

CHG tank project runner-up in international competition

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CH2M HILL Hanford Group's work to solve problems with Hanford's once-infamous Tank SY-101 was recognized as a runner-up in the Project Management Institute's international project-of-the-year competition in November. The top award went to the Mozal Smelter Project in Mozambique, in southern Africa.

The two runner-up projects for this year's award were the SY-101 Surface Level Rise Remediation Project by CHG, sponsored by the PMI Columbia River Basin Chapter, and the Conway Bypass Project by Fluor Daniel, sponsored by the PMI Palmetto Chapter.

CHG was named as a runner-up for its work to address concerns over the buildup and occasional release of a flammable combination of gases and a growing waste crust in double-shell Tank SY-101, once known as Hanford's "burping" tank. The DOE Office of River Protection and CHG resolved the safety issues over the last two years by diluting and removing more than 520,000 gallons of waste from the tank.

Solving those problems led to the tank's removal in January from the now-closed Wyden congressional safety watch list, which required DOE to watchdog the most dangerous of Hanford's 177 radioactive waste tanks. After rigorous safety reviews by DOE, the regulators and CHG, Tank SY-101 is back in service and is expected to receive its first waste transfer in the coming year.

The PMI international competition was the final phase of a three-tier evaluation and selection process. The Columbia River Basin Chapter of PMI honored CHG in March of this year as regional Project of the Year for the SY-101 effort.

The Project of the Year Award recognizes project teams for superior performance in project management. This year's international award winner, the Mozal Smelter Project, involved the construction and commissioning of a 250,000- tons-per-year aluminum smelter.

Last year's winner was the Trojan Reactor Vessel and Internals Removal Project by Portland General Electric. ■