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DOE

## **ERDF OPENING CLOSES REMEDIATION CYCLE AT HANFORD**

Four years ahead of its original timeline, and \$80 million below the fiscal year (FY) 1994 baseline schedule, Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) is officially open for business as the permanent disposal site for waste generated during Hanford cleanup.

"The opening of the ERDF closes the circle on Hanford's remediation cycle," said John D. Wagoner, DOE Richland Operations Office Manager. "We now have a safe, cost-effective, regulator-approved facility to put cleanup-generated materials. Full-scale cleanup can now push ahead."

Over two million cubic-yards of dirt were excavated to form the first two cells of the disposal basin, which measures 1,000-feet long, 500-feet wide, and 70-feet deep. The first two completed cells can safely hold 1.2 million cubic yards of material, enough to require 32 U.S. Capitol Domes, The Empire State Building, or 95 Goodyear Blimps. The Bechtel Hanford, Inc.-led Environmental Restoration Contract (ERC) team manages the project for DOE.

"This facility is a leading example in the DOE complex of environmental management work that is being done faster, smarter and with greater cost efficiency," said Linda McClain, DOE Assistant Manager for Environmental Restoration. "The collaboration between the Hanford project team, our regulators, and the Hanford Advisory Board is what has made this so successful."

"We reviewed the need for ERDF and clearly determined that in order to have cleanup along the river, a new disposal facility would be needed," said Marilyn Reeves, Hanford Advisory Board Chair. "The Board was able to impact the size and location of the facility, but most importantly, our advice was 'you need it, so go out and do it,' and they did."

There are several successes against which ERDF can be measured:

- Disposal costs at ERDF will be among the lowest in the nation. Estimated costs, including transportation and related overhead costs will be approximately \$60 per cubic yard. Similar facilities are charging anywhere from \$200 up to \$1,500 per cubic yard for disposal costs only.
- The ERDF will open up three months ahead of the FY 1995 baseline schedule, and four years ahead of the FY 1994 baseline schedule. Final construction costs of the facility are estimated to be \$45 million, some \$20 million less than estimated in FY 1995.
- DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Washington Department of Ecology, worked cooperatively to expedite ERDF's regulatory approval. By incorporating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), TPA Agencies shortened the regulatory process -- in turn accelerating project completion.
- The ERDF is built like similar commercial landfill operations. Operations and transportation contracts for the facility were issued on a (low bid) fixed price basis.

"We've achieved dramatic efficiencies at ERDF by bringing the best available commercial practices to Hanford, bidding out construction work with subcontractors and paying strict attention to our cost and schedule limits," said Vern Dronen, ERC manager of Remedial Action and Waste Disposal Projects. "The bottom line is a safe and efficient project that is reducing the cost of cleanup to the American taxpayer."

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