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BECHTEL HANFORD, INC. RECEIVES \$10.8 MILLION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION WORK AT HANFORD

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) has awarded Bechtel Hanford Inc. (BHI) for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 environmental restoration work at Hanford. DOE-RL Manager Keith A. Klein challenged BHI to deliver more near-term, highly visible results the public can see and measure. BHI responded to these challenges by concentrating its site work on restoring the Columbia River corridor.

"Bechtel and its subcontractors have achieved some of the most visible cleanup progress at Hanford to date," said Klein. "In addition to the effective relationships they have established with craft workers, regulators, stakeholders, and regional Tribal Nations, the BHI team continues to demonstrate safety, teamwork, and consistency in their projects at Hanford."

A few highlights of FY 2000 are:

- BHI completed 42 waste sites and moved 639,000 tons of contaminated soil and material to the Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility (ERDF) as part of the Remedial Action and Waste Disposal project. BHI completed a Tri-Party Agreement milestone with the expansion of ERDF cells #3 and #4. In addition, BHI effectively reduced the costs of hauling in clean backfill and eliminated the cost of disposal of the rubble by using clean rubble to backfill excavated areas. The General Accounting Office sited ERDF as the lowest cost disposal facility in the DOE complex.
- In decontamination and decommissioning, BHI accomplished visible work on Interim Safe Storage of the F and DR Reactors and the first full-scale decontamination of a surplus plutonium processing facility, 233-S. Work is 75 percent complete at F Reactor and 80 percent complete at DR Reactor.
- Throughout its second year, the Groundwater/Vadose Zone project continued to engage

technical experts, stakeholders, and Tribal Nations and focus science and technology on Hanford cleanup. BHI made significant progress in coordination of assessment technologies, planning, and researching long-term solutions for groundwater management. In addition, BHI instituted the In-Situ REDOX Manipulation technology to treat groundwater contamination in place, which is proving to be less expensive than conventional pump and treat methodology.

- BHI continued to manage many retired facilities and structures on the site by providing surveillance, maintenance, and preparation work for decontamination and decommissioning. BHI continued investigating the Canyon Disposal Initiative and completed the necessary characterization and concrete coring at the U Plant Canyon Facility. The Canyon Disposal Initiative is an alternative that could reduce cleanup costs by more than \$1 billion by using surplus facilities for waste disposal.

Also notable during the year was BHI's responsiveness to the 618-11 Burial Ground monitoring results, its active participation in archaeological excavations with Native Americans, and the development of a valuable wetland habitat. In addition to other community outreach activities, BHI helped develop of the Family Fishing Pond in Kennewick.

BHI has been Hanford's Environmental Restoration Contractor since 1993.

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Historical Note: The U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office manages the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. Hanford was established during World War II as part of the top secret Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Weapons material production was halted in the late 1980s. The Hanford Site is now engaged in the world's largest cleanup effort to deal with the legacy of radioactive and hazardous wastes that resulted from the plutonium production era. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology regulate Hanford's cleanup program under a long-term compliance contract called the Tri-Party Agreement. This agreement sets the framework and timelines on the cleanup work so that Hanford meets environmental standards. Hanford cleanup is focused on three outcomes: restoring the Columbia River Corridor for other uses, transitioning the Central Plateau to long term waste treatment and storage, and preparing for the future.

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