



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Media Contact:

Cameron Hardy, DOE

(509) 376-5365, Cameron.Hardy@rl.doe.gov

Dee Millikin, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company

(509) 376-1297, Dee.Millikin@rl.gov

For Immediate Release:

October 28, 2010

380,000 Square Feet of Concrete Facilities Demolished

Crews Use Recovery Act Funding to Remove Structures along Columbia River

RICHLAND, WASH. – Thanks to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, a major cleanup project is nearing completion at the [U.S. Department of Energy's](#) Hanford Site in southeast Washington State. Using \$17.6 million of Recovery Act funds, [CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company](#) workers have accelerated the demolition of more than six football fields worth of concrete that were once part of the 100K West Reactor Water Treatment Facilities.

“Removing the water treatment facilities is an important step towards protecting the Columbia River,” said Tom Teynor, DOE Federal Project Director for the K Basins Closure Project. “The project also supports the Department of Energy’s goal to shrink Hanford’s cleanup footprint.”

The 100K West Reactor Water Treatment Facilities once supported the cooling of the K West plutonium production reactor. During operations, water was pumped from the Columbia River at a rate of 140,000 gallons each minute 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.

The complex of K West Reactor Water Treatment Facilities totals more than 380,000 square feet of concrete structures. The demolished facilities include: the Sedimentation Basins (292,344 square feet), Chlorine Car Protection Facility (3,576 square feet), Headhouse (16,902 square feet), Sand Filters (58,414 square feet), Lime Addition Buildings (1,776 square feet) and a Pipe

Tunnel (7,000 square feet), which held thousands of feet of below-grade piping and infrastructure.

“This was a complex project because of the size of the structures, but the team completed the job safely and without incident,” said Kurt Kehler, CH2M HILL Decommissioning and Demolition project vice president. “Recovery Act funding put this project years ahead of the original schedule for demolition.”

About 20,000 cubic yards of concrete debris from the demolished basins will be recycled as fill for the U Canyon cap following demolition of U Canyon, a uranium reprocessing facility in the 200 West Area of the Hanford site. The remaining debris will be disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, Hanford’s on-site low-level waste landfill.

Only the facility clearwells (119,299 square feet), or underground storage tanks, at the basins’ northern edge remain. Once the clearwells are demolished in the spring of 2011, the total footprint reduction of the K West Water Treatment Facilities will be 499,111 square feet and the massive excavation site will be backfilled and contoured to match the surrounding landscape.

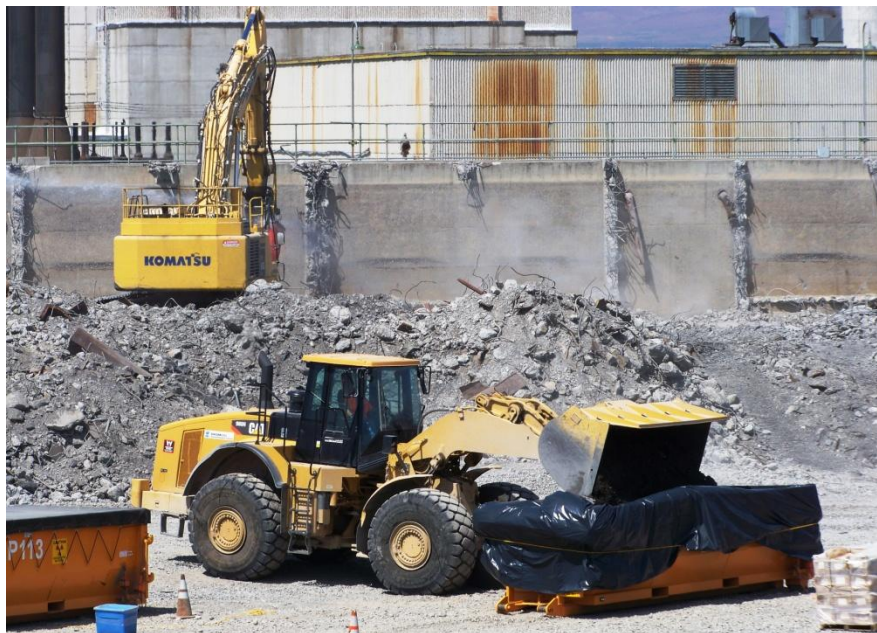
The K Area is located approximately 400 yards from the Columbia River on the Hanford Site and includes Hanford's K East and K West reactors, adjacent fuel storage basins, and several facilities and waste sites that supported reactor operations from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Demolition of identical Reactor Water Treatment Facilities that supported the nearby K East Reactor will begin later this year and is scheduled to be complete in October 2011.

###



The 183K West Sedimentation Basin during demolition. CH2M HILL workers have completed demolition of the large 290,000 square foot structure.



CH2M HILL workers complete demolition and debris load-out for the 183K West Filter Basin.



An excavator shear removes structures from the roof of the 183K West Headhouse that once supported the 100K West Reactor water Treatment Facilities. Demolition began during the week of Feb. 22 and within days, the entire 16,900-square-foot building was a pile of debris.



More than six football fields of concrete from the 100K West Water Treatment facility demolition will be recycled as fill for an upcoming demolition project at the Hanford Site.