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### **CH2M HILL PLATEAU REMEDIATION COMPANY AWARDS LARGEST RECOVERY ACT SUBCONTRACT AT HANFORD**

*200 West Groundwater Treatment System to be Hanford's largest groundwater treatment system to date*

RICHLAND, WASH. – MAY 7, 2010 - [CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company](#) (CH2M HILL), a prime environmental cleanup contractor for the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), has awarded the largest subcontract to date using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds (Recovery Act) at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State. A subcontract worth up to \$50 million has been awarded to Skanska USA Building Inc. for construction of the largest groundwater treatment system at the Site.

Skanska has a rich history in Washington, where its Seattle-based team has been performing work since 1946. Construction of the 200 West Groundwater Treatment System will be a key part of the Department of Energy's strategy to treat groundwater contamination and protect the Columbia River, which runs through the 586-square-mile Site.

"This treatment system will keep contaminated groundwater in the center of the Hanford Site from spreading to the Columbia River," said Briant Charboneau, Soil and Groundwater Project Director, Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office. "The treatment system will eventually clean up the groundwater to meet the drinking water standard."

Designed by CH2M HILL's national team of engineers, the 200 West Groundwater Treatment System is comprised of two primary treatment facilities and will have a combined footprint of over 52,000 square feet.

"The construction of this new facility involves first-of-its-kind technical challenges," said Kent Dorr, CH2M HILL Vice President of Engineering, Projects and Construction. "Skanska has a proven technical and safety record that will support our efforts to bring the 200 West Groundwater Treatment System on line safely and efficiently by 2012."

When complete, the new system will bring together a variety of techniques to remove nitrates and metals, as well as radioactive and organic contaminants. The system will use a resin to remove radionuclides, an air stripper to remove volatile organic compounds and a bioreactor to remove nitrates. The system will have the capacity to treat approximately 2,500 gallons per minute once it begins operating.

Overall, during the life of the new system, an estimated 25 billion gallons of groundwater will be treated and up to 110,000 pounds of carbon tetrachloride will be extracted and treated.

Construction of other parts of the treatment system began in summer 2009. Groundwater transfer and injection buildings are being built, wells are being drilled and approximately 18 miles of transfer pipe is being installed to pump contaminated groundwater from the aquifer, transfer it to the treatment facility and inject clean water into the aquifer outside the area of contamination.

During the Cold War, billions of gallons of liquids contaminated with chemicals and radioactive elements were discharged from plutonium production facilities into several soil disposal sites across the Hanford Site. Discharges in the western area of Hanford's Central Plateau, where the treatment system is being constructed, resulted in a 5-square-mile area of groundwater contaminated above drinking water levels. Leaks from large underground storage tanks also contributed to much smaller areas of contamination. The primary contaminants of concern are carbon tetrachloride, a solvent used in processing facilities, and Technetium-99, a radioactive byproduct of processing. Smaller areas of other contaminants in the same geographical area will also be treated by this system.

As part of the construction design, CH2M HILL is pursuing the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Skanska's portfolio includes more than 100 projects that have achieved or are seeking LEED certification. Some of the "green building" strategies that are being pursued include reducing indoor and outdoor water use, utilizing building materials with recycled content and implementing indoor environmental quality strategies such as low emissions materials and lighting controls.

The 200 West Groundwater Treatment main process building, once certified, will be the first and only LEED Gold facility on the Hanford Site. "Skanska has a successful history in the construction of LEED facilities and their safety record makes them a natural fit for our CH2M HILL team. We look forward to this new partnership," said Dorr.

*Headquartered near Denver, Colo., employee-owned CH2M HILL is a global leader in engineering, procurement, construction, management and operations for government, civil, industrial and energy clients. With \$6.4 billion in revenue and more than 25,000 employees, CH2M HILL is an industry-leading program management, construction management and design firm, as ranked by Engineering News-Record (2008). The firm's work is concentrated in the areas of energy, water, transportation, environmental, nuclear and industrial facilities. The firm has long been recognized as a most-admired company and leading employer, including being named by FORTUNE as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For and one of America's Most Admired Companies (2008). Visit [www.ch2mhill.com](http://www.ch2mhill.com).*

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