

ORP achieves major tank-waste milestone

The U. S Department of Energy Office of River Protection and tank-farm contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group have beaten a deadline to remove 98 percent of the pumpable liquid wastes from 29 single-shell storage tanks at Hanford. CH2M HILL workers surpassed the 98 percent mark on Aug. 31.

The contractor has been removing pumpable liquids from single-shell tanks on an aggressive schedule since deadlines in a federal court consent decree were put in place. The consent decree requires removing 98 percent of the pumpable liquid in 29 tanks by Sept. 30. Pumping has been completed on 20 tanks so far, and the remaining tanks are in various stages of pumping or retrieval operations.

“We’re seeing the results of the accelerated cleanup agreement we have with the State of Washington,” said ORP manager Roy Schepens. “Over the past year, we’ve had a host of early starts and completions on critical projects in Hanford’s tank farms and at the Waste Treatment Plant construction site. We are meeting and beating these milestones in a safe and quality manner, which is still our guiding principle for doing work at Hanford.”

The volume of waste pumped from the tanks recently passed three million gallons since the agreement was put in place. The liquids are being transferred into Hanford’s 28 newer and safer double-shell tanks.

“The successful completion of this milestone is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the ORP and CH2M HILL workers who have accepted the responsibility for getting the job done,” said Ed Aromi, president and general manager of CH2M HILL Hanford Group.

Approximately 50,000 gallons remain to be pumped from the single-shell tanks under the consent decree. The legal deadline for pumping the liquids is Sept. 30, 2004, and ORP and CH2M HILL are forecasting completion of the work by April 2004. ■