

Hanford tanks connected to treatment site

The last 7,000-foot stretch of piping to connect Hanford's waste tanks with the Waste Treatment Plant site has been completed. The piping was installed more than two months ahead of schedule at a cost savings of \$20 million.

Working for the Department of Energy Office of River Protection, tank-cleanup contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group has been working over the past year to install the transfer route to feed waste to Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant, where it will be glassified.

"This is an important step in Hanford cleanup, because the tanks are now connected to the site where the waste will be turned into glass," said ORP manager Roy Schepens. "Treating the waste is key to reducing the risks to the environment, the public and our Hanford workforce."

"Work was completed ahead of schedule and at a cost savings because of efficiencies in the transfer-system design, our contracting approach and the excellent — and safe — work done by our local subcontractors," said Joel Eacker, vice president of Projects for CH2M HILL. "During the entire 10 months of manufacturing and installing the piping between the tank farms and the Waste Treatment Plant site, we experienced only one first-aid case."



The TV cameras were rolling as officials of the Washington State Department of Ecology, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the DOE Office of River Protection, HiLine Engineering and Apollo tossed ceremonial shovels full of dirt to cover tank-waste transfer piping next to the Waste Treatment Plant construction site.

Cost-saving ingenuity

Project managers reduced the cost of completing the piping from the tanks to the Waste Treatment Plant by modifying the original concept. The original plan called for two lines, each for different types of tank waste, and a new waste-transfer hub in the AP Tank Farm, the farm the closest to the WTP site. CH2M HILL refined the concept to eliminate the transfer hub and switched to three lines that can be used for all types of tank waste headed for the vitrification facility.

Apollo, Inc., a local firm, installed the piping for about a third less than CH2M HILL's original installation estimate of \$3 million. The transfer lines run from a junction in the AP Tank Farm over a distance of about 2,000 feet to the site of the vit plant.

HiLine Engineering and Fabrication, Inc., another local firm, manufactured the 7,000 feet of double-contained piping for about half the cost of previous transfer piping. The pipes are specially designed for the

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millions of gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste that will be transferred.

CH2M HILL is upgrading 10 double-shell tanks in the 200 East Area to serve as staging points for waste as it is retrieved from older single-shell tanks throughout the 200 Area. The site's Waste Treatment Plant, which Bechtel National is constructing, is expected to begin treating tank waste with the start of "hot" commissioning in 2009.

"By installing the piping early, we can now focus our cleanup efforts on retrieving waste from the older tanks, making tank upgrades and closing Hanford's tanks," said Ed Aromi, CH2M HILL Hanford Group president and general manager. ■



The piping between the tank farms and the Waste Treatment Plant construction site consists of three double-contained lines that can be used for transferring all types of tank waste. Local firms manufactured and installed the piping ahead of schedule at a significant cost savings.