

ORP symposium draws Northwest small businesses

More than 950 people attended the River Protection Project Small Business Vendor Symposium at the Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center in Pasco on Nov. 15. The purpose of the symposium was to help small business owners learn how they can be a part of the River Protection Project.

Bechtel National, Inc., the Department of Energy's prime contractor to build the Waste Treatment Plant, has \$1 billion available for small-business opportunities over the 10-year contract period. CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc., DOE's prime tank-farm contractor, has \$41 million available in fiscal year 2002 to subcontract with small businesses. The two contractors joined the Office of River Protection and the Tri-City Industrial Development Council in sponsoring the symposium.

The morning began with introductory remarks from Harry Boston, manager of DOE's Office of River Protection. The symposium featured special speakers Clark Mather, a representative of Sen. Maria Cantwell's office; Joyce Olson, the district director for Congressman Doc Hastings; Richard Hopf and Theresa Speake, directors of the DOE Headquarters Offices of Procurement and Assistance Management and Economic Impact and Diversity, respectively; DOE Richland Operations Office Deputy Manager Mike Schlender; CHG President Fran DeLozier; and BNI Project Manager Ron Naventi.

After the opening remarks, vendors had the opportunity to ask questions of senior ORP, BNI and CHG procurement representatives Mike Barrett, Betty Euteneier and Tony Veirup. An open forum filled the afternoon with prospective vendors who met with all RPP and other Hanford contractor buyers and technical representatives. Also participating were staff members of the Small Business Administration and Washington State University, plus Washington State small business advocates.

"It was probably one of the most useful events we have attended as a company," said James Henderson, account manager for Software Technology Group in Portland. "It was almost overwhelming to have such good information." ■



At the ORP Small Business Vendor Symposium Nov. 15, ORP Manager Harry Boston introduces panel members (from left, seated) Joyce Olson, Clark Mather, Richard Hopf, Theresa Speake, Fran DeLozier, Ron Naventi and Mike Schlender.



CHG President Fran DeLozier greeting a vendor.