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CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) is using funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) to remove six industrial facilities in the 200 West Area of the Hanford Site.

Demolition crews most recently began work in the 284-WB Package Boiler Plant. The 1,700-square-foot plant was built in 1995 to house a package boiler system for steam generation to compensate for the 1992 closing of the 284-W Power House. The plant includes a diesel fuel tank that workers are currently draining in preparation for demolition.

Altogether in the 200 West Area, CH2M HILL plans to demolish approximately 55,700 square feet of industrial facilities by the end of fiscal year 2011. Removing the facilities will help reduce mortgage, surveillance and maintenance costs on buildings that are no longer of service on Hanford’s Central Plateau.

December was a busy month in glove box removal at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). Through Dec. 26, crews removed 11 glove boxes/hoods during the month, bringing the total number of glove boxes removed with Recovery Act funds to 93 – more than halfway to the goal to remove 174 glove boxes and hoods by the end of fiscal year 2011.

The large, enclosed and contaminated pieces of equipment pose a number of challenges to workers as they isolate, cleanout, decontaminate and remove the equipment from the PFP facilities. A new decontamination agent, Aspigel®, was recently deployed for the first time on glove boxes HA-19B1 and B2. The new agent may help reduce the number of boxes requiring, and ultimately the risks and costs associated with, size reduction and disposal as transuranic (TRU) waste.

Recovery Work UPDATE

“Putting People to Work”

Contracts
$642M
Contracts awarded
As of November 2010

Employment
5,298
Lives touched¹
As of June 2010

Awards
55%
Contracts awarded to small businesses
As of November 2010

¹Refers to the total number of people who have ever had a job at least partially funded by the Recovery Act
Removal of K East Reactor discharge chute complete

Demolition crews completed removal of the 105KE Reactor discharge chute. The discharge chute once fed the former K East Reactor fuel storage basin that CH2M HILL finished demolishing in 2009 (with base funds) and has since been excavating contaminated soil from the waste site located underneath. Soils near the basin were contaminated when water leaked from the basin in the 1970s and 1990s. With the chute removed, remediation crews are surveying the newly exposed soil below the chute.

Crews excavating transuranic waste for retrieval

In the 3A burial ground, waste retrieval workers are excavating and retrieving boxes of TRU waste from underground storage in Hanford’s 200 West Area. Crews recently retrieved Box 16 from Trench 17 and they excavated, retrieved and over-packed Box 28 from Trench 8.

Since April 2009, of the 2,500 m³ of suspect TRU waste CH2M HILL has planned for retrieval under the Recovery Act:

- 191 m³ are staged, pending shipment.
- 758 m³ have been shipped to a treatment, storage or disposal facility.

Equipment being installed in groundwater treatment facilities

Construction crews are moving large fiberglass tanks and other equipment into the main process and transfer buildings that will make up the 200 West Groundwater Treatment Facility. To date, 13 of 26 fiberglass tanks have arrived for installation. The project has also placed a total of approximately 6,600 cubic yards of the estimated 9,000 cubic yards of concrete to support the facilities.