

Bechtel Hanford receives 99.1 percent of available fee

On Feb. 21, Bechtel Hanford received what amounted to its 13th consecutive outstanding performance rating from the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office for its management of Hanford's Environmental Restoration Contract.

Bechtel's fee for managing the project is 100 percent performance-based, earned by completing predefined cleanup tasks and support activities. For the 2002 fiscal year, Bechtel earned 99.1 percent of the maximum fee.

"I am extremely proud of the people working on this project and very pleased with our team's performance," said Bechtel Hanford President Mike Hughes. "This is the 13th time the team has had an outstanding score during the more than eight-year history of the project."

The Bechtel-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team also includes integrated teaming subcontractors CH2M HILL Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford. "Our preselected subcontractors have provided consistent, outstanding support since the beginning of the ER Project in 1994," said Hughes.

Some of the significant ER Project accomplishments noted by Hughes in FY 2002 included:

- disposing of 665,000 tons of contaminated material — 9,000 more than planned
- removing 786 uranium-containing drums from the 618-4 Burial Ground and staging them at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility
- completing DR Reactor cocooning a year ahead of the Tri-Party Agreement milestone
- completing hexone tank stabilization
- completing excavation of 12 waste sites
- completing Cleanup Verification Packages for 20 waste sites
- removing and disposing of 2,200 yards of buried, contaminated reactor pipe at B Area
- completing removal of 15 process vessels from the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility a year ahead of schedule, avoiding \$5.8 million in costs
- removing nearly one mile of plutonium-contaminated piping from the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility
- successfully transferring the 200 Area Central Plateau and Groundwater/Vadose Zone Projects to Fluor Hanford.

Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office, noted in a letter that the project team met or exceeded the performance criteria for remedial action and waste disposal, interim safe storage activities at D, DR, F and H reactor sites, and removal and disposition of vessels from 233-S. Klein also praised the project team's performance in safety, financial excellence, effective leadership and transition activities.

Klein said that safety is an area in which additional improvements could be made, specifically in self-identification of weaknesses, implementation of effective corrective actions, oversight of subcontractors, the event investigation process and procedure training. Performance and documentation of subcontract price analysis also was noted as an area needing improvement.

"I'm gratified we were able to improve our safety performance by reducing accidents by nearly 20 percent over last year," Hughes said. "We'll continue improving on that record until we reach our goal of zero accidents and injuries. We wouldn't have achieved these results, and a 99.1 percent rating, in a safe and efficient manner without the hard work and dedication of our HAMTC workforce, subcontractors and all other members of the cleanup team, including DOE and the regulators."

Bechtel has managed Hanford's Environmental Restoration Contract since its inception in 1994. The contract is scheduled to expire on April 30. ■