



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Media Contact:

Geoff Tyree, DOE
(509) 376-4171, Geoff_Tyree@rl.gov

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DOE Announces 400 New Hanford Site Employees Hired under the Recovery Act

RICHLAND, Wash. – Four hundred employees hired using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding are reporting to work at the Hanford Site and receiving training for their new jobs in environmental cleanup. They represent the first of many jobs that will be created at the Department of Energy's Hanford Site in southeastern Washington.

Many of the new employees are union workers hired to support decontamination and demolition (D&D) efforts for contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company. Training for D&D workers, which started last week and is expected to take up to five weeks, includes project-specific information, safety training and general background on the Hanford Site.

In addition to the 400 employees being added to Hanford's workforce, the Recovery Act funding is saving the jobs of approximately 300 current Hanford employees. Most of the employees whose jobs were saved are working on projects to clean out contaminated facilities and prepare solid, radioactive waste (known as transuranic waste) for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Hanford contractors are beginning work on a series of projects that were accelerated with Recovery Act Funding, including cleaning out buildings and surveying waste contamination levels prior to facility demolition, and preparing for increased material volumes from the additional cleanup work by expanding the site's disposal facility for low-level waste, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

"Recovery Act funding is providing us with a tremendous opportunity to keep highly trained people on the job at Hanford, hire 400 new workers, and do important cleanup work sooner," said Dave Brockman, Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office. "We look forward to the hundreds of new employees our contractors and their subcontractors will be hiring as we work to reduce our footprint of active cleanup on the site."

Additional information on DOE's Office of Environmental Management and the Hanford Site can be found at www.em.doe.gov or www.hanford.gov. Recovery Act information for the Hanford Site can be found at www.hanford.gov/recovery.

Additional information on hiring and subcontracting can be found on websites for DOE contractors CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, www.plateauremediation.com, Washington Closure Hanford, www.washingtonclosure.com, and Washington River Protection Solutions, www.wrpstoc.com.

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