Economic Stimulus Creates Work at the Nevada Test Site for Small-Businesses

Ongoing work at the Nevada Test Site has gotten a boost recently thanks to American Recovery and Reinvestment funds. The money has allowed the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office to expedite and, in some cases, expand environmental work at the site, benefiting contractors and sub-contractors, many of which are small businesses.

Family-owned Controlled Demolition, Inc. (CDI), for instance, has been awarded several explosives subcontracts for work at the Nevada Test Site over the past year. The demolition of the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly (R-MAD) facility was one of these subcontracts.

"It was a team effort," said CDI Vice President Manager Doug Loizeaux, whose company worked with another small business, DEMCO, on the demolition. "We used a lot of gravity and a little bit of explosives to bring the building down to a level that could be reached safely with conventional removal equipment."



Crews perform demolition of the R-MAD facility. R-MAD is one of several Nevada Test Site facilities which supported the Nuclear Rocket Development Station program that ended in 1973.

The Maryland-based company, which has been operating for more than 60 years, has been able to sustain its employees with work like this. "ARRA funding has opened up a lot of projects that had been dormant at DOE sites," explained Loizeaux. "This infusion of government funds has helped us and many other small businesses get to work. These projects at the Nevada Test Site, in particular, have helped us immeasurably."

A significant amount of the more than \$50 million in ARRA funds granted to the Nevada Site Office since 2009 has gone and will continue to go to small businesses like CDI. More than

eighty-percent of the subcontractors used by National Security Technologies (NSTec), the prime contractor for the Nevada Test Site, classify as small businesses. Nearly \$10 million of soil characterization, industrial sites remediation and munitions/explosives cleanup is being conducted by Navarro Nevada Environmental Services (NNES), which is the environmental engineering contractor for the Nevada Site Office and itself a small business.

The ARRA, which was intended to create jobs and promote investment and consumer spending, has served to accelerate cleanup at the Nevada Test Site. In addition to the demolition of R-MAD, ARRA funds have been used for such activities as waste management, the construction of a new groundwater characterization well, and the demolition of the historic Pluto facility. The Nevada Site Office plans to use the full ARRA allotment by 2011.

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