

Concrete placed for pretreatment plant

Craft workers refused to let the dawning of a new day break their concentration on March 18. The skilled workers continued focusing on the monstrous — and first — placement of concrete for the basemat of the Waste Treatment Plant Project's pretreatment facility, a job they'd started just before 4 a.m.

The 2,370-cubic-yard elevation-zero foundation placement came just after the Washington State Department of Ecology had authorized the pretreatment-plant construction work to proceed at elevation zero, as well as on the walls up to 28 feet.

"Our first basemat placement is the culmination of everyone's hard work and determination since the project's inception," said Bob Lawrence, project manager for the pretreatment-plant construction. "There has been a tremendous effort at every functional and discipline level to bring us this far, and continued focus and energy will drive our future progress."



WTP Project construction craft workers place the first at-grade basemat concrete for the Waste Treatment Plant Project's pretreatment facility, pouring and smoothing 2,370 cubic yards of concrete.

Concrete was fed from a conveyor-belt arm attached to a large crane nearly 30 yards away. Workers guided the rapid flow of concrete from the conveyor belt's exit chute into the 8-foot-thick basemat.

"We work in a team-oriented environment," said WTP Project field engineer Shawn Going on the day the work was accomplished. "To keep safety and quality a top priority, craft workers, survey engineers and our quality-control experts perform a lot of work before each placement begins. We started mobilizing for this placement about four days ago. Craft workers began to mobilize around 2:30 this morning, and we'll finish when it's dark again."

As the day came to an end, concrete-splattered work boots and blue jeans marked a job well done and successful completion of the project's largest concrete placement to date. Nightshift crews then arrived and worked into the morning, troweling the concrete to a smooth and solid finish. ■