



*River Corridor Closure Project*

# **Recovery Act Weekly Report**

For the week ending October 29, 2010

Contract DE-AC06-05RL14655

*Protecting the Columbia River*

## Overview

Background Summary of Projects that Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) will accomplish using ARRA funds (pending definitization of scope and contract modifications).

### 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

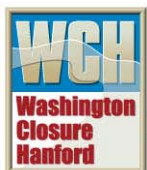
WCH is employing ARRA funds to clean up many failed waste sites not originally part of its contract. Sites in the 100-F and IU 2&6 segments 1&2 are proposed for waste site remediation in the two year period starting in October 2009.

### E. Confirmatory Sampling of other new sites

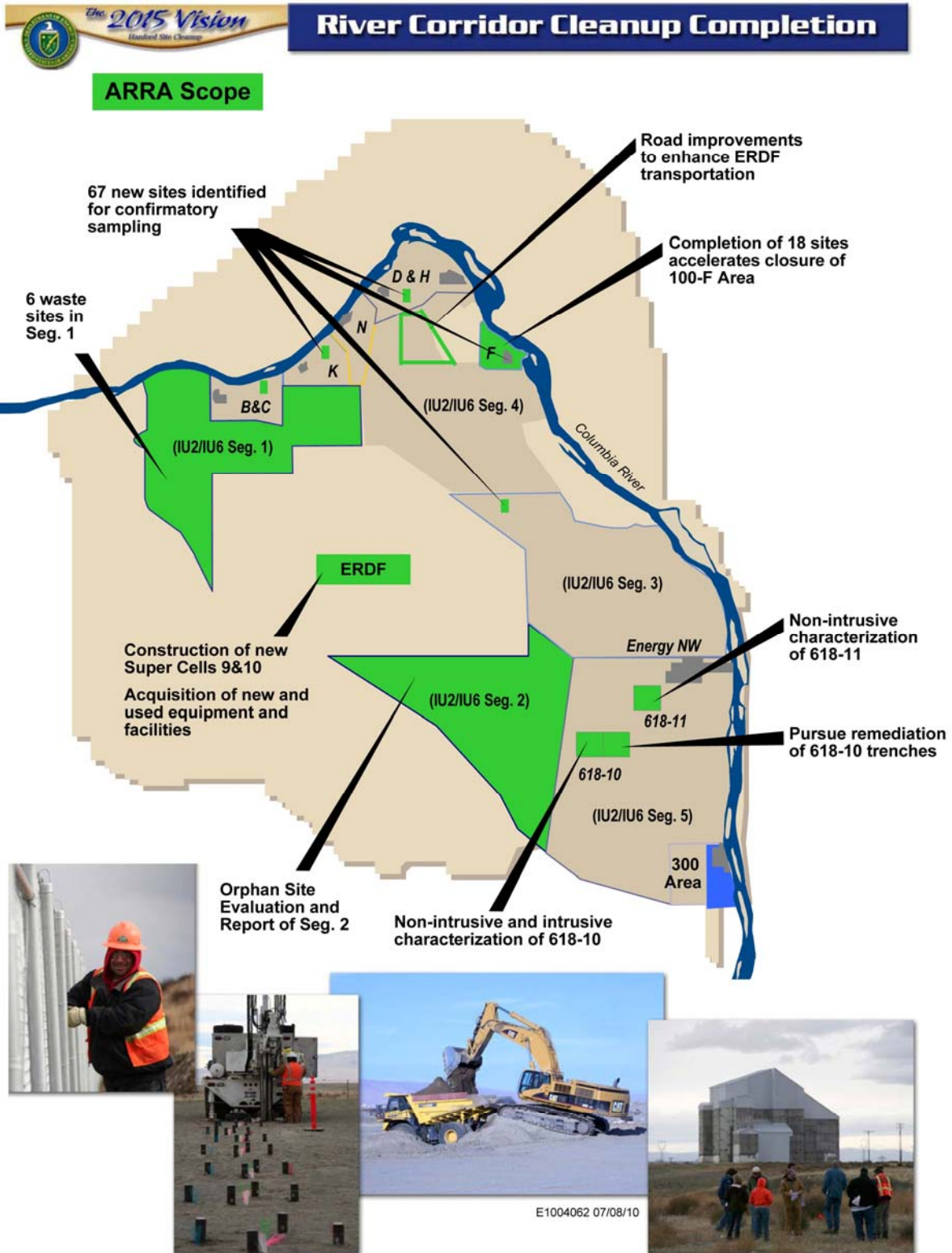
WCH is proposing to complete the early sampling process of 67 potential waste sites using ARRA funds. Confirmatory sampling is performed for sites that require additional information for determining if the site requires remediation.

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 September 30, 2010, WCH and its subcontractors have worked 285,488 hours of ARRA scope with no safety incidents.

### Hazard Reductions

WCH's Safety and Health organization issued a presentation to its employees that focused on pedestrian and vehicle safety. It was titled "Pedestrian Safety – It's a Two-Way Street."

Hanford has many areas that are at high risk for unpredictable presence of pedestrians in vehicle lanes. Pedestrians may step out to cross assuming that all drivers see them.

Workers are reminded: 1) not to assume a driver sees you, even if it looks as though the driver is staring right at you, and 2) to make sure the vehicle stops and/or the driver waves you across. Drivers are reminded to slow down and use caution in high traffic areas or other locations where pedestrians are common.

In September, Hanford experienced a near miss when a pedestrian was almost struck in a crosswalk by a vehicle. The driver reported that the sun in his eyes prevented him from seeing anyone in the crosswalk until he struck the pedestrian's lunch box. Many motorists don't look for pedestrians when approaching a crosswalk. Pedestrians must make eye contact with a driver before crossing in front of the vehicle.

Pedestrians are reminded to ask themselves the following questions:

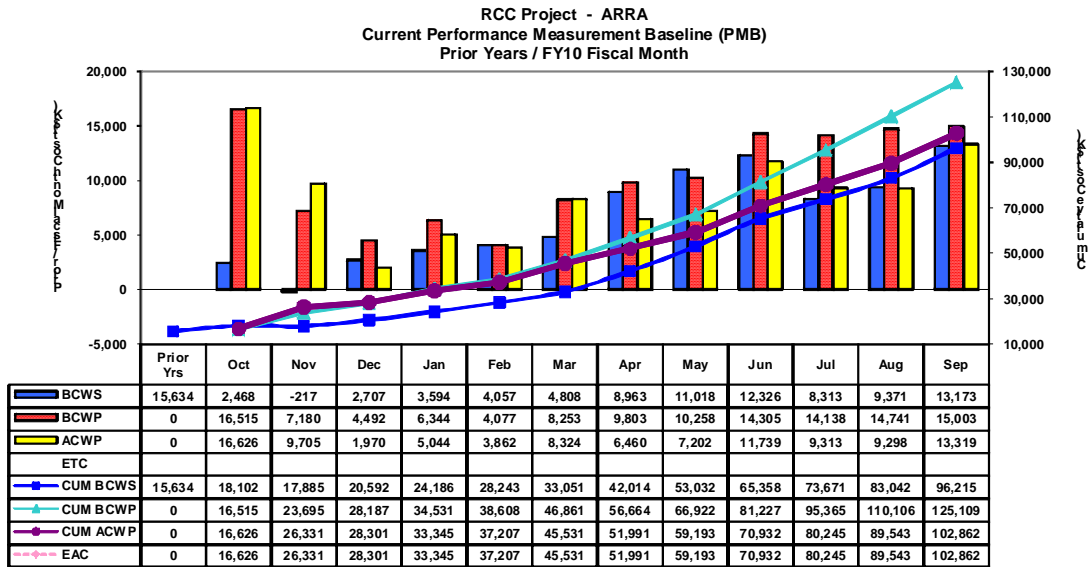
- Do I always cross a street at the nearest marked or unmarked crosswalk?
- How many near misses have I experienced in parking lots?
- Have I been driving a vehicle while using my cell phone?
- Have I crossed a street without looking both ways and back again, or while using my cell phone?
- Am I always alert to potential threats while walking in parking lots?



# 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

## River Corridor Closure Project - ARRA



## ARRA Proposals 1, 2 and 3 Actuals (\$K)

Apportionment Number	Apportionment Title		September 2010	Inception To Date	Cost Authority
RL-0041.R1.2	ERDF Cell Expansion	PMB	9,645	74,603	139,072
RL-0041.R2	River Corridor Soil & Groundwater (618-10)	PMB	3,673	28,259	38,907
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>PMB</b>	<b>13,318</b>	<b>102,862</b>	<b>177,979</b>
<b>Fee</b>			<b>1,137</b>	<b>10,633</b>	
<b>Total</b>			<b>14,455</b>	<b>113,495</b>	

\* PMB = Performance Measurement Baseline.



## ERDF

### **Super Cells 9 and 10 Construction**

WCH and prime subcontractor TradeWind Services continue with construction of the liners and leachate collection systems for super cells 9 and 10.

The liner system consists of a 3-foot layer of admix, two layers of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), a 1-foot layer of gravel with a 12-inch perforated leachate collection pipe, a geocomposite layer, and two geotextile layers. Admix is a 3-foot low-permeability compacted soil layer of the liner system that is manufactured by mixing excavated soil with bentonite.

Installation of all the layers in super cell 9 is complete, except for the geocomposite and operations layers (3 feet of soil) on the south slope of the super cell.

In super cell 10, the primary layer of HDPE has been installed and work continues to place the rock for the gravel drainage layer and the operations layer. The rock has been placed in about 70% of the super cell. The operations layer has been placed on the north slope and 50% of the super cell floor.

Work also continues on the installation of the electrical and mechanical in the crest pad buildings for both super cells.



## ERDF (Continued)



*A view from the southeast corner of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility shows liner construction progress in super cells 9 and 10. (Photo 1)*

The shells of ERDF's two new leachate storage tanks have been erected and preparations are being made to construct the inside liners. The new storage tanks – Nos. 3 and 4 – will replace the facility's two original storage tanks – Nos. 1 and 2.

Removal of tank No. 1 was completed in September, and tank No. 2 will be removed when the replacement tanks are in service. Each of the original tanks measured 80 feet in diameter and had a capacity of 275,000 gallons. Each replacement tank will measure 100 feet in diameter with a 425,000-gallon capacity.

### **Facility and Equipment Upgrades**

WCH subcontractor ELRFowler completed work on the underground utilities (electrical, plumbing) and poured the concrete slab at the container maintenance facility. The container maintenance facility will include a large container repair line, a maintenance shop, and a weld area.

## ERDF (Continued)



*Workers begin to pour the concrete slab at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility's container maintenance facility. (Photo 2)*



## ERDF (Continued)



*A team from Washington Closure Hanford subcontractor Fowler General Construction spreads concrete at the container maintenance facility. (Photo 3)*

## ERDF (Continued)



*A Fowler General Construction employee works to smooth recently poured concrete at the container maintenance facility. (Photo 4)*

ELRFowler also poured the stem walls for the equipment maintenance facility. The stem walls join the building foundation with the vertical walls. 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.

## ERDF (Continued)



*Fowler General Construction continues to construct the stem walls at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility's maintenance facility/operations center. (Photo 5)*

ELRFowler, a joint venture between local companies ELR Consulting and Fowler General Construction, also will construct an upgraded transportation truck maintenance facility. The facility will include two additional truck bays, a large concrete pad, an exterior awning that will cover two smaller concrete pads, and a conference room.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) continues work on a new waste container tracking system for ERDF. The system will accurately track waste shipments and equipment, and generate real-time reports. PNNL has begun electrical and reader software development. A new batch plant is scheduled to be delivered to ERDF next month. The batch plant will produce "flow fill" concrete used to mix with debris, ensuring no void space during disposal operations. In support of the batch plant, WCH purchased two concrete mixer trucks and a pump truck from Peters and Keatts Equipment Inc. Peters and Keatts is based in Lewiston, Idaho.

WCH is reviewing vendor bids for a new septic system at ERDF. The septic system was designed by Columbia Engineers and Constructors, a small business based in Richland, Washington.

## ERDF (Continued)

Work continues to manufacture crushed base rock for the expanded container transfer area (CTA). The existing CTA will be expanded 600 feet, providing additional storage for about 300 waste containers.

Mission Support Alliance subcontractor Fowler General Construction is constructing a new turn lane for vehicles going to ERDF via North Landfill Road. Construction is scheduled for completion by mid-November. Earlier this month, Fowler completed repair work on three Hanford Site roads used to transport waste material for disposal at ERDF. Routes 1, 2, and 4 are operational.

WCH is reviewing Vista Engineering's final design of weather enclosures for crest pad buildings 1 and 2. Vista Engineering is a local company and subcontractor of DelHur.

### Upcoming Activities

- Continue construction of the liner and leachate collection systems for super cells 9 and 10.
- Continue construction of leachate holding tanks Nos. 3 and 4.
- Continue construction of container maintenance facility.
- Continue construction of equipment/operations center.

### Video

[Click here to view pouring of slab at ERDF's container maintenance facility.](#)



## 618-10 Burial Ground

### 618-10 Trench Remediation Project

WCH subcontractor White Shield/Apollo continues work on a \$3.7 million contract to install water, electricity, roads, office trailers, and a waste container transfer area for remediation at the 618-10 Burial Ground. The site for the office trailer complex has been completed and work continues to construct new site roads and extend the drum storage area.

White Shield/Apollo is a small, disadvantaged joint venture between White Shield Inc. of Pasco, Washington, and Apollo Inc. of Kennewick, Washington. White Shield/Apollo is scheduled to complete infrastructure work by February 2011.



Washington Closure Hanford subcontractor White/Shield Apollo completed construction of the site to be used for office trailers at the 618-10 Burial Ground. (Photo 6)

## 618-10 Burial Ground (Continued)



*White/Shield Apollo continues construction of site roads at the 618-10 Burial Ground. (Photo 7)*

Earlier this month, WCH awarded two subcontracts totaling nearly \$2.1 million for lease of heavy equipment for trench remediation. CWR Enterprises of Rathdrum, Idaho, partnered with Rowand Machinery of Spokane, Washington, for a \$1,378,000 subcontract. Acquisition Business Consultants of Richland, Washington, partnered with Peters & Keatts of Lewiston, Idaho, for a \$718,000 subcontract. Both companies meet small business procurement requirements and are designated as historically underutilized businesses, or HUB zone businesses.

Work also continues in developing the non-intrusive characterization report. The scope of activities carried out as part of non-intrusive 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. Data collected during non-intrusive characterization activities will be used to evaluate safe and effective strategies for remediation.

## 618-10 Burial Ground (Continued)

WCH hosted a technology review workshop last month that was attended by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During the workshop, a five-person decision support board reviewed six candidate technologies for remediation of the VPUs at the 618-10 Burial Ground and recommended three for further development and demonstration.

Intrusive characterization field operations at the burial ground were completed in early September. Test pits were dug through a subset of disposal trenches and 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 are believed to contain depleted uranium and uranium oxide. In addition, "concreted" 55-gallon drums, which could possibly contain liquid radioactive waste, 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 as many as 4,000. 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 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.

Before being removed from the trench, the drums were observed for any reactions, and radiological surveys were conducted with instrumentation mounted on the excavator. The temperature of the drums also is checked using an infrared thermometer. Once the exposed drums were cleared, they were removed from the excavation face, placed in salvage containers (85-gallon drums), and moved to a drum inspection area.

All exhumed drums pass through a characterization process. Radiological surveys are performed on the drums with a gamma spectrometer and a neutron detector before being moved to a storage area on site.

Solid waste will be disposed at ERDF. Drums containing oil and depleted uranium chips will likely be shipped to an offsite treatment facility where the oil, which may contain heavy metals and PCBs, will be drained and incinerated. The shavings will be stabilized and sent to ERDF for disposal.

WCH, along with DOE and Hanford Site regulators, will use the information obtained during intrusive characterization to help determine the safest and most efficient way to clean up the burial ground including how to safely dispose of the high-dose-rate waste in the concreted drums. Full-scale remediation of the 618-10 Burial Ground trenches is scheduled to start in spring 2011.

The 618-10 Burial Ground operated from 1954 to 1963, receiving low- and high-level radioactive waste from 300 Area laboratories and fuel development facilities. Low-activity wastes were primarily disposed in 23 trenches, while the moderate- and high-activity wastes were disposed



## 618-10 Burial Ground (Continued)

in 94 vertical pipe units (VPUs). The VPUs were constructed by welding five bottomless drums together and buried vertically about 10 feet apart.

Available records indicate that the burial ground was used to dispose of cardboard boxes of low-level waste and miscellaneous laboratory debris including bottles, boxes, filters, aluminum cuttings, spent fuel fragments in small juice cans, radiologically contaminated equipment and laboratory instruments, and high-level liquid waste sealed in drums.

### Upcoming Activities

- Continue procurement process for various subcontracts.
- Continue with construction of site upgrades.
- Continue development of non-intrusive characterization report.



## 100-F Area

WCH and subcontractor Ojeda Business Ventures continued remediation activities at 19 waste sites in 100-F Area. The project team is performing excavation and loadout activities at 100-F-47 (electrical substation foundation) and 100-F-48 (coal pit debris). Overburden removal is under way at 100-F-44:8 (fuel oil pipelines) and stockpiling waste continues at 100-F-26:4 (process sewer pipeline).

In June, WCH awarded Ojeda a subcontract worth \$3.8 million to remediate the 100-F Area waste sites. Ojeda is a small disadvantaged business based in Richland, Washington, that specializes in construction, renovation, and construction management of federal government projects. Remediation of the wastes sites is scheduled to be completed by spring 2011.



Washington Closure Hanford subcontractor Ojeda Business Ventures removes a section of processed sewer line at 100-F-26:4. (Photo 8)

## 100-F Area (Continued)



*A transformer pad is exposed during remediation activities at 100-F-47 – an electrical substation foundation. (Photo 9)*

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.

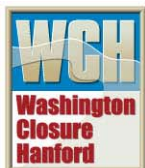
## 100-F Area (Continued)

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. The 19 sites that require remediation are:

- 600-351 (stained oil areas)
- 100-F-26:4 (process sewer pipeline section)
- 100-F-26:7 (sodium dichromate and sodium silicate pipelines)
- 100-F-44:8 (fuel oil pipelines)
- 100-F-44:9 (process sewer pipeline)
- 100-F-45 (buried riverbank effluent pipeline)
- 100-F-47 (electrical substation foundation)
- 100-F-48 (coal-pit debris)
- 100-F-49 (maintenance garage lube pit foundation, pipelines, drywells)
- 100-F-51 (fish laboratory footprint, pipelines)
- 100-F-55 (contaminated ash layer)
- 100-F-56 (scattered surface debris, stains)
- 100-F-57 (buried pipeline cradle debris)
- 100-F-58 (asbestos-containing surface debris)
- 100-F-60 (pipeline)
- 100-F-61 (stained soil site)
- 100-F-8 (French drains)
- 100-F-62 (animal farm septic lines)
- 100-F-63 (animal farm radioactive effluent lines).

### Upcoming Activities

- Begin loadout at 100-F-26:4.
- Continue excavation and loadout at 100-F-48.
- Continue excavation and loadout at 100-F-47.
- Begin stockpiling waste at 100-F-44:8.



## Profile

Victor Brandt has spent the past 30 years working in the safety industry. As an industrial safety specialist, he's worked at dozens of sites from Anchorage, Alaska, to Miami, Florida.

Brandt's latest stop is the Hanford Site, where he began work in early August as a safety representative at 100-F Area. He is employed by Global Government Services (GGS), a Washington Closure subcontractor based in Kennewick, Washington.

In his new position, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Brandt makes sure all workers on the 100-F Area remediation project adhere to the DOE and WCH safety guidelines. Last month, WCH and its subcontractors began cleaning up 19 waste sites at 100-F Area.

"It's been great so far," said Brandt, who makes his home in the Houston area. "I've worked with a lot of good, knowledgeable people the past couple of months. I'm glad to be a part of the team out here."



*Victor Brandt oversees safety at 100-F Area, where Washington Closure Hanford and its subcontractors are remediating 19 waste sites. (Photo 10)*

## Profile (Continued)

This is not Brandt's first visit to the Mid-Columbia. While working for URS' EG&G Division at DOE's Nevada Operations Center in the mid 1990s, he took part in a week-long exercise at Hanford. Brandt also has relatives in the area. His grandparents were longtime Yakima residents; his 94-year-old grandmother now lives in the Seattle area.

The 100-F Area remediation project is scheduled to be completed this spring, so Brandt will be here for a while. That's a nice change of pace after a recent stint working for Day & Zimmerman in Virginia Beach, Virginia. In 2008 and 2009, Brandt routinely traveled to 38 nuclear reactors to provide safety oversight during maintenance outages.

"I was on the road for 46 weeks one year," Brandt said. "I flew out early every Monday morning and returned home late every Friday night. I became an American Airlines Gold member in one year. All the travel was tough at times, but eventually you get used to it."

Brandt, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial safety from Central Missouri State University (now called the University of Central Missouri), has worked on diverse projects during his career. He's worked for Boston Scientific in Miami, Florida; Alliant Energy WindConnect in Madison, Wisconsin; and Yucca Mountain, Nevada, just to name a few.

For now, though, Brandt's happy at Hanford and glad to be a part of the ARRA program.

"The Recovery Act is a great deal," he said. "It's funding important projects and putting people to work – including me."



## IU 2 & 6 Segment 1

The remaining work instructions for waste site-specific verification closeout sample plans have been reviewed and approved by the DOE, Richland Operations Office and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Verification closeout samples for sites 600-341 and 600-344 have been collected for laboratory analysis.

Additional remediation of the southeast quadrant of waste site 600-345 was performed in early August in order to remove the remaining TPH contaminated soil. Closeout samples were collected for laboratory analysis.

Remediation of five IU 2 & 6 Segment 1 waste sites discovered during the 2008 orphan site evaluation was completed in April. The remediation sites are as follows:

- 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.

IU 2 & 6 Segment 1 encompasses about 23 square miles of the northwestern portion of the Hanford Site, away from the nine surplus plutonium production reactor areas. Segment 1 sites were unique because they were primarily used for housing and support areas.

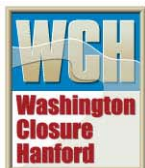


## Confirmatory Sampling

The confirmatory sampling campaign is scheduled to continue over the next 3 months and will be performed in the 100-D, 100-K, and 100-IU Areas of the Hanford Site. More than 30% of the campaign is complete.

Sampling continues at IU 2&6. Sampling at 100-D and 100-F was completed in September. Results are being evaluated to determine whether the sites will require remediation under the existing interim record of decision. Sites where the sample results show contamination below the clean-up standards are being recommended for closeout with no further action.

Sampling is being performed by WCH subcontractor TerranearPMC (TPMC) in accordance with the regulator approved work instructions that were completed earlier this year. TPMC is a small disadvantaged business with an office in Richland, Washington. It provides environmental remediation and compliance, radiological waste management, engineering design, and construction management.



## General

### **Media, Visits, Press Releases**

No significant media events this week.

### **Contracting Actions**

No significant contracting actions this week.

