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DOE

HANFORD PESTICIDE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT MOVES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

The environment as well as Hanford workers will benefit from a newly constructed facility on the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site that will greatly enhance the management of pesticide chemicals.

"We use a variety of chemicals to control both plants and animals at Hanford. It is important to us to have a facility where we can safely clean, maintain and load our applicator vehicles," said Clay Looney, Manager of Integrated Pest Management Services for Westinghouse Hanford Company.

Westinghouse is the management and operations contractor on the 560-square-mile Hanford Site.

"This facility is designed to cost-effectively meet our needs well into the 21st Century," said Looney.

The facility was constructed to comply with state law requiring pesticide mixing and loading to be done in an area where the wash water can be contained. The new Hanford facility, however, goes beyond legal requirements.

It allows Hanford pesticide specialists to remotely mix appropriate chemicals and to clean vehicles after use, all in the same location, with no release of chemicals or wash water to the environment. Waste minimization was key to the design of the facility.

"This is a zero-waste-generation facility. Each time we wash down one of our applicator vehicles after using a particular chemical, we recover the water and use that water when we mix the next batch of the same chemical," said Looney.

"Hanford is setting an example for both government and industry to follow," stated Lloyd Piper, Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office Assistant Manager for Facility Transition. "This process is not only environmentally friendly, but cost effective as well."

Other features of the facility enhance worker safety. Because the equipment can be washed after each use, the maintenance team can service the equipment without the need for protective clothing and without the risk of chemical exposure.

"We already have a policy to use products that are the least hazardous to our workers. This facility further reduced the hazard," Looney notes.

Another feature of the facility is called "dry lock loading" which transfers chemicals, in bulk, from large containers directly into the truck, eliminating the need for workers to handle pesticide concentrates. Containers can then be returned to the supplier for re-use.

Armed with this information, Looney assembled a team of experts from his staff as well as from outside

his organization that included the Washington State Department of Agriculture, labor, site safety personnel and regulatory compliance experts. The team looked at how others in the industry do their work and applied the best ideas of each facility they reviewed. They also came up with several innovative ideas of their own.

"There is nothing fancy about this facility but it is well-designed for the future," Looney said. ICF Kaiser Hanford Company designed and managed construction of the facility using fixed-price contractors. Work was completed at an approximate cost of \$425,000. ICF Kaiser Hanford is the architect, engineering, construction management and base operations services contractor on the Hanford Site.

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