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DOE

DOE ANNOUNCES WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING AND REOPENING OF VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROGRAM AT HANFORD FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

During the next several months, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL) and its contractors will be undertaking a number of initiatives to continue to improve the cost effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and to respond to congressionally mandated reductions to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 budget.

In February 1995, DOE announced the need to reduce the work force by approximately 4,800 positions during FY 1995 and 1996. To date, approximately 4,350 job reductions have occurred. Needed restructuring efforts within Westinghouse Hanford Company and its subcontractors, BCS Richland, Inc., and ICF Kaiser Hanford, are expected to fill the remaining 450 reductions. To this end, the contractor today announced the offering of a Voluntary Reduction of Force (VROF) program to meet these needs. The VROF program was previously approved as part of the 1995 Hanford Work Force Restructuring Plan.

When considering reengineering and the effects of the reduced FY 1996 budget, there is an additional need to reduce Hanford's work force by another 300 to 500 positions during FY 1996. This will increase total reductions at the site since October 1, 1994, to 5,100--5,300. Although future impacts could possibly alter this projection, it is the best available at this time. RL is currently working with its contractors to determine what separation programs will be implemented to most effectively accomplish these reductions.

Section 3161 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1993 (Public Law 102-484) requires the Secretary of Energy to develop a work force restructuring plan in consultation with stakeholders to mitigate the impact on workers and communities of work force changes at the DOE's current or former defense nuclear facilities. On January 2, 1996, RL released the draft 1996 Hanford Site Work Force Restructuring Plan Addendum for stakeholder comment. The draft addendum, in connection with the current Hanford Site Work Force Restructuring Plan, offers a comprehensive line of benefits and services to help in lessening the effects of expected job reductions on workers and the community. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments on how the plan may be improved. They may do so by submitting comments to:

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