaminated support facilities.
- Installed 295 wells to monitor and remediate contaminated groundwater.
- Completed construction of a treatment facility that removes contamination in the groundwater next to the Columbia River, which runs through Hanford. The new 100-DX pump-and-treat system adds 20 million gallons per month of groundwater treatment capacity, increasing the capacity of groundwater treatment across the site to approximately 80 million gallons per month.
- Began construction of Hanford's largest facility for treating contamination in the groundwater, with construction scheduled to be completed in 2011.
- Repackaged more than 600 cubic meters of transuranic (TRU) waste for certification for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant; and completed 150 shipments of TRU waste since March 2010.

The Richland Operations Office's Recovery Act payments are part of the overall Recovery Act payments made by the DOE Office of Environmental Management Recovery Act Program, which now total more than $4 billion.

Top: Recovery Act workers load debris for removal from the North Slope at the Hanford Reach National Monument.

Middle: A Recovery Act worker prepares a tank for the 200 West Groundwater Treatment Facility.

Bottom: One of five sections of a 70-foot-long conveyor glove box in Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant is prepared to be loaded into a standard waste box for shipment and offsite disposal as transuranic waste.