



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 13, 2009

WRPS Completes Removal of Waste Transfer Lines in Two Hanford Tank Farms

Hanford, Washington –U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) has met its commitment to remove eleven waste transfer lines from two Hanford tank farms by Sept. 30.

WRPS is the prime contractor to the DOE ORP and is responsible for reducing the risk to the environment posed by 53 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste stored in 177 underground tanks.

The flexible “hose-in-hose” transfer lines, so named because they are an environmentally compliant double-wall hose designed specifically for use at Hanford, were used to transfer liquid waste from aging single-shell tanks to safer double-shell tanks.

“These lines served a valuable role in helping ORP further its mission to remove Hanford’s tank waste,” said ORP Assistant Manager for Tank Farms Stacy Charboneau. “Removal of these lines allows workers to focus on retrieving the sludge-like waste remaining in the single-shell tanks without these obstacles and interferences.”

The first six hoses, most of which were in an area known as the U Tank Farm located near the center of the 586 square-mile Hanford Site, were left over from the interim stabilization program that removed pumpable liquids from the aging single-shell tanks and transferred it to newer, safer double-shell tanks. The interim stabilization campaign ended several years ago but the hoses were never removed. The remaining five hoses were in C Farm and were used for the transfer of waste solids from single-shell tanks to nearby double-shell tanks.

“Removal of the expired lines from U Farm was a commitment we made to ORP and to the Washington State Department of Ecology when WRPS assumed the tank operations contract,” said Scott Sax, WRPS project operations manager. “WRPS was fortunate to realize cost savings during the U-Farm removals, receive additional funding in the FY09 Omnibus Funding Bill, and apply that to also remove the lines from C Farm. Our people did an outstanding job removing these lines quickly and safely,” Sax said.

When in use, the lines are normally buried in shallow trenches, and are then covered with shielding to protect workers from excessive radiation doses. In some places the lines are above ground and shielded with specially-designed covers. When the lines are no longer needed they are flushed with water to remove contaminants and disconnected from the tanks. Their

insulation is then removed, the ends are capped and the hoses are placed in waste containers for final disposal.

Recent changes in the acceptance criteria allowed WRPS to dispose of nine of the lines at Hanford's Environmental Remediation Disposal Facility (ERDF) at a significant cost savings. "By shipping these lines directly to ERDF we avoided the cost of size reduction and repackaging. We also avoided the risk of additional radiation doses, not only to our people but to others who may have to handle them, and we avoided having to move the hoses on public roads, further reducing the risk of exposure," said Scott Saunders, WRPS Retrieval Technology and Systems Planning Manager. Two of the eleven lines did not meet the ERDF criteria and were shipped to an off-site vendor for treatment prior to being returned to the site for disposal.

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ORP 10-001