

Local business gets D Reactor contract

Bechtel Hanford has awarded a \$2.36 million contract to Federal Engineers and Constructors of Richland to install a new roof on D Reactor. Work will begin this month and is to be completed by September 2004.

D Reactor is one of three surplus plutonium-production reactors at the Hanford Site being placed in interim safe storage, or "cocooned." Cocoon-ing involves demolishing the reactor building down to the five-foot-thick shield walls surrounding the reactor core, then sealing all openings and installing a new roof.

The reactors can remain in this state safely for up to 75 years. The Department of Energy and its regulators will then determine the best way to safely dispose of the highly radioactive reactor cores while the radioactivity in the cores decays to relatively manageable levels. Installing the new roof is the final stage of cocooning.

Hanford has nine reactors once used to produce plutonium. C Reactor was cocooned in 1998; DR Reactor, in 2002. F Reactor is to be completed this year; D Reactor, in 2004. Work on H, KE, KW and N reactors is scheduled beyond 2004. The historic B Reactor is not scheduled, pending a decision on whether to cocoon it or leave as an interpretive facility.

Over the past two years, Bechtel has awarded Federal Engineers and Constructors more than \$9 million in work. Included in the total are a \$4.8 million contract with Bechtel Hanford to remediate two Hanford waste burial grounds and a contract with Bechtel National, worth more than \$2 million, to design and build a simulator facility. Bechtel Hanford manages the Environmental Restoration Project for DOE's Richland Operations Office, and Bechtel National manages the Waste Treatment Plant Project for DOE's Office of River Protection.

The two Bechtel entities have awarded more than \$306 million in contracts to local and regional businesses in the past nine years. Bechtel National expects to award about \$2.5 billion in procurements and subcontracts on the Waste Treatment Plant Project, with a goal of awarding more than \$1 billion to small businesses. ■



Work begins this month to design the new roof for D Reactor (foreground). Cinderblock will be removed from the building, leaving only the five-foot-thick cement walls surrounding the reactor core. All openings in the building will be sealed and a 75-year roof will be installed. When completed in fiscal year 2004, the cocooned reactor will look nearly identical to DR Reactor, visible in the background.