The Department of Energy (DOE) and CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company are using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funding to accelerate decommissioning and demolition (D&D) work at the 100K West Reactor Water Treatment Facilities at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State.

The K Area spans 535 acres and includes Hanford’s K East and K West reactors, adjacent fuel storage basins, and several facilities and waste sites that supported reactor operations from the 1950s to the 1970s.

The 100K West Reactor Water Treatment Facilities once supported the cooling of the K West plutonium production reactor. Water was pumped from the Columbia River at a rate of 140,000 gal/min and treated with various chemicals to minimize corrosion before being sent to the reactor. Once the water passed through the reactor, it was discharged back into the River.

Demolition and cleanup of the 100K West Reactor Water Treatment Facilities is a $17.6M Recovery Act funded project. Using Recovery Act funding provides an opportunity to complete this project years ahead of schedule. Removing the facilities will give workers access to contaminated soil and prevent the contamination from moving toward the river. The project is currently on schedule to be completed in summer 2010.

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