



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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WRPS EARNS AWARD FOR MENTORING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

Richland - - [Washington River Protection Solutions](#) (WRPS) has been awarded a 2011 DOE Small Business Award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the company's leadership in mentoring local small businesses.

The DOE Mentor of the Year award is given to the federal contractor that demonstrates excellence in meeting the requirements of the Department's Mentor-Protégé program. Through this program, WRPS partnered with local small businesses to create long-lasting relationships, share best practices and lessons learned, and enhance the protégés' ability to successfully compete for federal contracts.

"WRPS is helping two local small businesses by providing opportunities to grow by leveraging new work opportunities, improving professional and technical capabilities and strengthening relationships with WRPS corporate parents, Hanford and other DOE prime contractors," said [Office of River Protection](#) (ORP) Contracts and Property Management Director Marc McCusker. "In addition, WRPS has provided guidance with respect to safety training, technology development and business procedures."

Through the DOE mentor-protégé program, WRPS has provided oversight and coaching to two local small business firms:

- [Columbia Energy and Environmental Services](#), a small, woman-owned business;
- And [Total Site Services](#), a small, woman-owned, disadvantaged business.

"We are honored that ORP nominated us for this award," said WRPS Procurement Services Manager John Robinson. "It's a reflection of the way we view local small businesses as partners critical to our success. Ultimately, WRPS' goal is to prepare and strengthen each protégé company in order to allow them to compete successfully in the federal marketplace." [Click here to watch a short video clip about how WRPS has influenced each of its protégé companies.](#)

WRPS is the DOE ORP prime contractor responsible for eliminating the risk to the environment posed by Hanford's 56 million gallons of high-level radioactive and chemical waste stored in 177 underground tanks. These aging tanks are just a few miles from the Columbia River. ORP is responsible for safely retrieving and treating Hanford's tank waste and closing the tank farms to protect the Columbia River. WRPS is owned by URS Corporation and Energy Solutions, with AREVA as its primary subcontractor.

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