



Aerial Radiological Surveys at Hanford

A Department of Energy Recovery Act Project



An innovative approach to radiological surveys is being used to evaluate shallow soil contamination near the center of the Hanford Site, an area known as the Central Plateau.

As a result of animal intrusion and wind dispersion of contaminants originating in the BC Cribs and Trenches, shallow soil contamination across the adjacent site known as the BC Controlled Area, located south of Hanford's 200 East Area.

The U.S. Department of Energy and its contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) are using aerial radiological surveys to gain information on the contamination levels within the BC Controlled Area and the West Lake area of the Site. The West Lake area is located in the northern part of the Central Plateau, near Gable Mountain. Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the surveys are part of a larger \$27 million project that allows soil remediation at the BC Controlled Area to begin months ahead of schedule.

The process includes a Bell 412/HP helicopter flying over 80 miles per hour, 50 feet above ground level soil. Due to the constant movement, no soil will be disturbed during the flight. Using detectors and electronics software, the surveys provide contamination levels and geographic global positioning coordinates of the contamination.

CH2M HILL is mobilized and ready to initiate soil remediation.

Technology benefits:

Aerial radiological surveys produce a high-confidence detection of shallow soil radiological contamination that reduces:

- Worker risk
- Taxpayer cost
- Environmental impact
- Hanford Site cleanup footprint

For more information:

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

Dee Millikin, CH2M HILL,
(509) 376-1297, Dee_Millikin@rl.gov