



May 18, 2010

Nevada Site Office Environmental Management

# EM NEWS FLASH



## RECOVERY ACT EXPEDITES CLEANUP AT NEVADA TEST SITE AND PUTS NEVADANS TO WORK

Contaminated buildings are coming down and disposal capabilities are being ramped up at the Nevada Test Site as a direct result of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The program aims to reduce the footprint at active cleanup sites, save long-term cleanup costs, and keep workers busy and employed around the U.S Department of Energy Complex (DOE).

The Office of Environmental Management at the Nevada Site Office (NSO) was granted more than \$50 million in 2009 and 2010 to accelerate cleanup at sites at the Nevada Test Site and expand waste management operations. The Nevada Test Site was the location of nearly 1,000 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests which resulted in more than 3,000 contaminated soil and groundwater sites, and industrial facilities. ARRA funding has expedited planned projects at these locations to help reduce the footprint and shrink the total area identified for cleanup. This accelerated cleanup translates to more than 545 “lives touched” for Nevada Test Site employees.

“This infusion of government funds has helped us and many other small businesses get to work,” explained Doug Loizeaux, whose company, Controlled Demolition, Inc. (CDI), helped conduct the demolition of the [Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly \(R-MAD\)](#) facility at the Nevada Test Site. The family-owned, small business, which has been operating for more than 60 years, has been able to sustain its 15 employees with work like this. “ARRA funding has opened up a lot of projects that had been dormant at DOE sites,” added Loizeaux.



*Workers remove mixed waste resulting from the demolition of the R-MAD facility at the Nevada Test.*

The NSO approach to cleanup reflects the Recovery Act's focus on supporting small businesses like CDI. More than eighty-percent of the subcontractors used by National Security Technologies (NSTec), the Management and Operating contractor for the Nevada Test Site, classify as small businesses. In addition, 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.

Nevada-based NNES has been able to use Recovery Act funds to create and sustain jobs in the community as well. When budget cuts forced several technical agencies and organizations in Nevada to lay off employees, NNES was able to absorb much of this skilled labor. "We are so fortunate to be able to hire these individuals, whose skills range from business, quality assurance, geology, and environmental science," said NNES Manager David Taylor. "Not only do they reward us with their tremendous experience, we get to help save jobs in our community during a time of particular economic hardship."

Accelerated cleanup at the Nevada Test Site will ultimately save costs associated with long-term operations, maintenance, and infrastructure. The NSO plans to use the full ARRA allotment by 2011.

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