



WRPS has perfect safety record for Recovery Act work

Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) achieved a perfect safety record conducting its Recovery Act (RA) work in fiscal year 2009, with no worker injuries recorded. And, despite hiring several hundred new employees and subcontract workers for RA work, WRPS overall achieved a substantial reduction in worker injuries during its first year at Hanford.

WRPS excelled in two key OSHA rating categories. The company achieved a 48-percent reduction in the rate of worker injuries serious enough to require a doctor's care since taking over Hanford's tank farm operations on Oct. 1, 2008, compared to the previous year. WRPS also had 68 percent fewer worker injuries that resulted in days off work, restricted work activities or transfer to other job duties compared to FY 2008.

WRPS implemented a comprehensive Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) in the past year that was recently certified by the Department of Energy (DOE) as meeting contractual requirements. The certification followed a comprehensive two-week DOE assessment that included more than 120 work observations, over 300 employee interviews and over 640 document reviews. The team reported no major concerns.

WRPS is now taking the next step in improving its safety culture by pursuing a DOE Voluntary Protection Program "star" rating for the entire company. To achieve the star rating a contractor must demonstrate excellence in management leadership, employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.

Recovery Act funds used to remove old exhauster

Workers safely removed an obsolete portable exhauster from a Hanford tank farm that was used as a backup to ventilate underground waste tanks. Removal of the exhauster eliminated congestion in the farm and reduced worker exposure to asbestos and other contaminants.

After removal, the exhauster was loaded into a bag-lined burial box and shipped offsite for processing prior to permanent disposal.



Workers load the P-28 Exhauster into a bag-lined burial box before sealing it for treatment and permanent disposal.

RECOVERY ACT SUMMARY

- EXTENDING LIFE OF OPERATING FACILITIES
- UPGRADING TANK FARM INFRASTRUCTURE
- PREPARING FOR WASTE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATION

RA Funding	\$322.6M
Spent to Date	\$29.1M

Recovery Act proposal gets stamp of approval

The WRPS Recovery Act Program team finalized a contract modification on Oct. 1 based on cost and fee proposals delivered in July to the DOE Office of River Protection. The contract modification addresses the technical strategy, approach and proposed budget for more than two dozen RA projects.

As of Oct. 31, WRPS has been awarded more than \$322M in RA funding. Of that, the scope, cost and schedule have been approved for \$300M in projects to upgrade the tank farms, extend the life of operating facilities and prepare for operation of the Waste Treatment Plant.

Batch transfer demo looks for consistent waste delivery to WTP

A batch transfer demonstration that simulates the transfer of tank waste to the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) is under way at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). The purpose of the project, which is funded by the Recovery Act, is determining how consistent the solid-waste content is in the batches delivered to the WTP Pretreatment Facility.

The high-level waste in Hanford's tanks is primarily contained in the solids, with the WTP Pretreatment Facility separating the high-level solids from the liquid low-activity waste. Accurately characterizing tanks and delivering feed with the same amount of solid waste in the batches makes for more efficient WTP operations by minimizing operational adjustments and reduces the overall mission length.

The batch transfer demonstration was carried out in a test tank that is a 1/22nd scale model of tank AY-102, one of up to 15 double-shell tanks that will feed waste to the vitrification plant.

242-A Evaporator upgrades extend life of facility

Decontaminating the condenser room at the 242-A Evaporator is one of several Recovery Act-funded upgrades that will increase efficiency and improve the life span of the facility. The condenser room is the operating heart of the evaporator, containing instruments and transmitters that monitor the processing of high-level radioactive waste.

Work crews are also rebuilding the facility's raw water system that processes 2,500 gallons of water per minute to cool equipment and condense the water vapors during waste processing.

The 242-A Evaporator is critical to the safe and timely cleanup of the Hanford site. The evaporator creates storage space in double-shell tanks by removing water and concentrating the liquid waste, making it possible to empty the waste from Hanford's aging single-shell tanks.

Since it began operating in 1977, the 242-A Evaporator has reduced the total volume of waste in Hanford's tanks by about 67 million gallons, helping avoid the high cost of building new double-shell tanks.



Out with the old to make room for the new



A bulldozer at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) pushes an old mobile office building over the edge and into the pit for burial. Money provided by the Recovery Act was used to demolish old trailers and replace them with modern office facilities.

For more information, contact us at:
WRPS External Affairs, 509-376-5665, and visit us at: <http://www.hanford.gov> or <http://www.wrpstoc.com>