

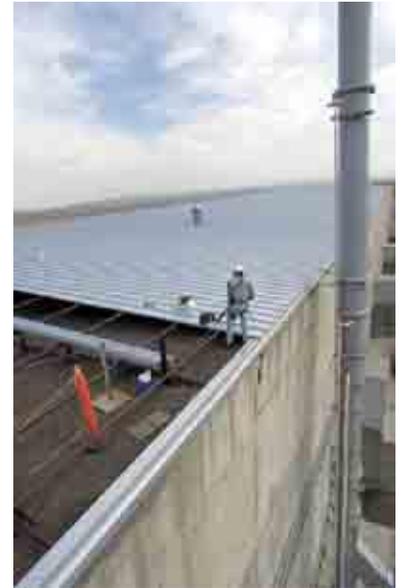
Central Plateau Remediation Project was created

On July 1, 2002, the River Corridor Project became the Central Plateau Remediation Project, and began working on scope transferred from the Environmental Restoration Contractor. The workscope includes the Groundwater Protection Program, the 200 Area Facility Disposition Project, and the 233-S Facility Decommissioning and Decontamination Project.

The Central Plateau Remediation Project will continue to manage the 300 Area workscope until it is transferred to the new River Corridor contractor.

Last spring, the former River Corridor Project earned two notable awards: the Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program “star status” for its commitment to safety; and, for its commitment to protecting the environment, the first annual Fluor Hanford Environmental Stewardship Award.

“The Central Plateau Remediation Project employees in each of our varied areas worked very hard to succeed in saving taxpayer dollars and to substantially reduce risk to fellow workers, the public and the environment,” said Larry Olguin, vice president and manager of the project. “Through their efforts, work was accelerated and completed in a safe and cost-effective manner. I am proud of our combined accomplishments in FY 2002 and our proven can-do spirit.”



Workers install new roof panels at B Plant.

300 Area cleanup

In the 300 Area, deactivation successes were achieved at the 324 and 327 Buildings — highly radioactive facilities that contain heavily shielded enclosures, or hot cells, once used to examine and test reactor fuel elements and other radiological and hazardous materials.

At the 324 Building, the final container of spent nuclear fuel was shipped to the 200 Area Interim Storage Area seven weeks early. This shipment completed the removal of all spent nuclear fuel that had been stored in the 324 Building. In all, about 650,000 curies of radioactivity were moved away from the city of Richland and the Columbia River.

The project achieved another milestone in cleaning up the 324 and 327 Buildings one month early. From Oct. 1, 2000, through May 26, 2002, project personnel moved more than 340,000 curies away from the city of Richland and the Columbia River. Items in this cleanup effort in the 327 Building included the following:

- the removal and shipment of a curium source to the Central Waste Complex, which cleared the way for changing the classification of the facility from Nuclear Hazard Category 2 to Nuclear Hazard Category 3. This classification change indicates lower risk and fewer requirements for the facility.
- the removal of all 16 waste buckets from B and C Cells, the cleanout of I Cell, and cleanout of the excess and obsolete equipment in the basement. This cleanup significantly reduced the facility's inventory.

Continued on page 6.

Central Plateau Remediation Project was created, cont.

Project personnel completed removing the 303-K Building slab. The project received the Professional Engineer and the State of Washington Department of Ecology certification for the 303-K Building Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Closure, which completed the 300 Area accelerated skyline initiative. This initiative included the earlier removal of two water towers and the 303K Building.

Ecology also approved the certification for partial closure of the 300 Area Waste Acid Treatment System.

The central plateau

The central plateau is a 75-square-mile area near the middle of the Hanford Site that includes the 200 East and 200 West Areas. Many facilities formerly used for nuclear materials production are located in the 200 Areas.

Under the 200 Area Facilities Disposition project, personnel recently completed the Tri-Party Agreement milestone to complete the installation of new roofs at PUREX and B Plant two weeks ahead of schedule.

The Equipment Disposition project saved a total of \$1.1 million in disposal costs by shipping the following:

- two tall cask cars from Hanford to Memphis, Tenn., for recycling, saving \$300,000
- a radioactive liquid waste evaporator condenser to be recycled and recast into shield blocks for use in DOE high-energy physics projects, saving \$500,000
- a contaminated crane to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensed company for reuse, saving \$300,000.

A T Plant flatcar was also released to off-site users for unrestricted use, saving \$440,000 by accelerating work six months through innovative strategies.

The 233-S Facility Decommissioning and Decontamination project removed the structural steel from inside the 233-S Building, making way for decontamination and ultimate demolition. The characterization, decontamination and non-destructive assay contractors began their work using advanced decontamination equipment. ■