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AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

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Idaho Cleanup Project Initiates Recovery Act Work to Dispose of HFEF-5 Waste

The Idaho Cleanup Project is taking on a new waste management challenge that creates new jobs and paves the way for future project opportunities. Remote Handled Transuranic waste processing operations began on May 14, 2009, when the first Hot Fuel Examination Facility (HFEF-5) canister was lowered into a shielded cell at DOE's Idaho Site. The outer and inner canister lids were removed, and the contents were repackaged into two 55-gallon drums for future characterization, transport, and disposal. This remote handled, multi-phased operation is another example of the Recovery Act cleanup work happening across the site and across the country.

(Above) Innovative pipe cutting technology allows the Idaho Cleanup Project to access waste materials inside a HFEF-5 canister.

Late last year, 30 canisters were retrieved from the Intermediate–Level Transuranic Storage Facility at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex and transported to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), in Idaho Falls, Idaho, for storage and eventual processing. More preparations are underway to begin processing and repacking the remaining waste canisters this fall, with shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, NM expected by the end of the year. The waste comes mainly from HFEF examinations on fuels and materials irradiated in the Experimental Breeder Reactor-II which operated at the Idaho Site until 1994.

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EM Recovery Act Funding Summary

As of July 20, 2009, the Recovery Act funding summary for Environmental Management is:

Sites/Programs	***Allotments***
ANL	*$35,000,000*
BNL	*$42,355,000*
ETEC	*$54,175,000*
Hanford(RL)	*$1,634,500,000*
Hanford(ORP)	*$326,035,000*
Idaho	*$467,875,000*
LANL	*$211,775,000*
Moab	*$108,350,000*
Mound	*$19,700,000*
Nevada	*$44,325,000*
Oak Ridge	*$755,110,000*
Paducah	*$78,800,000*
Portsmouth	*$118,200,000*
SLAC	*$7,925,000*
SPRU	*$31,775,000*
Savannah River Ur/Th Payments	*$1,615,400,000*
West Valley	*$68,950,000*
WIPP	*$73,875,000*
Program Direction	*$172,375,000*
Total Allotments	***$30,000,000***
	$5,960,000,000

Message from the Director

Welcome to the fourth issue of the EM Recovery Act Newsletter. I am delighted with the significant progress we have made since Secretary Chu announced Recovery Act funding for EM in March. Over 4,000 jobs have been saved or created with EMs Recovery Act funding and we expect this number to continue growing in the coming months. As always, safety is the number one priority for EM and we are ensuring all new hires are properly trained and prepared to perform their work safely and effectively.

It is important for us to remember that the work conducted under the Recovery Act not only helps to save existing jobs and create new ones, but also contributed to the overall EM cleanup mission, helping to accelerate the cleanup of the environment, reducing EM's footprint, and closing legacy sites. Also, investments made today to accelerate the cleanup work will help to reduce EM's life-cycle costs.

The Recovery Act has spurred new developments in the program to improve project management including a broad restructuring of EMs portfolio of projects, programs, and activities. The Recovery Act will lead the way in this new portfolio framework. And by conducting monthly reviews, we will ensure that we are correctly tracking and monitoring performance at sites across the country.

Implementing the Recovery Act work has led to significant coordination with our partners at all levels- from the team at DOE HQs and our field sites to DOE's contractors, local communities, stakeholders and regulators. We are partnering to help achieve the goals of the Recovery Act, while staying focused on EM's mission and performing the work safely.

Transparency is a key component of our success in implementing the Recovery Act. To achieve the highest level of openness and accountability, we maintain regular communications with regulators, Tribal Nations and stakeholders in addition to reviews by external government auditing agencies. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you in this newsletter some of the most recent accomplishments at our sites.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our way of doing business. Please send me your thoughts on how to achieve the goals of the Recovery Act more safely and effectively at EMRecovery@em.doe.gov. With your help and the energy and skills of our dedicated workforce, we'll get the job done.

Cynthia V. Anderson
Director
EM Recovery Act Program

❖ ***To date approximately 4,000 lives have been touched by jobs created and saved through the Recovery Act Program!***

Idaho Cleanup Project Initiates Recovery Act Work to Disposition HFEF-5 Waste (Continued from page 1)

"This is a big initiative that not only helps establish the Idaho Cleanup Project's capability of handling future stimulus projects, but also creates an opportunity to fill the pipeline to WIPP, which helps their Recovery Act planning," said Scott Anderson, director of TRU Waste Projects.

Starting this month, some 100 additional HFEF-5 canisters will be transported from the Idaho Site's Materials and Fuels Complex to INTEC for storage and processing. All 130 canisters will be repacked into drums for shipment to WIPP. The project has generated roughly 20 new hourly operator positions.

South Carolina Job Fairs Spread the Word on Recovery Act Opportunities

Job fairs held recently in Allendale, Barnwell and Aiken, S.C., attracted hundreds of people interested in working at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

At the Allendale job fair, held on June 10th, job candidates visited with representatives of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SNRS), DOE's management and operating contractor at SRS.

SRNS has hired over 400 new employees since April with Recovery Act funding.

"We realize the potential value of the President's economic stimulus package and want to do our part to ensure as many area residents as possible are hired to fill the jobs created under the Recovery Act projects at SRS," said Jeff Allison, Manager of DOE's Savannah River Operations Office. "The highly experienced and knowledgeable people living throughout the Central Savannah River Area provide a significant talent pool that we want to tap."

(Above) During the recent Allendale Job Fair, SRNS recruiter Pat Pinkard provided an overview on the SRS cleanup stimulus plan and how it will affect area residents, local economies and potential job seekers.

The Ourglass Plan, a non-profit organization, sponsored the Allendale Job Fair. The fair featured a presentation given by SRNS human resource recruiter Pat Pinkard on the Recovery work that is being done at SRS to accelerate environmental cleanup and help stimulate local economies.

The SRS Recovery Act Project will decommission surplus nuclear reactor facilities, accelerate transuranic waste disposition, remediate soil and groundwater, and complete area closures. SRS will receive over $1.6 billion in funding over a 30-month period and plans on using these funds to hire numerous new employees and buy a wide range of materials and services.

EM Continues to Create and Save Jobs under the Recovery Act Program

(Above) LATA/Parallax HR Manager Ruth Traugott assists new employees with online training during their first day.

New Employees Hired to Support Recovery Act Projects at Piketon, Ohio Plant

43 new employees have reported to work at DOE's Piketon Plant in southern Ohio as a result of Recovery Act funding.

"In a region currently dealing with double-digit unemployment, we are pleased to welcome 43 new employees hired thanks to the Recovery Act," said William Murphie, Manager of DOE's Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office. "These new workers will join with us to help advance the important environmental cleanup work we are doing at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant."

Prior to starting work for LATA/Parallax, DOE's environmental remediation contractor at Piketon, the employees must complete an initial five to six week training period. Then they will support projects to decontaminate and decommission an electrical switchyard, a cooling tower complex, and the former X-760 Chemical Engineering Building on-site. Some will also be employed to support two other Recovery Act projects: cleaning up large cylinders containing low-enriched uranium and excess uranium materials being stored at the Piketon plant.

(Above) Anthony Howard of Waverly, Ohio, started work for LATA/Parallax through the Recovery Act funding, after being unemployed since January 2009.

Many of the new employees have come from corporations that have recently laid off workers. One of them, Anthony Howard, knows firsthand what its like to be out of work. Howard, who was born and raised in Waverly, about 10 miles north of the plant, had been unemployed since January 2009.

He lost his job with a trucking company in Chillicothe, Ohio, when the economic downturn forced it to lay off workers. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to become a LATA/Parallax employee and to be working on the site. As part of this opportunity, I now have a salary and benefits to once again support my family," Howard said. "Plus, I am working in my community and no longer have to commute 40 minutes to get to work."

West Valley Workers Begin Recovery Act Work at WVDP

Approximately 40 operations/maintenance workers and supervisors and 23 contract employees began work in June at DOE's West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) in upstate New York thanks to funding provided by the Recovery Act.

The WVDP's receipt of $74 million in Recovery Act funding is allowing acceleration of decontamination and dismantlement activities in the Main Plant Process Building to prepare for the structure's demolition. Other activities being accelerated include the design and installation of a waste tank and vault drying system, footprint reduction, remediation of a radioactive groundwater plume, and acceleration of waste processing activities.

Depending upon the new hires' job assignments, the intensive training program will take up to twelve weeks to complete, with the first of the new employees scheduled to join the existing work force in the field in late August. Workers are receiving general employment, radiation and respirator training and will also complete a 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operation and

Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training. Most of the new hires will be involved in radioactive waste processing and decontamination and dismantlement activities in radiation areas.

(Left) Vince Crossley, left, and Scott Rathbun, center, are among the new ARRA workers at the WVDP. As part of their training, they participated in radiation worker suit-up training with guidance from craft mentor Bill Taylor.

(Right) New workers are welcomed by DOE-WV Project Director Bryan Bower, right, and West Valley Environmental Services Administrator Paul Denning, left.

Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Grows its Workforce to Complete Recovery Act Work

(Above) Newly hired Idaho Cleanup Project employees receive new hire orientation training during a June orientation session in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Over a hundred new faces have already joined the ICP workforce, both in offices and at work sites across DOE's Idaho Site. The ICP is ramping up its workforce to complete new work scope assigned to the ICP under the Recovery Act.

Over the past several weeks, the ICP has advertised positions locally and nationally. As of June 10, 2009, 121 new workers had been hired with dozens more still in the hiring and training process. These new employees and subcontractors are in addition to more than 200 individuals who were facing layoffs, but who will now keep their jobs as a result of the new work

Many of the new hires will be used to accelerate the decontamination and demolition (D&D) of roughly 90 old or unnecessary facilities and structures across the site, ranging from simple camera towers to highly complex deactivated reactors and laboratory facilities. Other workers will be assigned to help speed up the process for digging up buried waste and shipping it off-site for disposal. This type of work relies on the expertise of engineers, construction and skilled trade workers, operators, and employees with experience in project controls, safety, and industrial hygiene.

"In order to mentor our new employees and emphasize safety at every level, the new hires will be spread out across our different teams where they will work side by side with veteran cleanup employees," said Dan Coyne, manager of the D&D teams for the Idaho Cleanup Project.

"The work here was already progressing rapidly, so one of my priorities is to ensure we train our new team members well, and get them used to working with this culture. We watch out for each other, and we encourage everyone to point out when we can work smarter – we think there's always a safer, more efficient way to get something done," said John Fulton, President and CEO of CH2M-WG Idaho, the main cleanup contractor at DOE's Idaho Site.

Eager Applicants Brave Heat in Barnwell to Check out Recovery Act Jobs

As the heat index neared the triple digits, the number of hopefuls attending a Recovery Act Job Fair in Barnwell, South Carolina reached and passed the quadruple digits.

About 2,300 people from South Carolina and Georgia came to the Recovery Act event held on June 17th at Barnwell Primary School. Some came to hear an update on the $1.6 billion Recovery Act Project at the accompanying town hall meeting and others to put in their job applications to work on expedited cleanup projects at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Despite the heat, humidity, and long lines, event staff were able to provide cool beverages and ice and ensure that the more than 2,000 job seekers could make it into the job fair.

The job fair was much anticipated in Barnwell County, where South Carolina Department of Commerce unemployment figures for April were 15.9 percent, well above the state average of 11.9 percent.

The fair was preceded by a town hall meeting that nearly filled the 650-seat school auditorium. Jeffrey Allison, manager of DOE's Savannah River Operations office, and Charles Munns, president and chief executive officer of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SNRS), DOE's management and operating contractor at SRS, gave a briefing on what the Recovery Act is and what it means for the Savannah River Site.

To date, more than 1,300 jobs have been created or saved, and SRNS expects a steady influx of new hires through the summer, with employment peaking in the spring of 2010. Right now, the site is processing 75 to 100 new hires a week with the jobs breaking down into one-third special skills, one-third construction, and one-third general support personnel. In addition to offering employment opportunities, SRNS is awarding contracts to both small and large businesses

"We are proud to be at the forefront of getting people back to work," Munns said. "Even in the short time since the Recovery Act was passed, we have already seen positive impacts in the local economy."

We are designing our Recovery Act projects to achieve two main goals – creating jobs and accelerating cleanup efforts at the Savannah River Site," said Jeffrey Allison. "By the end of 2011, we expect to see a 40 percent reduction in the cleanup footprint at the site, and ultimately we will be saving about a billion dollars in cleaning up the SRS by moving ahead with Recovery Act projects now."

Recovery Act funding will also be used to cleanup legacy materials used in the nation's nuclear weapons production and prepare them for shipment to on site and off site repositories, along with preparing DOE resources - including land and infrastructure - for reuse by the community.

Those who made the effort to make it to the job fair all brought different stories and backgrounds with them but all were hoping that a Recovery Act job could help them build a better future.

Bobby Chavis

Bobby Chavis drove about 35 miles from North, SC to talk to the staff augmentation firms and apply for a job. He has 19 years of experience in heavy equipment and automotive engine repair and has his forklift certification. He has been looking for a job since November.

Stacy Hickey drove to the job fair from Aiken in hopes of finding work. She moved to Aiken in May 2008 with degrees in psychology and sociology from the University of Colorado. She has applied at area hospitals but has now widened her focus to "anything administrative, office, clerical."

Stacy Hickey

Steve Joubert, of Hephzabah, GA, who served 20 years in the U.S. military, saw the job fair as an opportunity to find more stable work. He has been a substitute teacher while working on his teaching certification but would like to find a job that is a little more steady and year round.

"They're talking now about laying off teachers," Jourbert said.

Clarence Barron

Clarence Barron, of Augusta, has his eye on an SRS job in waste remediation. He has worked in data entry, recording and labeling at his previous jobs.

Clarence Washington, of Aiken, is a construction truck driver and would like to find similar work driving or in maintenance at SRS.

Clarence Washington

Willey Workman

Willey Workman, of Elko, SC, who has been out of work since February, heard about the job fair on the news and drove the 10 miles to Barnwell in hopes of finding a job that would match his carpentry skills.

Tina Hutto of Barnwell came to the job fair with her three children and her mother, who also is applying for a Recovery Act job.

(Above) Tina Hutto, of Barnwell, and her three children, William, Tameriah, and Amahjai, waits in the Barnwell Primary School auditorium for her turn to apply for a Recovery Act job at the Savannah River Site.

"Because we are in a recession, it is really hard to find a job," she said. She has applied for jobs around Barnwell and has experience in housekeeping and working at fast food restaurants, but hadn't heard back on any of the applications she had submitted.

Hanford: Site of the Month

Recovery Act Featured at State Legislators' Summit at Hanford

State legislators from around the nation gathered in Richland, WA in early June to hear about Recovery Act work at Hanford and how it's impacting the Tri-Cities community. Twenty-four lawmakers from six states participated in the event, called the "Environmental Management Roundtable: The Hanford Summit." The meeting was planned to help legislators, mostly those from states with their own cleanup sites, better understand cleanup issues and challenges.

On the first day of their three day visit, the legislators and their staff toured the Hanford Site, and then met for discussions on the following two days. They heard from and asked questions of DOE managers, local tribal nation leaders, Hanford's prime contractors, and local labor unions.

Many expressed satisfaction that, thanks to Recovery Act funding, thousands of new jobs are being created and cleanup will be accelerated at Hanford and other former weapons production sites.

Judith Manning, Representative to the Georgia State Assembly, asked whether the housing supply in the Tri-Cities area was being strained by the influx of new arrivals. Mark Reavis, Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council, told her that most of the new hires are already residents of the area, and that he had not heard of any new arrivals having trouble finding places to stay.

Reavis, who is a former Hanford worker himself and knows the situation on the ground, also assured questioners regarding safety and training provided to all of the employees: "The training here is the best there is. It is absolutely safe." said Reavis.

Responding to a question from John Heaton of the New Mexico State Legislature about obstacles facing Recovery Act work, Ch2M Hill's John Lehew said, "The challenge in the first two months has been the number of Radiation Control Technicians we've been able to hire and bring on the site. There are a limited number of these technicians that all of the sites around the country are competing for."

(Above) The impact of the Recovery Act on local communities was a key topic at the meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Richland, WA. Twenty-four lawmakers from six states attended the meeting.

(Above) Larry Seaquest, Washington State Representative, asks Hanford representatives whether new hires under the Recovery Act have adequate educational preparation for the technical work at Hanford.

Preparations for Expanding Disposal Facility Continue

Work to remove the stockpile of soil in preparation to expand the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) at Hanford was completed in late June. DelHur Industries, under subcontract to Washington Closure Hanford, removed nearly 250,000 cubic yards of soil.

The stockpile removal and expansion of the facility are funded by the Recovery Act, along with other cleanup projects across the Hanford Site. To prepare ERDF to receive increased volumes of waste from the accelerated cleanup efforts, Recovery Act funding also is being used to upgrade ERDF infrastructure.

An average of 200 containers of waste are disposed at the facility each day. However, waste generators are predicting the number could reach three times that amount in the next year. Most of the facility and equipment upgrades are designed to increase production safely and compliantly as work accelerates at the lined landfill.

Facility upgrades include expanding the container transfer area, rerouting roadways and traffic patterns, and building additional dump ramps. To support the effort, orders for new equipment placed in late June included a water truck, two bulldozers, 6 shuttle trucks and a new scale. The improvements will allow an increase in the facility's capacity to accommodate the increase in waste volumes from other Hanford contractors.

(Right) An order was placed in June for another water truck, similar to the one pictured, to help control dust from increased traffic and waste disposal operations at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

(Above) A new ramp into the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility is being built to increase transportation safety by improving traffic patterns. The ramp and other infrastructure improvements are being made to ensure the facility continues to operate safely and compliantly as waste volumes increase from other Hanford contractors.

(Below) In late June, DelHur Industries, a subcontractor to River Corridor Closure Project manager Washington Closure Hanford, completed removal of a 250,000-cubic-yard stockpile to accommodate expansion of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

Recovery Act D&D Employees Ready to Work at Hanford

The first phase of decontamination and decommissioning workers hired under the Recovery Act are graduating into the Hanford workforce after completing five weeks of initial training on the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center campus in Richland, Washington.

"The backgrounds and experience of these workers range from beginner to broad field experience. Since the hazards and conditions on the Hanford Site are different than anything they've likely encountered, so it's important they understand the safety culture here," said Red McKennon, Training Director for contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company. "This training has prepared them in realistic conditions to work safely and be successful when they go into the field."

In order to prepare to train the influx of new Recovery Act employees, CHPRC teamed with other contractors and HAMMER staff to develop a "Do Work Safely" course that draws on lessons learned and existing workers' previous experiences, as well as conduct of operations, human performance improvements, and safety principles.

"I'm impressed with the thoroughness of the training. We're learning to be prepared for all potential hazards," said Scott Napier, a D&D worker on the site. "The most important lesson has been to follow the principles and if something doesn't feel safe, don't do it."

(Top Left) The Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center recently graduated the first phase of new D&D workers hired using Recovery Act funding to do environmental cleanup work at the Hanford Site in Washington State.

(Top Right) Will Smith shows a group of worker-trainees how to properly torque a waste container tie-down as part of a training session at Hanford's Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center in Richland, Wash. in June 2009.

(Bottom Left) New workers hired using Recovery Act funding practice using a saws-all during their training at Hanford's Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center.

Recovery Act Work is Underway at Brookhaven National Laboratory

Lab Reactor Cleanup is Accelerated

Using DOE Recovery Act funding provided, contractor Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA) is accelerating the decommissioning of the High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). For this project and other cleanup work at the lab, BSA expects to employ about 80 people.

The HFBR was a research reactor that operated between 1965 and 1996. Used solely for scientific research, the reactor provided neutrons for experiments in materials science, chemistry, biology, and physics.

(Above) Workers moving shipping cask to transport trailer.

In April 2009, DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) agreed on a final cleanup action for the HFBR, and finalized the Record of Decision (ROD) with significant community input. The final remedy incorporates many completed interim actions, several near-term actions, and the long-term segmentation, removal, and disposal of the remaining HFBR structures, systems, and components, including the reactor vessel and thermal and biological shields.

Several actions have been taken to prepare the HFBR for decommissioning since the closing of the reactor in 1999, including shipping spent fuel elements for disposal. In 2006, ancillary buildings in the HFBR complex were dismantled and removed. In early 2009, the reactor's control rod blades and beam plugs were also removed for disposal.

Along with these steps, the remedy specifies additional near-term actions, which include dismantling the remaining ancillary buildings, removing contaminated underground utilities and piping and preparing the reactor confinement building for safe storage. The ROD requires that these near-term actions be completed no later than 2020. And as a result of Recovery Act funding, completion dates for a number of these near-term actions have been accelerated to 2011.

These long-term segmentation, removal and disposal actions will be conducted following a safe storage period (not to exceed 65 years) to allow for the natural reduction of high radiation levels to a point where conventional demolition techniques can be used to dismantle the reactor components.

Recovery Act Funding Used for Cleanup of Contaminated Soil at Brookhaven Lab

BNL contractor, Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA), is also responsible for a Recovery Act project to accelerte the cleanup of contaminated soil from the former Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HWMF) Perimeter Area at BNL.

BNL's former HWMF covers approximately 12 acres in the southeastern portion of the site, where remediation was completed in 2005. It was used between 1947 and 1997 as the central receiving facility for storage, processing and limited treatment of waste generated at BNL.

A two-acre Waste Loading Area (WLA), segregated from the original 12 acres of the former HWMF, was used as a staging area for loading bulk waste into railcars from the former HWMF and Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR) projects. The cleanup of the WLA was completed in 2008.

Radiological contamination was identified in surface soil in the perimeter area of the former HWMF in late 2005, but was unable to begin until now because of lack of funding. The contamination is believed to be a result of historical operations associated with the transfer of wastes to the former HWMF, spills, and historical runoff from contaminated soils within the facility.

Under the Recovery Act, the remediation of the contaminated soil began in early June and will employ similar excavation, staging, and shipping methods to those previously used for contaminated soil excavation projects at BNL. The project is expected to be completed by December 2009.

(Above) Soil Excavation and Waste Packaging in Progress

More Recovery Act Accomplishments at Y-12 Facility in Oak Ridge

More than $5 million of subcontracts and procurements has been committed for Recovery Act work at the Y-12 National Security Complex. These service subcontracts, combined with new hires and more staff, are contributing to early project success, especially in three material removal projects.

Nine companies are providing services for these projects: seven of the nine businesses have local offices in Oak Ridge or Knoxville.

"The procurements and subcontracts together total an estimated $5.3 million," said Terry Ferguson of Y-12's Procurement organization. "Services being provided include transportation logistics, video inspection of storm sewers, project control expertise, and others."

National Security Complex contractor, B&W Y-12, has also hired employees to support these projects. More than half of these new workers are maintenance craft and laborers, while others are radiological control technicians, schedulers and estimators.

There's been a shift internally as well with dozens of full-time Y-12 employees now applying their technical and operational expertise to the Recovery Act projects.

The quick staffing ramp-up has led to a prompt start on the waste and material disposal projects. In fact, three waste disposition projects are ahead of schedule and the Old Salvage Yard (OSY) has shipped 8 B-25 boxes of radioactive waste to final disposal. Meanwhile, the removal of more than 100,000 cubic feet of legacy material from two World War II-era buildings is well under way.

Material Removal Projects Ahead of Schedule

(Above) Workers remove legacy materials from Y-12's Beta 4 facility. Material removal in this facility was 13% complete at the end of June.

The Beta 4 (Building 9204-4) and Alpha 5 (Building 9201-5) facilities at the Y-12 National Security Complex have years of legacy material stored within them from past operations. In Alpha 5 alone, there is approximately 700,000 cubic feet of material, or roughly 1,728 standard dump truck loads.

"This work is a significant step in supporting cleanup of Y-12's facilities so they may safely continue modernizing this important National Nuclear Security Administration site," said Gerald Boyd, Manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Office, which is administering the Recovery Act funding.

(Above) Workers remove legacy materials from Y-12's Alpha 5 facility. The amount of material to be removed from this facility is estimated at 1,728 dump truck loads.

A significant portion of the Recovery Act funding designated for Y-12 will be used to remove and dispose of potentially contaminated materials from these two facilities. Work started at both buildings ahead of planned milestones.

"Moving forward to safely accomplish removal of this material will help prepare both buildings for eventual demolition," said Theodore D. Sherry, Manager of Y-12 Site Office for the National Nuclear Security Administration. "This allows us to modernize our site by reducing costs associated with maintaining unneeded and deteriorating facilities that no longer support our national security mission."

In order to ensure safety of the Y-12 workers, appropriate safety measures were taken to identify the materials' contamination levels before work began. A health and safety characterization of these materials was initiated and completed ahead of schedule.

In addition to ensuring safe but rapid work achievements, Y-12 has met a number of administrative milestones in its Recovery Act implementation. "We are meeting our performance measures now and will continue to do so throughout the life of the projects," said Darrel P. Kohlhorst, B&W Y-12 President and General Manager. "With this success to date, Y-12 is ensuring both accountability and transparency in the work accomplished with Recovery Act funding."

Y-12 Subcontractor Ships Radioactive Waste for Disposal

In June, a Y-12 subcontractor transported the first Recovery Act shipment of radioactive waste to an off-site disposal facility. Eight B-25 boxes that had been in the OSY for at least a decade were shipped to the Nevada Test Site. Before shipping, each box underwent nondestructive assay for radioactive characterization.

According to OSY project manager Brad Mattie, the 7-acre salvage yard has approximately 750 additional B-25 boxes awaiting shipment. "There's much more," he added. "The yard received scrap from Y-12 operations for more than 20 years. Besides the B-25s, there are about 200 boxcar-sized containers and piles of scrap metal."

To date, Y-12 is using nine subcontractors to perform Recovery Act work, including one contract for solid waste management services on the OSY project. A historically underutilized business zone company, Container Technologies Industries, also received a procurement contract to supply disposal containers for OSY and two other Y-12 Recovery Act projects.

Y-12 Prepares for Recovery Act Demolitions

Demolition preparations are well under way for five contaminated buildings—totaling more than 150,000 sq. ft.- at the Y-12 National Security Complex. Radiological surveys are ongoing for the facilities, and documentation such as utility isolation plans, structural assessments, waste management plans and health and safety plans is being developed.

Additionally, project performance baselines, including resource-loaded schedules and project execution plans for both the initial 12-weeks and the full duration of the projects, have been submitted for approval. A subcontracting opportunity is under development for hazardous material abatement.

Radiological control technicians characterize Building 9735 for waste disposal. Four additional Y-12 facilities will be demolished with Recovery Act funding.

Photo Gallery of Moab UMTRA Project Prior to Recovery Act Work

Below are photos of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project in Utah and the Crescent Junction disposal site associated with the project before implementation of the Recovery Act project. Expect to see additional photographs of the Recovery Act Work as it progresses in future issues.

(Above) Aerial view of entire Moab Project site looking north. The rail line is in the upper left-hand corner and the Colorado River is along the right side. The tailings pile is in the center of the photo and the excavation and drying beds are in the northwest corner of the pile.

(Above) Aerial view looking north at 22 railcars on track at Moab Project site and the one-way haul road that crosses State Route 279 (in right center of photo).

(Right) Closer view of excavated portion of the disposal cell looking south. Tailings placed in the cell as of June 2, 2009, appear as reddish color.

For more information on EM Recovery Act work, please visit http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery/, http://www.recovery.gov/, and https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/. Feel free to send questions and comments to EMRecoveryActProgram@em.doe.gov. Your feedback is welcomed.