Demolition of 183.1KW Headhouse begins

Just days after demolition began on the 183.1KW Headhouse, the building was a pile of rubble, adding a third tally to the list of structures CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) has removed from the 183KW Sedimentation Basin complex in the 100K Area on the Hanford Site.

Demolition began on Feb. 24 and the building was at ground level by the end of the week. The debris is being size reduced and prepared for disposal at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility and demolition of the remaining structures, like the building’s slab, will continue over the upcoming weeks.

The headhouse was an approximately 16,900-square-foot building that once supported the 183KW water treatment facility, which treated river water that was used for cooling the K West plutonium production reactor.

Recovery Act dollars have been at work on the 183KW complex since 2009, when CH2M HILL removed a chlorine vault slab and chemical storage silo from the site.

With the headhouse removed, demolition crews are continuing to demolish the floor of the 183.2KW Sedimentation Basin, the focal point for the 183KW complex. Removing the headhouse and other 183KW structures will provide access to contaminated soils underneath.

Hiring representatives attend Spokane career fair

CH2M HILL hiring representatives attended the Partnership in Employment career fair at the Spokane Convention Center on Feb. 24. The event welcomed students and alumni from Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, Whitworth University and Washington State University Spokane. Since Recovery Act funding was released in April 2009, CH2M HILL has participated in eight job fairs and received over 16,000 applications and/or résumés from individuals interested in joining CH2M HILL’s effort to accelerate cleanup on the Hanford Site.

Recovery Work UPDATE “Putting People to Work”

Contracts
$309M
Contracts awarded
As of Jan. 31, 2010

Employment
2,561
Lives touched
As of Jan. 31, 2010

Awards
61%
Contracts awarded to small businesses
As of Jan. 31, 2010

Watch it!
Check out videos and photos from CH2M HILL and other Hanford Recovery Act projects online at www.hanford.gov/recovery
**Piping arrives for 100K Area water line**

A total of 16,500 feet – more than three miles – of piping arrived for the River Water Isolation Project in the 100K Area. This project is a major step in preparing the 100K site for accelerated decommissioning and demolition (D&D) and remediation. Installing the water line is part of the 100K Infrastructure Utilities Upgrade Project that will use more than $18 million in Recovery Act funding. The water line will provide interim infrastructure as workers accelerate D&D of existing utilities that impact major areas planned for demolition and remediation during the next few years.

**Well installation continues for apatite barrier**

Along the Columbia River, CH2M HILL has drilled to total depth 91 of 171 wells that will help expand a chemical barrier in the soil to better contain a contamination plume in the 100 North Area. The barrier is being constructed with the mineral apatite, which will chemically bind with the contaminant strontium-90. The apatite will hold the strontium-90 in place in the soil, halting its migration and allowing it to decay. Altogether in the 100-NR-2 area and several other operable units across the Hanford Site, CH2M HILL plans to install more than 300 wells that will be used to extract, treat and monitor contaminated groundwater and protect the Columbia River.

**Prime contractor supports small business with Recovery Act Funding**

Babcock Services, Inc., a company specializing in remediation and support services for the nuclear industry, is just one example of how CH2M HILL is using Recovery Act funds to build small businesses and put people to work in the Tri-Cities area in southeastern Washington State.

“The greatest benefit of this funding is being able to increase our resources and our capabilities so we can take on bigger projects in the future,” said Phil Gallagher, Senior Vice President for Babcock Services, Inc.

Headquartered in Kennewick, Wash., Babcock Services, Inc. expanded its workforce to support the Recovery Act scope at Hanford. The impact of the funding extended to the local community and economy as well, with a majority of new hires coming from the Northwest region.

“We found local hard-working, intelligent, high aptitude people that we’ve been able to bring into the Hanford workforce and they have been stellar performers. The funding allows us to invest heavily in our people, training, software and applications as well as in mentoring so they can learn from people with experience in this industry. We’re looking forward to keeping them on and helping them expand their careers,” said Gallagher.

Of the $309 million in contracts CH2M HILL has awarded with Recovery Act funding, $191 million has been awarded to small businesses.

**Dozens of waste containers shipped from the Plutonium Finishing Plant**

The Solid Waste Operations staff at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) packaged and shipped 33 containers of waste to Perma-Fix Northwest and the Central Waste Complex. These shipments bring the total waste shipped out of PFP with Recovery Act funds to 693 cubic meters of low-level waste and 102 cubic meters of transuranic waste.