

Agreement for accelerated tank cleanup signed

On March 13, the Office of River Protection and CH2M HILL Hanford Group signed a new Integrated Mission Acceleration Plan, or IMAP, that sets a new timeline for closing Hanford's waste tanks.

The acceleration of Hanford tank cleanup began with the announcement of several new initiatives by ORP and CH2M HILL at the end of last year, resulting in the release of a draft of the IMAP a few months ago. The agreement provides the mission architecture for the River Protection Project. It contains the "what" and "when" with regard to the strategies that will be implemented to accomplish the project's mission-acceleration goals, and provides action plans to help execute those strategies.

The contents of the IMAP are described as "results-oriented technical, regulatory, and work-management strategies that reduce the time and cost to close the Hanford Site tank farms." The plan calls for completing work within the established budget while reducing hazards to workers, the public and the environment, and significantly reducing the life-cycle costs of cleanup.

The IMAP has five key "execution strategies" :

- **To retrieve waste and close single-shell tanks, double-shell tanks and tank farms** — Waste from all 149 single-shell tanks is to be dispositioned by 2018, reducing hazards to the workers, the public, and the environment, while significantly reducing the program life-cycle costs. All of the SSTs will be "interim-closed" by 2024, and all remaining project facilities will be closed by 2033.



Ed Aromi, president and general manager of tank-farm contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group (left) looks on as Roy Schepens, manager of the DOE Office of River Protection, signs the Integrated Mission Acceleration Plan. The plan provides strategies and action plans that will assist in meeting acceleration goals for Hanford tank cleanup.

- **To provide waste-feed delivery to satisfy accelerated Waste Treatment Plant processing rates** — Waste feed must be successfully delivered to the WTP, and treated waste products must be received and dispositioned in accordance with the WTP schedule.

- **To process waste via supplemental or alternate treatment and disposal** — Implementing environmentally responsible and cost-effective non-WTP supplemental treatment and processing techniques will reduce the use of double-shell tank space and the load on the WTP. An assessment and plan are needed for alternative ways of processing low-activity waste.

- **To enhance regulatory and stakeholder interactions** — A cornerstone of the accelerated cleanup planning is collaboration with the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, tribal nations, other DOE sites and stakeholder groups to implement a respon-

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sible, progressive and efficient regulatory approach. The approach must meet established requirements while optimizing stakeholder involvement, regulatory reviews and approvals.

- **To improve mission-support and work-management systems** — With a project of this size, management must always look to make fundamental business changes. Some may include changing work processes to achieve efficiencies and allow more funding for waste retrieval, tank closure and supplemental waste treatment and disposal on an accelerated schedule. Safety is and will always be the first priority in River Protection Project work, and work practices must be fully compliant with established principles of sound environmental management and the Integrated Safety Management System.

“By implementing the IMAP, I believe there will be an overall improvement in the River Protection Project life-cycle cost and schedule,” said Roy Schepens, manager of the Office of River Protection.

Through an “integrated mission execution system,” the IMAP is being translated into work schedules for tank facilities, detailing the resources and timeframes for accomplishing mission activities, monitoring and reporting performance and giving feedback for adjustments to the plan.

For more information about the IMAP, or to read the document itself, visit <http://apweb.05.ri.gov/rapidweb/ch2m/spma/> and click on “Mission Acceleration,” then “IMAP.” ■