



WRPS hosts Recovery Act workshop in Washington, D.C.

Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), along with parent company URS and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hosted the second American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Information Exchange on April 27-28 in Washington, D.C. Nearly 200 DOE officials and contractor personnel attended the event that focused on cleanup progress and acceleration.

"A decade from now we are going to be evaluated on whether we left a lasting legacy, whether we took, in this case, the \$6 billion from the Recovery Act and actually accelerated the rate of cleanup," said Matt Rogers, a DOE ARRA senior official.

The summit was organized as an opportunity for DOE Environmental Management (EM) officials and contractor management to present updates on Recovery Act projects underway, communicate successes and best practices related to those projects, and discuss actions needed to prepare for the future transition of the ARRA workforce upon completion of the ARRA initiative.

"This conference is valuable because we're able to collect lessons learned and share positive examples of how the Recovery Act is affecting

communities across the nation," said Karen Vacca, WRPS ARRA Program manager. "This is an opportunity where we can come together and discuss best practices to make sure we're utilizing ARRA money to the maximum and getting the most benefit from it."

As a prime contractor to the Office of River Protection, WRPS is using nearly \$323 million in ARRA funding to upgrade Hanford's tank farm infrastructure, extend the life of critical nuclear facilities, and prepare waste to be transferred to the Waste Treatment Plant once it becomes operational.



Dr. Ines Triay, U.S. DOE EM Assistant Secretary, provides an update of ARRA work being conducted at DOE sites across the country to the nearly 200 people who attended the ARRA Information Exchange II in April.

Leak detection replacement at Hanford finished months ahead of schedule

Hanford workers finished replacing a failed leak detection system more than six months ahead of schedule. The Process Condensate (PC) 5000 transfer line leak detection system project was originally slated to begin this later this summer, but crews were able to accelerate the schedule and complete the work half a year earlier than expected.

The Recovery Act-funded project replaced the leak detection system in a transfer line that runs from Hanford's 242-A Evaporator to a water treatment facility. The system was installed almost two decades ago when the facility was built.

Since that time, leak detection at the facility was performed by an employee who periodically checked for stray liquid. However, manually checking for leaks is not as effective as an automatic system which has the capability to identify the location of a leak should a leak occur in the mile-long pipeline.

In order to complete the project, crews had to thread nearly 6,000 feet of wire from the evaporator to the new local control unit through existing conduit. Work also included replacing leak detectors in a drain line, installing a new stainless steel catch tank, and putting in new above-ground junction boxes.

"The guys really knocked it out of the park on this one," said Project Manager Tom Edwards. "We accelerated the project completion by over six months and finished \$500,000 under budget. But above all else, work was completed safely."



The new Process Condensate 5000 transfer line leak detection system, which was funded with Recovery Act money, provides leak detection for a mile-long transfer line that runs from Hanford's 242-A Evaporator to a nearby repository and treatment facility.

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 \$85.4M as of 4/30/10	Jobs Created 414 FTE 2nd Quarter FY10
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Pipe-cutting tools to the rescue

Recent demonstration produces clear-cut favorite

Hanford engineers are using high-tech pipe-cutting tools developed by the same company that manufactures the Jaws of Life, a device emergency responders often use when extricating an injured car crash victim. At a recent pipe-cutting demonstration, it was Mega-Tech/Champion Rescue Tools' hydraulic shear that stood out as a clear-cut favorite. The pipe-cutting shear is being used to cut through old transfer lines in the tank farms.

At Hanford, the shear will be used to remove eight contaminated transfer lines that will be replaced with new lines. The carbon steel, pipe-in-pipe transfer lines are currently made with two- to three-inch carrier pipes inside of four- to six-inch encasement pipes and have a total combined length of nearly two and a half football fields.

To accomplish their task, crews need a pipe-cutting tool that will be able to safely and repeatedly slice the piping in a timely fashion to minimize downtime.

The pipe-cutting demo allowed several different vendors to showcase their cutting tools, but the Champion Rescue Tools' shear proved to be the favorite, cutting through all portions of the pipe up to eight times faster than some of its competitors.

Both the shear and the removal of the transfer lines are being paid for with Recovery Act funds. The project is scheduled to start in June.



Tom Patton, Champion Rescue Tools' principal director of research and development, guides his BPC-7001 cutting tool towards a pipe-in-pipe spool as attendees of a recent pipe-cutting demonstration look on. The 700 lb. shear can be operated remotely and was able to slice through the pipes up to eight times faster than other shears.

RA funding provides a big lift

Recovery Act funding was used to purchase a \$1.9 million, 135-ton crane that will be used at Hanford to support tank waste retrieval this fall. The new crane will save \$3,500-to-\$5,000 a day in crane rental costs.



New valve funnels improve operations, safety at tank farms

Tank farm workers are using Recovery Act (RA) funds to install new waste transfer valve funnels and positioning plates in a number of pump pits across the Hanford Site.

Transfer valves are an essential component in the waste transfer process. A valve is made up of an actuator, which opens and closes the valve. The funnels help focus the actuator into the valve stem, seat it, and engage the valve, allowing it to be turned. An indicator plate verifies the position of the valve, confirming to workers whether the valve is open or closed.

An issue with the valves was identified nearly three years ago, in June 2007, when a pit inspection showed an out-of-position valve. Further investigation found failed valve funnel attachments, valves with part numbers that didn't match the drawings, and valves with bent or broken stop pins. A plan was developed to upgrade and replace up to 95 valves in nine different pump pits. Current work involves installing new valve funnels and positioning plates on 35 valves in five pits.



Workers remove the lid from a pump pit in Hanford's AP tank farm as they prepare to install new valve funnels and indicator plates on the waste transfer valves within.

The project fits into Washington River Protection Solutions' strategy to use RA funding to upgrade tank farm infrastructure to prepare to transfer waste to the Waste Treatment Plant. The valve funnel project is ahead of schedule at this point, with additional work planned through Sept. 2011 to remove and dispose of old jumpers in three different pits and replace them with new ones.

For more information, contact us at:

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