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Media Contacts
Geoff Tyree, DOE
(509) 376-4171, geoff_tyree@rl.gov

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2008 MARKED BY SUBSTANTIAL CLEANUP PROGRESS AT HANFORD

Richland Operations Office recaps completion of key work

RICHLAND, WA - The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office and contractors CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, Fluor Hanford, and Washington Closure Hanford made significant progress in 2008 toward achieving the DOE's 2015 Vision for safely cleaning up the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

Key accomplishments announced in 2008 include the following:

Activities supporting cleanup near the Columbia River (Hanford's River Corridor)

- Eliminated one of the primary threats to the Columbia River by consolidating all of the estimated 40 cubic yards (30 cubic meters) of radioactive sludge from the floors of the K Basins into engineered containers in the K West Basin.
- Drained the leak-prone K East Basin—located 400 yards away from the Columbia River, removing approximately one million gallons of contaminated water.
- Completed the demolition of the K East Basin superstructure in preparation for removing the basin itself in 2009.
- Accelerated the cleanup of groundwater along the Columbia River by expanding a system for treating chromium contamination near Hanford's K East Reactor.
- Injected vegetable oil into an area of contaminated groundwater near the Columbia River, to test the effectiveness of stimulating microbes in the soil to convert hazardous chromium to a non-toxic form.

- Completed the first-ever cleanup of large-scale burial grounds and meeting an important TPA milestone for cleanup near the Columbia River at Hanford's 100-B/C Area. Workers removed more than 600,000 tons of contaminated material as they excavated, backfilled, and re-vegetated 39 waste sites and burial grounds.
- Met another TPA milestone by excavating 408,000 tons of contaminated soil from more than 30 waste sites at the 100-F Area, near the Columbia River.
- Met a TPA milestone early by starting cleanup work in a key area next to the Columbia River three months ahead of schedule. The burial grounds and waste sites are contaminated with various materials related to H Reactor operations and contain an estimated 276,000 tons of waste.
- Initiated cleanup of what's thought to be the first waste burial ground (known as 618-1) in Hanford's 300 Area, located near the city of Richland, Wash., and the Columbia River.
- Demolished nearly 30 buildings in both the 100 and 300 Areas of the River Corridor.
- Completed cleanup of a waste site containing World War II-era unexploded ordinance.
- Completed five-year checkups on two of Hanford's nine former production reactors, confirming that the F and C Reactors suffered no deterioration and continue to meet the requirements of interim safe storage.
- Disposed of nearly 700,000 tons of contaminated building debris and soil in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).
- Began the third expansion of ERDF. When construction is completed, the facility will have a disposal capacity of 11 million tons of contaminated waste.

Activities supporting cleanup in the center of the Site (Hanford's Central Plateau)

- Retrieved radioactive, solid waste from trenches on Hanford's Central Plateau ahead of schedule for the fifth year in a row.
- Continued shipments of leftover plutonium to the Savannah River Site, S.C., with more than half of the material shipped to date.
- Made 50 shipments of solid, radioactive waste (transuranic) to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.
- Committed to cleaning up one of the most problematic areas of groundwater contamination on the Central Plateau and building one of the largest groundwater

treatment systems at Hanford, by signing a Record of Decision with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Other accomplishments

- Established a site-wide safety program, known as lockout/tagout, for preventing workers from coming in contact with hazardous energy.
- Maintained an excellent safety rate of 0.65 recordable injuries per 100 workers for the year (statistics current as of Dec. 1, 2008).
- Exceeded goals for subcontracting work to small businesses. Prime contractors Fluor Hanford and Washington Closure Hanford both exceeded goals for subcontracting to small businesses in fiscal year 2008 (calendar year statistics are not yet available), representing a combined total of $209 million worth of work subcontracted to small businesses during the fiscal year.

The Department of Energy's 2015 Vision for Hanford calls for focusing available Richland Operations Office funding on cleanup along the Columbia River, as well as key projects in the center of the 586-square-mile site. Completing the cleanup activities by 2015 will protect the Columbia River, shrink the active area of Hanford cleanup to 75 square miles, significantly reduce infrastructure costs, and minimize damage to natural resources.

The 586-square-mile Hanford Site is located in southeastern Washington State. Hanford produced nearly two-thirds of the country's plutonium for national defense during the Cold War and is now the site of one of the world's largest environmental cleanup projects. To date, workers have removed more than 95 percent of the radioactivity from areas along the Columbia River, cleaned up half of the more than 800 waste sites along the river, placed five of nine former production reactors into an interim safe storage (cocooned) state, and pumped and treated more than 3.6 billion gallons of contaminated groundwater.

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