



River Corridor Closure Project

Recovery Act Weekly Report

For the week ending July 22, 2011

Contract DE-AC06-05RL14655

Protecting the Columbia River

Overview

Background Summary of Projects that Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) will accomplish using ARRA funds.

A. The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF)

ERDF is the hub of the WCH scope of work and supports a major portion of other Hanford contractor (OHC) waste disposal. Wastes collected from sites around the Hanford complex are brought to ERDF for treatment and disposal. WCH operates the ERDF and is currently using ARRA funds to upgrade and expand its capabilities to meet the needs of Hanford's accelerating mission.

B. The 618-10 Burial Grounds

The trenches at 618-10 have long been regarded as some of Hanford's worst waste sites. Using ARRA funds, WCH will characterize the site. Intrusive and non-intrusive techniques will be used, and the subsequent analysis of data will enable the project to pursue remediation of the site safely and effectively.

C. The 618-11 Burial Grounds

Along with 618-10, the 618-11 Burial Grounds are among the biggest challenges faced by WCH using ARRA funds. The 618-11 characterization work will require special care because of its proximity to the Energy Northwest Generating Facility, north of the 300 Area.

D. Waste Site Remediation

WCH is employing ARRA funds to clean up many failed waste sites not originally part of its contract. Sites in the 100-F and IU 2&6 segments 1&2 are proposed for waste site remediation in the two year period starting in October 2009.

E. Confirmatory Sampling of other new sites

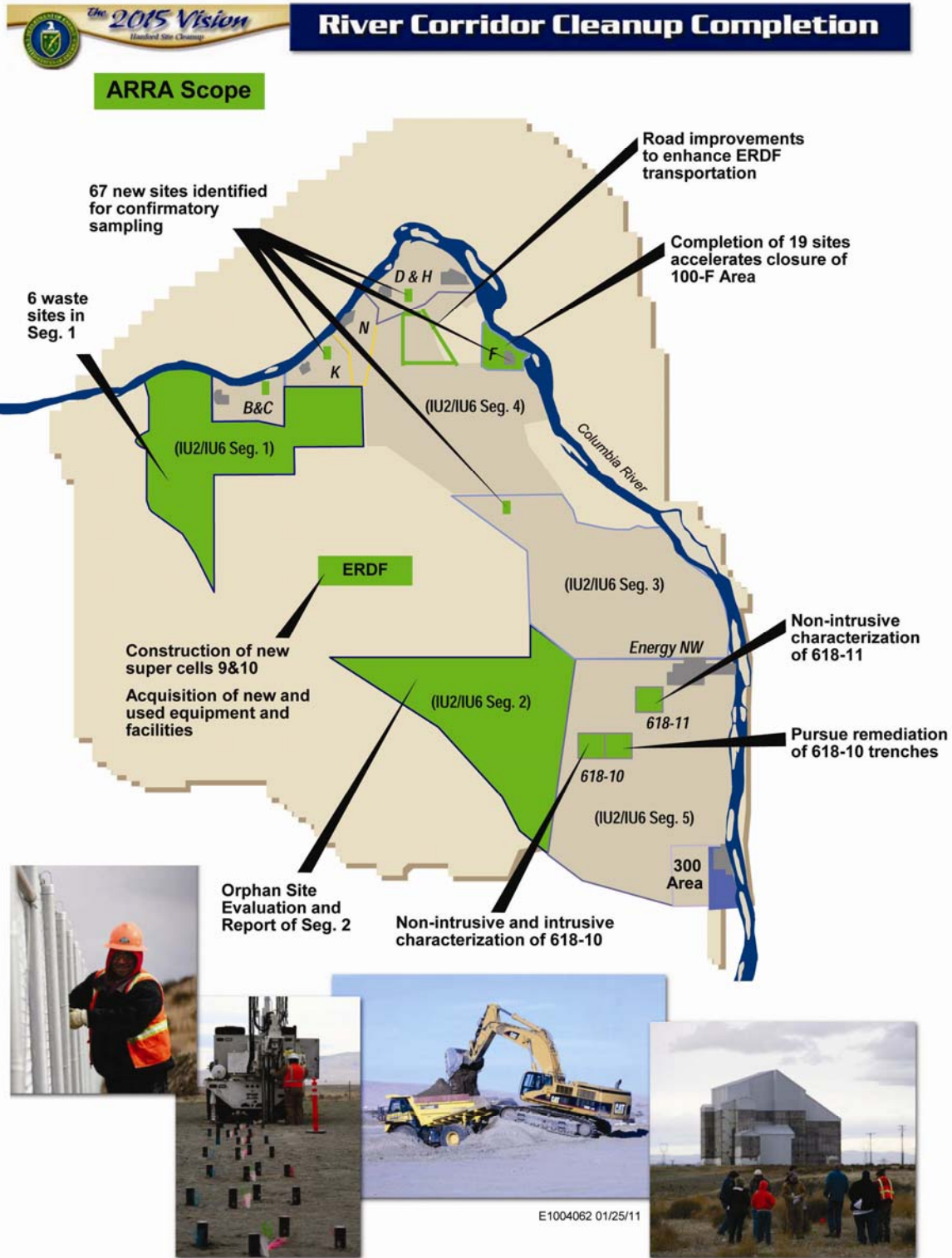
WCH is proposing to complete the early sampling process of 67 potential waste sites using ARRA funds. Confirmatory sampling is performed for sites that require additional information for determining if the site requires remediation.

This weekly report will provide evidence of these activities as they occur in support of ARRA.

The following figure illustrates the overall scope of WCH's ARRA projects.



Overview (Continued)



Safety

Safety Accomplishments

As of June 19, 2011, WCH and its subcontractors worked 609,809 hours of ARRA scope with no safety incidents.

Hazard Reductions

The River Corridor Closure Project's Weekly Safety Roundup focuses on safety issues that affect Hanford Site workers. A recent topic included in the Roundup focused on heat stress. It was titled: "Heat Stress: It's a Matter of Degree." The three degrees of heat stress are mild, moderate, and severe. The following information on each degree was provided.

Mild – Minor Heat Stress

This is usually the earliest and least form of heat stress. Mild heat stress is always reversible and usually isn't dangerous unless the symptoms persist. Although you usually can continue work soon after treatment, always inform your supervisor if you have symptoms.

Signs and symptoms

- Excessive sweating
- Painful spasms in muscles during or several hours after activity (heat cramps)
- Tiny red bumps on skin or prickling sensation (called prickly heat)
- Irritability, mild dizziness, or weakness.

Treatment

- Rest in a cool or shady area
- Drink water or other fluids
- Use warm, moist compresses over cramping muscles, followed by gentle massage
- Use a mild drying lotion to relieve the rash; keep skin dry and clean

Moderate – Heat Exhaustion

This is a more serious form of heat stress, although the symptoms are usually reversible if treated right away. You may need to take a break from work and get medical attention, so inform your supervisor if you have symptoms

Signs and symptoms

- Excessive sweating
- Cold, moist, pale, or flushed skin
- Thirst
- Extreme weakness or fatigue
- Headache, nausea, or loss of appetite
- Dizziness or giddiness
- A rapid, weak pulse

Treatment

- Rest in cool or shady area
- Drink water or other fluids



Safety (Continued)

- Take additional salt if advised
- Use cool compresses on forehead, around the neck, and under the armpits.

Severe – Heat Stroke

This is a serious, life-threatening medical emergency. It can happen in just a few hours or less. It's more common in older people, but it can happen to anyone. The symptoms are reversible, but if not treated properly, it can lead to permanent brain damage or death.

Signs and symptoms

- Lack of sweating
- Hot, dry flushed skin
- Deep, rapid breathing
- A rapid, weak, and possibly irregular pulse
- Headache, nausea
- Dizziness, confusion, or delirium
- Loss of consciousness
- Convulsions

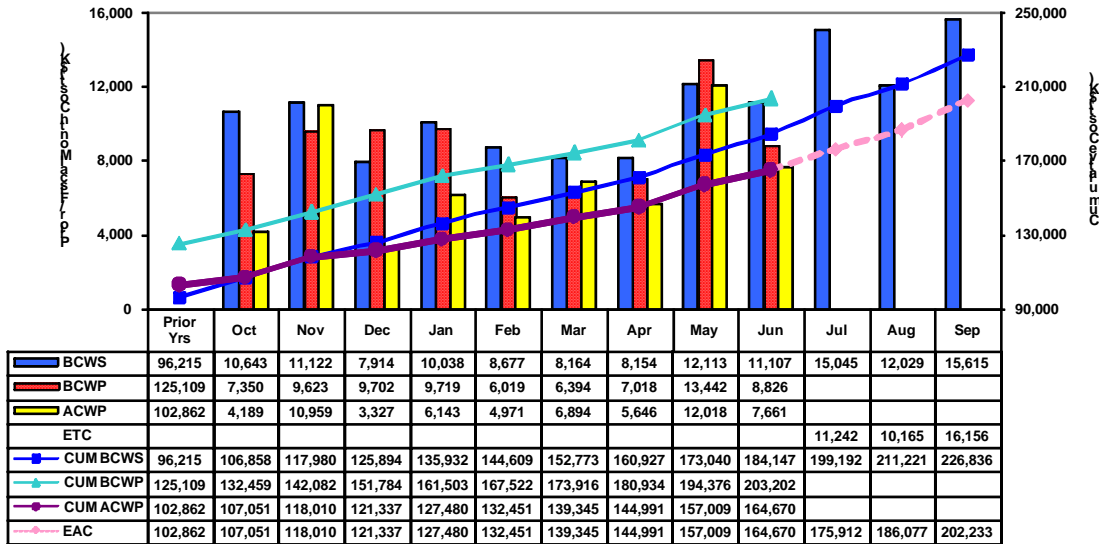
Treatment

- Rest in cool or shady area
- Remove outer clothing
- Lower body temperature with cool compresses, increase air movement, or both
- Drink water or other fluids

Cost/Contract Status

Contract Mod #	Date	Scope	Obligated (\$M) (Inception to Date)	Not to Exceed (\$M) (Inception to Date)
099	4/9/09	ERDF Cell Expansion & Upgrades; 618-10 NIC	\$203.0	\$28.0
105	4/30/09	ERDF Cell Expansion & Upgrades; 618-10 NIC	\$203.0	\$44.5
126	7/23/09	H.37 Clause - Reporting Requirements	N/A	N/A
139	9/3/09	ERDF Cell Expansion & Upgrades; 618-10 NIC	\$253.6	\$44.5
142	9/30/09	ERDF Cell Expansion & Upgrades; 618-10 NIC; Phase 2 Scope	\$253.6	\$123.8
174	2/22/10	ERDF Cell Expansion & Upgrades; 618-10 NIC; Phase 2 Scope	\$248.2	\$123.8
182	3/25/10	ERDF Cell Expansion & Upgrades; 618-10 NIC; Phase 2 Scope	\$248.2	\$155.8
185	4/19/10	Phase 1 and Phase 2 Scope	\$248.2	\$178.0
192	4/27/10	Phase 1 and Phase 2 Scope	\$253.6	\$178.0
205	5/26/10	Reallocate Funds for Equipment and GPPs	\$253.6	\$178.0
210	6/23/10	Funding deobligation	\$229.3	\$178.0
217	8/4/10	Funding re-obligation	\$233.6	\$178.0
230	9/24/10	Phase 3 Definitization	\$233.6	\$178.0
241	11/22/10	Reallocate Funds for Equipment	\$233.6	\$178.0
242	12/1/10	Increase the Cost Authority on RL-0041.R2	\$233.6	\$196.6
247	12/16/10	Reallocate Funds for Capital Expenditures	\$233.6	\$196.6
253	1/18/11	Increase 41.R1 Cost Authority and reallocate funds for capital	\$233.6	\$214.4
266	2/17/11	Reallocate Funds for Capital Expenditures	\$233.6	\$214.4
281	4/5/11	Increase Cost Authority on RL-0041.R2	\$233.6	\$233.6
284	4/14/11	Reallocate Funds for Capital Expenditures	\$233.6	\$233.6
291	5/9/11	Authorization to charge ERDF operations to ARRA	\$233.6	\$233.6
298	5/20/11	Reallocate Funds for Capital Expenditures	\$233.6	\$233.6
304	6/15/11	Reallocate Funds for Capital Expenditures	\$233.6	\$233.6

RCC Project - ARRA
Current Performance Measurement Baseline (PMB)
Prior Years / FY11 Fiscal Month



ARRA Proposals 1, 2, 3 and ERDF Operations Buy Back Actuals (\$K)

Apportionment Number	Apportionment Title		June 2011	Inception To Date	Cost Authority
RL-0041.R1	ERDF Cell Expansion	PMB	5,764	116,813	156,847
RL-0041.R2	River Corridor Soil & Groundwater (618-10)	PMB	1,897	47,857	76,754
Sub Total		PMB	7,661	164,670	233,601
Fee			580	15,677	
Total			8,241	180,347	

* PMB = Performance Measurement Baseline.



ERDF

Super Cells 9 and 10 Construction

WCH and subcontractors TradeWind Services and DelHur Industries completed construction of super cells 9 and 10 in February. Super cell 9 was placed into service in February, and super cell 10 was authorized for use in early May. A project startup review package for super cell 10 is under development.

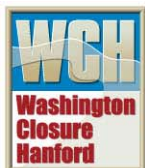
The addition of the super cells increased the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility's (ERDF) capacity by 5.6 million tons for a total of 16.4 million tons. The expansion project, initially scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2011, was finished seven months ahead of schedule and nearly \$16.4 million under budget. The construction of super cell 10 included upgrades to the leachate transmission pipe and construction of two new leachate storage tanks.

The project team used lessons learned from previous cell construction to devise the design for the super cells. A super cell is equivalent to an existing pair of cells – 1,000 feet long, 500 feet wide, and 70 feet deep – and is more cost-efficient because it simplifies the leachate collection system. The super cell design eliminated 12 inches of drainage gravel and requires fewer pumps, motors, crest pads, valves, and other pieces of equipment. The result was a cost reduction of \$1.5 million per super cell.

In addition, weather enclosures for cells 1 and 2 were constructed. The enclosures provide protection for the existing leachate piping systems and electrical/instrumentation.

Waste Disposal Operations

ERDF has received the final two Hanford Site railcars from the 212-R rail spur. Nine of the railcars contained lead-lined casks and were used to transport irradiated fuel. The railcars are referred to as well cars because they held water for cooling and shielding. The final two railcars delivered to the facility were tankers. Previously, 58,500 railroad ties from the Hanford Site were disposed at ERDF.



ERDF (Continued)



A pump from Tanks Farms is delivered to super cell 10 at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. (Photo 1)

ERDF (Continued)



Piping from the water intake structures at K East and K West reactors is disposed in super cell 9 at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. (Photo 2)

ERDF (Continued)



*Two Hanford Site tanks cars are being disposed at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.
(Photo 3)*

ERDF (Continued)



The ERDF disposal team covers nearly 58,500 Hanford Site railroad ties in super cell 9 at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. (Photo 4)

Facility and Equipment Upgrades

Work continues to connect water to ERDF's new maintenance facilities. Construction is complete at the container maintenance facility and equipment maintenance facility/operations center. Electrical and plumbing work continues at the transportation maintenance facility.

The container maintenance facility includes a large container repair line, a maintenance shop, and a weld area. The equipment maintenance facility will include two service lines, an operational storage facility, a large concrete pad, and an exterior awning over a smaller concrete pad. The new operations center will help alleviate severe overcrowding of personnel and also accommodate new employees hired to handle the increasing waste volumes.

The expanded transportation maintenance facility includes two additional truck bays, a large concrete pad, an exterior awning that will cover two smaller concrete pads, and a conference room.

ERDF (Continued)

WCH continues to install radio-frequency identification tags for ERDF's new waste container tracking system. The system, designed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will assist the Waste Operations team by providing the location of full and empty containers.

ERDF's new batch plant is complete. The plant is used to produce concrete used to mix with debris, ensuring no void space during disposal operations.

Upcoming Activities

- Continue construction of the transportation maintenance facility.



618-10 Burial Ground

Trench Remediation Project

WCH continued excavation of waste trenches and processing of anomalies (drums and bottles) at the 618-10 Burial Ground. The project team is focusing on the south trench of the site. As of July 20, about 35,179 bank cubic meters have been removed.



Excavation of the waste trenches continues at the 618-10 Burial Ground. The project team is working in the south trench. (Photo 5)

618-10 Burial Ground (Continued)



More than 35,000 bank cubic meters have been removed since excavation of the waste trenches began in April. (Photo 6)

The 618-10 Burial Ground operated from 1954 to 1963, receiving low- and high-activity radioactive waste from 300 Area laboratories and fuel development facilities. Low-activity wastes were primarily disposed in 12 trenches, while the moderate- and high-activity wastes were disposed in 94 vertical pipe units (VPUs). The VPUs were constructed by welding five bottomless drums together and buried vertically about 10 feet apart.

In September 2010, WCH completed intrusive characterization field operations at the burial ground. Test pits were dug through a subset of disposal trenches, unearthing a limited number of drums to verify the condition and types of wastes that were disposed.

Several drums containing radioactive waste, a shipping cask, and miscellaneous waste were discovered during the intrusive trench characterization activities. The drums contained depleted uranium and uranium oxide. In addition, “concreted” 55-gallon drums also were discovered. Based on the records research and the finds during intrusive characterization, the number of drums the burial ground may contain is estimated to be between 2,000 and 6,000 (most likely closer to 2,000). That includes an estimated 800 concreted drums that were used to dispose of highly radioactive waste nested inside a pipe surrounded by concrete. The pipe contains the

618-10 Burial Ground (Continued)

waste and the concrete provides radiation shielding for its contents. Workers also found a cask with unknown contents, bollards, bottles, metal pieces, and other miscellaneous debris.

Nonintrusive characterization field activities were completed in May 2010. The scope of activities carried out as part of nonintrusive characterization included geophysical delineation, in situ characterization using a multi-detector probe, and soil sampling from below a selection of 10 VPUs. During in situ characterization, measurements were collected for 100 cone penetrometers in the trench area and 375 cone penetrometers in the VPU area.

Upcoming Activities

- Continue excavation of waste trenches and processing of anomalies (drums and bottles).

Video

[Click here to view video of waste trench excavation at the 618-10 Burial Ground.](#)



618-11 Burial Ground

In June, WCH and subcontractor North Wind Inc. completed radiological characterization of all 50 vertical pipe units (VPUs) at the 618-11 Burial Ground. The characterization report is being reviewed and is expected to be finalized in August. Infrastructure work is scheduled to begin this fall.

The 618-11 Burial Ground operated from March 1962 to December 1967. Low- to high-activity wastes from 300 Area laboratories and fuel development facilities were disposed at the site. The burial ground not only contains VPUs, but also three slope-sided trenches and five large caissons.



The 618-11 Burial Ground (green rectangle) is adjacent to Columbia Generating Station, an operating nuclear reactor. (Photo 7)

The project team began field work by conducting geophysical delineation to determine the number and location of the VPUs and caissons. The delineation was determined using reconnaissance-level magnetic field survey, detailed-level magnetic and time-domain electromagnetic induction (TDEMI) survey, and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey.

618-11 Burial Ground (Continued)

North Wind then installed two cone penetrometers (narrow steel tubes) about 6 to 8 inches from the exterior of each VPU and to an approximate depth of 6 feet below the VPU. A gamma-logging probe was inserted into the cone penetrometers to identify the location of radioactive materials within the VPUs.

The VPUs typically were constructed by welding five 55-gallon bottomless drums end to end. The caissons were constructed of corrugated metal pipe (8-foot diameter, 10-foot long). The top of the caisson was 15 feet below grade and connected to the surface by an offset pipe (3-foot diameter) with a dome-type cap. The trenches are 900 feet long by 500 feet wide and 25 feet deep.

The purpose of nonintrusive characterization is to characterize the burial ground's contents without opening or exposing them to workers or the surface environment. The data collected will be used to help plan remediation strategies.

Upcoming Activities

- Review characterization report.



100-F Area

WCH and subcontractor Ojeda Business Ventures continued with the remediation of 19 waste sites at 100-F Area. Work continues to demolish concrete at 100-F-57 and load out concrete and underlying soil. The site consists of stained concrete and soil containing hexavalent chromium.

The project team also excavated and loaded out plume at 100-F-44:8 (fuel oil pipelines), and collected closeout samples at 100-F-49 (maintenance garage lube pit foundation) and 100-F-26:7.

In February, the project team completed recovery of approximately 200 gallons of sodium dichromate from pipelines at 100-F-26:7. The safe and efficient removal of the toxic liquid by WCH and its subcontractors prevented potential leaking and groundwater contamination.



In February, a Washington Closure Hanford subcontractor safely drained sodium dichromate from a pipe at 100-F-26:7. (Photo 8)

100-F Area (Continued)

The following sites have had the soil excavated and loaded out:

- 100-F-26:4 (process sewer pipeline section)
- 100-F-44:8 (fuel oil pipelines)
- 100-F-44:9 (process sewer pipeline)
- 100-F-45 (river bank pipeline)
- 100-F-47 (electrical substation foundation)
- 100-F-48 (coal-pit debris)
- 100-F-49 (maintenance garage lube pit foundation)
- 100-F-51 (fish laboratory footprint, pipelines)
- 100-F-55 (contaminated ash layer)
- 100-F-58 (asbestos-containing surface debris)
- 100-F-8 (drains)
- 100-F-62 (animal farm septic lines)
- 100-F-63 (animal farm radioactive effluent lines).

F Reactor operated from 1945 to 1965 as one of Hanford's nine surplus plutonium production reactors for the nation's nuclear weapons program. The reactor was cocooned in 2003. During reactor construction and operations, waste was disposed in unlined pits and trenches throughout the site.

The 100-F Area also was the home of the experimental animal farm (EAF), which from 1945 to 1976 operated adjacent to the reactor site. The EAF used animals for studying the potential effects of ionizing radiation exposure to humans in the occupational setting. Reactor and EAF sites in the 100-F Area contributed to the discharge of contaminated cooling water, other liquids, and solid wastes.

WCH completed cleanup of 53 waste sites at F Area in 2008, loading out more than 408,000 tons of waste. However, during the course of cleanup, 19 additional waste sites were discovered.

Upcoming Activities

- Continue demolition and excavation of the western portion of 100-F-57.
- Remediate plume from 100-F-44:8.
- Begin remediation of plume from 100-F-61.



IU 2 & 6 Segment 1

WCH completed revegetation of the five IU 2&6 waste sites on November 30, 2010. Segment 1 encompasses about 28 square miles of the northwestern portion of the Hanford Site, away from the nine surplus plutonium production reactor areas. The waste sites were unique because they were primarily used for housing and support areas.

The remediation sites were:

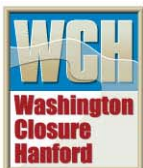
- 600-341 (four areas that contained dry cell battery remnants and/or battery debris)
- 600-343 (residual ash from burned material and dumped asphalt in excavation trench)
- 600-344 (stained area)
- 600-345 (stained area with oil filters)
- 600-346 (four small fly-ash dump areas with metal debris).

Earlier this year a global positioning environmental radiological survey indicated that an additional site, 600-342, did not require additional remediation.



Confirmatory Sampling

WCH completed sampling of ARRA confirmatory sites. Sampling was performed at 41 sites in accordance with the regulator approved work instructions that were completed earlier this year. Based on the sampling results, documentation is being prepared to recommend whether the sites require remediation. This documentation is then submitted to the DOE and the regulatory agencies for review and approval. The recommendations have been approved for more than 90% of the sites; the remaining documents are in the review and approval process.



General

Media, Visits, Press Releases

- Six DOE public tours made stops at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. Visitors were briefed on the facility's operations and procedures.

Contracting Actions

- There were no significant contracting actions this week.

