

Tank-farm contractor on track to meet milestone

CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. is on track to meet the regulatory milestone of removing all but two percent of the pumpable liquid waste from Hanford's single-shell tanks by the end of September.

CH2M HILL, the prime tank-farm contractor for ORP, has transferred approximately 530,000 gallons of liquid waste since October 2002. An additional 33,000 gallons needs to be removed by Sept. 30 to meet the consent-decree milestone.

"This is real risk reduction," said Steve Wiegman, senior technical advisor for the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection. "Moving waste from these older single-shell tanks reduces the risk of further harm to the environment as we get ready to treat the waste and close Hanford's tanks."



CH2M HILL tank-farm workers prepare for another day of pumping radioactive liquid waste out of Hanford's single-shell tanks.

CH2M HILL is removing the pumpable liquid wastes under an aggressive schedule negotiated by DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology in 1998. One hundred thirty-six single-shell tanks have already been "interim stabilized," as defined by the consent decree and agreed to by Ecology. Of the remaining 13 tanks, two are being evaluated to confirm satisfaction of interim-stabilization criteria, eight are available for pumping and the other three have suspended pumping and were transitioned from interim stabilization to retrieval.

ORP and CH2M HILL have until September 2004 to remove the remaining 61,000 gallons of pumpable liquid waste from the single-shell tanks. ■