



## Stimulus spending ‘right on track’ at Hanford tank farms

With many key Recovery Act (ARRA) accomplishments already under its belt, the U.S. Dept. of Energy’s Office of River Protection (ORP) and contractor Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS) are busy at work on more than 100 projects planned for completion by the end of September 2011. Those projects include plans to upgrade the infrastructure of the tank farms and improve essential nuclear operating facilities that support ORP’s long-term mission of safe, permanent waste disposal.

“The ORP Recovery Act program is right on track,” Recovery Act Federal Project Director Tom Fletcher said. “We are creating new jobs, upgrading mission-critical infrastructure and accelerating the important work we have to do here. Over the long haul, completing our work earlier will save taxpayers millions of dollars – doing cleanup at today’s prices instead of tomorrow’s.”

Though the end of fiscal year 2010 (FY10), WRPS spent more than \$165 million of its \$326 million in budgeted ARRA funds to complete projects that support ORP’s mission of waste vitrification, a process

that converts liquid waste into solid glass. The waste is then isolated for thousands of years while its radioactivity decays.

ARRA accomplishments include the construction of an interim moisture barrier over the top of one of the tank farms, increased tank storage capacity and improved tank monitoring systems. Workers also have upgraded electrical systems and waste transfer lines, replaced old valves and filters, and decontaminated operating facilities.

The Recovery Act also provides funding to establish the infrastructure needed to send high-level waste to the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) for processing and storage. That facility is currently under construction at Hanford.



ARRA funding has also made a significant impact on the local economy, with WRPS expanding existing subcontracts and issuing new ones. Through the end of FY10, WRPS awarded 677 ARRA contracts with a combined value of more than \$120 million, with small businesses receiving 73 percent of those contracts.

### RECOVERY ACT SUMMARY

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

<b>RA Funding</b> <b>\$322.6M</b>	<b>Spent to Date</b> <b>\$175M</b> <small>as of 10/31/10</small>	<b>Jobs Created</b> <b>580 FTE</b> <small>4th Quarter FY10</small>
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## **Out with the old, in with the new** *Recovery Act funding replaces aging waste transfer lines at Hanford*

Workers have cut and removed the first two of eight aging waste transfer lines from one of Hanford's tank farms. Crews will replace the old lines with new ones, which will carry waste from underground storage tanks to the new Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) currently under construction. The project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Over the course of the project, crews will extract more than 700 linear feet of pipe. The lines being removed will be cut into segments, placed into containers and sent to a nearby disposal site for burial. The old transfer lines will then be replaced with new or refurbished lines.

The new lines are necessary to safely transfer waste during retrieval, blending, and delivery operations. The ARRA-funded project supports the long-term mission of the tank farms by accelerating essential upgrades needed to prepare the farms for delivery of waste to the WTP. The project is slated for completion in August 2011.



## **Extreme Makeover: Tank Farm Edition** *Recovery Act funding is changing the face of Hanford's tank farms*

ABC's Ty Pennington wasn't there to host the unveiling and the crowd gathered didn't shout, "Move that bus!" Still, the recent renovations at Hanford's 222-S Laboratory are no less exciting and significant than any Extreme Makeover episode. With the completion of a host of projects funded by more than \$15 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money, lab employees recently paused to celebrate the accomplishments.

"There are so many improvements to this facility that have taken place over the past year," said 222-S Laboratory Manager Duane Renberger at a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the lab. "Not a single lab employee can say they haven't been affected by one of the many upgrades completed."

An additional \$17 million in ARRA funding will be used in fiscal year 2011 (FY11) to tackle additional upgrades at the 222-S Laboratory, a full-service, analytical facility that routinely handles samples of highly radioactive tank waste. The lab plays an essential role in tank-waste retrieval efforts and preparations now being made to deliver waste to the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) under construction at Hanford.

Recent changes include the addition of new analytical equipment, a climate-controlled storage facility, energy-efficient lighting and more office space. Plans for FY11 include converting the heating system from steam to an environmentally friendly electric system, purchasing additional analytical equipment and replacing aging buildings with new facilities.



## **Recovery Act funding provides a solid footing for Hanford storage building**

Workers have placed concrete footings for a new 10,000-square-foot storage facility being built in Hanford's 200 East area. The storage area will help consolidate materials stored in other site facilities, providing a safer and more efficient distribution system to support Hanford maintenance and operations activities. The Recovery Act-funded project is slated for completion in January.



For more information, contact us at:

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