



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

**Richland Operations
Office**

Backgrounder

Contact:

Geoff Tyree, DOE
(509) 376-4171, Geoff_Tyree@rl.gov

Backgrounder on Recovery Act Jobs Created at Hanford

The Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors are tracking jobs created by Recovery Act funding at the Hanford site in more than one way. In an effort to be transparent and open with the public, this backgrounder explains how job creation is being tracked and reported on both the [recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) and Hanford websites (www.hanford.gov/recovery).

Background

The Hanford Site received \$1.961 billion in Recovery Act funding in 2009, and DOE prime contractors started spending that funding in April—hiring employees and placing funding on existing subcontracts or issuing new subcontracts for work. Cleanup work is already underway. The funding is accelerating cleanup work and creating new jobs, jobs that would not have been created were it not for Recovery Act funding. A fact sheet that describes the types of cleanup projects that are being funded is available on the Hanford website (<http://bit.ly/vs6rO>). Recent briefings describing the types of cleanup projects funded are also posted on www.hanford.gov/recovery.

Current Statistics

Another fact sheet posted on the Hanford website provides up-to-date information on funding spent and jobs created (<http://bit.ly/eQTTW>). DOE projects that by Sept. 30, 2011, Recovery Act funding will have created 4,600 jobs (full-time equivalent) to support accelerated cleanup at the Hanford Site.

Questions and Answers

- Q. Where is information on job creation being posted?
- A. Three prime contractors at Hanford are receiving Recovery Act funding and are reporting job creation figures on [recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov). DOE is also posting job creation figures on the Hanford website (www.hanford.gov/recovery). Those contractors are CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC), Washington Closure Hanford, and Washington River Protection Solutions.
- Q. How were the job creation figures on [recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) calculated by DOE's contractors?
- A. The figures reported on [recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) represent the hours worked by prime contractor employees only, converted to a full-time equivalent number of jobs. CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company reported 621 jobs, Washington Closure Hanford reported 36.4 jobs, and Washington River Protection Solutions reported 200.2 jobs created as of Sept. 30, 2009.

Q. How were the job creation figures posted on www.hanford.gov/recovery calculated?

A. Two figures are provided. One figure is “Lives Touched,” which includes the total number of people who ever had a job at least partially funded by the Recovery Act. As of Sept. 30, CH2M HILL reported 4,091 Lives Touched, Washington Closure Hanford reported 300 Lives Touched, and Washington River Protection Solutions reported 772 Lives Touched.

The other figure provided is full-time equivalents (FTEs), which converts the cumulative hours worked to an estimated number of jobs if all were full-time and completely funded by the Recovery Act. As of Sept. 30, CH2M HILL reported 2,025 FTEs, Washington Closure Hanford reported 75 FTEs, and Washington River Protection Solutions reported 287 FTEs.

The Lives Touched and FTEs figures posted on www.hanford.gov/recovery also include a calculation of jobs created based on subcontracts that CH2M HILL, Washington Closure Hanford, and Washington River Protection Solutions have placed with other companies to provide goods and services.

Q. Why is there a difference between the job creation figures posted on recovery.gov and www.hanford.gov/recovery?

A. They are counting different things. In addition to reporting prime contractor hires on recovery.gov, DOE has asked its contractor companies to track job creation in ways that capture how work is done at the Hanford Site. Hanford cleanup contractor companies are made up of the prime contractor and teaming contractors (also referred to as pre-selected subcontractors). Both the prime contractors and teaming companies also issue subcontracts for goods and services. Often, employees hired on subcontracts are working side-by-side with prime contractor and teaming contractor employees on cleanup projects, though that is not always the case. The job creation figures on www.hanford.gov/recovery (both Lives Touched and FTEs) include jobs created by the prime contractors, their teaming companies, and the jobs created through subcontracting for goods and services.

The job creation figures on recovery.gov only include direct hires by the prime contractors.

Q. Which job creation number is the right one to use?

A. All of the job creation figures on recovery.gov and the Hanford website were reported in compliance with federal requirements and are correct, but they are counting different things. If you want to state the number of people that were hired directly by the prime contractors, but not necessarily all of the people working at Hanford or in other locations to support Hanford cleanup, use the number reported on recovery.gov. If you use that figure, you will not be including teaming contractor employees that have traditionally been included in Hanford employment figures provided by the DOE and its prime contractors to the media and the general public. If you want to state the total number of jobs that have been created by Recovery Act funding at Hanford (i.e., how many people are supporting the cleanup projects, both at Hanford and from other locations), use either the Lives Touched or the FTEs number posted on www.hanford.gov/recovery.

###