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HANFORD TREATMENT FACILITY ACHIEVES FIRST GOLD RANKING FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN IN DOE COMPLEX

New groundwater treatment facility will be Hanford's largest, greenest pump and treat system

Note: Photos of the facility have been posted in a photo gallery on the Department of Energy's Hanford website at http://ow.ly/aNyBw.

RICHLAND, WASH. – May 9, 2012 - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company achieved the first Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) "gold" certification for sustainable design in the DOE complex of sites that produced nuclear materials for national defense. CH2M HILL received the certification for design and construction of a major facility for treating groundwater contaminated by producing plutonium at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State.

"This facility shows the Department's commitment to restoring the environment at Hanford," said River and Plateau Assistant Manager J.D. Dowell, Department of Energy. "The facility is also one of the largest groundwater treatment systems of its kind throughout the DOE Complex for both radiological and non-radiological contaminants. It will help protect Hanford's groundwater and prevent the movement of contamination toward the Columbia River."

"Designing and constructing a high-performance green process facility is a long-term commitment to sustainability for the Hanford Site," said Kent Dorr, CH2M HILL Vice President for Engineering, Project and Construction. "Achieving LEED certification required diligence on the part of the entire project team because the focus is on energy use and recycling goals for both construction and operation."

CH2M HILL recently designed and built the 200 West Groundwater Treatment Facility to remove contamination from a 5-square-mile area of groundwater beneath several facilities that produced plutonium from the 1940s to the 1980s. Approximately 450 billion gallons of water and contaminated liquids were discharged from facilities across the Hanford Site during the production years, including those facilities located near the center of the site, called the 200 West Area.

The groundwater treatment facility is believed to be a first of its kind in another way—capable of removing more types of radioactive and chemical contaminants than any other facility of its type in the DOE Complex. The facility's largest process building was specifically designed to achieve LEED Gold certification for sustainable design.

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute that rates buildings on criteria such as energy savings, water efficiency, CO_2 emissions reduction and indoor air quality. Gold Certification is the second highest benchmark set by the U.S. Green Building Council for high-performance green buildings.

NEWS NEWS

"With each new LEED-certified building, we get one step closer to USGBC's vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "As the newest member of the LEED family of green buildings, the 200 West Groundwater Treatment Facility is an important addition to the growing strength of the green building movement."

The project was a team effort with CH2M HILL's world class engineers and DOE to meet stringent requirements for LEED Gold Certification. The criteria required use of specific materials and waste handling and construction practices to be environmentally responsible and reduce long-term costs:

- Approximately 50 percent of steel used was recycled
- Over 75 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills
- 420 tons of recycled concrete were used
- 9 tons of paper/cardboard was recycled
- 42 tons of metal was recycled
- Translucent panels reduce the need for interior lighting.

The building's efficient design is expected to result in an energy cost savings of more than 70 percent over the life of the facility. The building will also meet new DOE-mandated green building standards that address site sustainability, water efficiency, renewable energy, conservation of materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

Overall construction of the 200 West Groundwater Treatment Facility was completed in 2011. Following acceptance testing, operations are expected to begin this summer.

Headquartered near Denver, Colorado, USA, employee-owned CH2M HILL is a global leader in consulting, design, design-build, operations, and program management for government, civil, industrial and energy clients. The firm's work is concentrated in the areas of water, transportation, environmental, energy, facilities and resources. With US$6.4 billion in revenue and 30,000 employees, CH2M HILL is an industry-leading program management, construction management and design firm, as ranked by Engineering News-Record *and named a leader in sustainable engineering by Verdantix. The firm has been named a FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work For five times. Visit us at www.ch2mhill.com, www.ch2mhillblogs.com/water, twitter.com/ch2mhill and facebook.com/ch2mhill.*

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