After months of planning and preparation, CH2M HILL began removal of highly contaminated process vacuum system piping that runs throughout the 234-5Z and 291-Z buildings at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). As of Aug. 23, the team removed 68 feet of piping for disposal, most of which is expected to be disposed of as transuranic waste. Altogether with Recovery Act funding, CH2M HILL plans to remove approximately 75 percent of the more than one mile of piping by the end of fiscal year 2011.

The top of Rattlesnake Mountain is looking a little empty these days. CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) has completed demolition of the 6652-C Space Science Laboratory, the largest building on the upper Arid Lands Ecology (ALE) Reserve. The building was part of the Fitzner/Eberhardt ALE Reserve, which is a 120-square-mile area at the Hanford Site once used as a buffer zone for anti-aircraft defense missions for the U.S. Army. The space science lab was constructed in the 1950s as part of the Nike radar control center and also served as barracks for the members of the 83rd Battalion Battery C.

CH2M HILL is currently demolishing the 6630 Hodges Well Pump House and preparing a series of radio and communications structures for removal as well. Altogether, crews have removed more than 31,000 square feet of facility and cleaned up 95 percent of the debris sites from across the reserve.

Cleanup of the reserve is a $10.2 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) project that will help preserve the site's cultural and biological resources and help the U.S. Department of Energy meet its goal of shrinking the Hanford Site cleanup footprint.

Space Science Laboratory removed from mountaintop

Removal of piping begins at PFP
The fiberglass-reinforced plywood base was removed from Box 82, a box of transuranic waste that was located in underground storage in the 3A burial grounds. The base was removed in pieces and will be placed in a new waste box for assay and eventual shipment. Removal of this box is part of CH2M HILL’s Recovery Act-funded effort to remove 2,500 cubic meters of transuranic waste from the Hanford Site.

CH2M HILL is updating the heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system in the K West Fuel Storage Basin facility to improve working conditions during future decommissioning activities. Inside the facility, installation of the interior ducting is complete, with approximately 800 feet of ducting installed to date. Outside of the building, rebar is being installed and concrete placed for the air handling equipment that will be installed to support the upgraded system.

The 100K East Area is busy with demolition again, as CH2M HILL removes both the 117KE Exhaust Air Filter Building (left) and the 115KE Gas Recirculation Building (below). The 117KE Building filtered ventilation air from the confinement zone of the K East Reactor building before it was discharged into the atmosphere through the former 116KE Reactor Exhaust Stack. The 115KE Building is a single-story facility that housed gas circulation pumps, gas dryers, filters, heat exchangers, and related instruments and piping for the reactor gas coolant system. It was also designed to detect water leaks within the reactor core. Altogether in the 100K East Area, CH2M HILL has used Recovery Act funding to remove the K East Rod Storage Cave, Gas Storage Facility and Reactor Exhaust Stack as well as two mobile offices.

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The base of transuranic waste box removed from trench

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