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## News Release

## HANFORD SENDS 400<sup>th</sup> waste shipment out of Washington State

RICHLAND, Wash. – April 9, 2008 – The Department of Energy and contractor Fluor Hanford have sent the 400th shipment of nuclear waste from the Hanford Site in Washington State to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the national repository for transuranic waste, near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Shipments out of the state began in 2000. To date, Hanford has sent the equivalent of 13,500 drums of waste containing more than 1,000 pounds of plutonium to the disposal facility in New Mexico. The waste is transported in specialized trucks and is called transuranic because it is contaminated with trace amounts of radioactive elements, mostly plutonium, with half-lives greater than 20 years.

"These shipments represent continued progress toward cleaning up the Hanford Site and protecting Hanford's groundwater," said Mark French, DOE Richland Office Federal Project Director, Waste Treatment and Disposal. "At the same time, these shipments provide for permanent disposal of this waste outside of Washington State."

The waste is in the form of contaminated debris, tools, clothing, and other materials generated during plutonium processing at Hanford and other Department of Energy sites in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of the waste comes from current cleanup operations, such as demolishing former processing facilities. The waste was placed in drums and large boxes and stored in buildings or stored in burial trenches.

"Even though we are encountering more and more deteriorated drums in the burial trenches, our crews continue to adapt and meet all production goals for digging up the waste," said Dale McKenney, Fluor Hanford vice president of Waste Stabilization & Disposition. "Worker ingenuity and perseverance

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continues to be the main reasons we are able to overcome challenges and complete this important cleanup work. This means we can get more waste 'in the pipeline' for shipment out of the state."

Before making the 1,800 mile journey to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), waste containers are X-rayed to ensure they don't contain any items prohibited in the disposal facility (e.g., liquids or pressurized containers). A non-destructive assay device measures the amount and type of radioactive materials, and the air inside each of the containers is sampled to ensure the containers meet disposal requirements.

The Hanford Site is currently making two shipments per week to WIPP. For current information on the number of shipments from Hanford, visit the following WIPP Web page: www.wipp.energy.gov/shipments.htm. For more information on the Hanford Site, visit www.hanford.gov.

About Fluor Hanford

A prime contractor to the Department of Energy since 1996, <u>Fluor Hanford</u> has approximately 3,600 employees and manages several major activities at the Hanford Site, including dismantling former nuclear processing facilities, cleaning up the site's contaminated groundwater, retrieving and processing transuranic waste for off-site shipment, maintaining the site's infrastructure, and operating the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center. For more information, visit <u>www.fluorhanford.net</u>.

About Fluor Corporation

<u>Fluor Corporation</u> (NYSE: FLR) provides services on a global basis in the fields of engineering, procurement, construction, operations, maintenance and project management. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, Fluor is a FORTUNE 500 company with revenue of \$16.7 billion in 2007. For more information, visit www.fluor.com.