

# CH2M HILL Constructors wins support contract

Bechtel National, Inc., prime contractor for the 10-year, \$4 billion Waste Treatment Plant project for DOE's Office of River Protection, has awarded CH2M HILL Constructors, Inc. a subcontract to support operability and commissioning work.

Washington Group International is the principal subcontractor on the Waste Treatment Plant project, bringing experience and expertise gained at the West Valley and Savannah River vitrification plants. WGI is responsible for ensuring that operability and commissioning issues are given full and proper consideration in early design work and throughout the life of the project.

CH2M HILL Constructors, together with team members COGEMA and Duratek Federal Services, will support WGI's efforts on a task basis, supporting the development and implementation of the procedures, training and testing programs. The support contract is for the period of one year with possible future extensions.

The Waste Treatment Plant project calls for designing, constructing and commissioning a vast complex of facilities to treat 53 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste stored in Hanford's 177 underground tanks.

Hanford's tank wastes will be separated into two streams — high-level radioactive waste and low-activity radioactive waste — in a pretreatment plant. The waste streams will then be routed to separate vitrification facilities where the waste is mixed with molten glass in high-temperature melters.

The molten glass is then poured into stainless-steel containers. Containers with high-level waste will be stored on the Hanford Site pending future shipment to a national repository. Containers bearing low-activity waste will be disposed of in a Hanford waste burial ground.

The Waste Treatment Plant is scheduled to start hot commissioning in 2007 and be turned over to the Department of Energy for long-term operations in 2011. ♦