

An employee of Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) performs radiation detection at one of the many Oak Ridge cleanup sites.



Expertise Ensures Quality Data Drives the Decision

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. – The Recovery Act has quickened the clean-up of radioactively contaminated sites nationwide, including at Oak Ridge, where \$755 million has been allocated for environmental management activities.

The Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), which is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities for DOE, has been tapped to provide independent characterization surveys of waste at three Oak Ridge sites: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, East Tennessee Technology Park, and Y-12 National Security Complex.

A fundamental aspect of all decontamination and decommissioning projects, characterization surveys provide guidance to determine the best remediation procedures and are a cost-effective method of ensuring a site meets preliminary regulatory standards.

“We at the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations are leveraging ORISE to jump-start field work ahead of demolition work,” said Oak Ridge Office American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Portfolio Manager Lee McGetrick. “This is a real advantage due to the time involved in the award and mobilization of the new task orders under the EM National ID/IQ Contract. We are gaining valuable information on these facilities which is being shared with the new contractors.”

ORISE brings continued commitment to a solid quality assurance program that ultimately builds public trust and confidence in cleanup efforts by ensuring the collected

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Expertise Ensures...

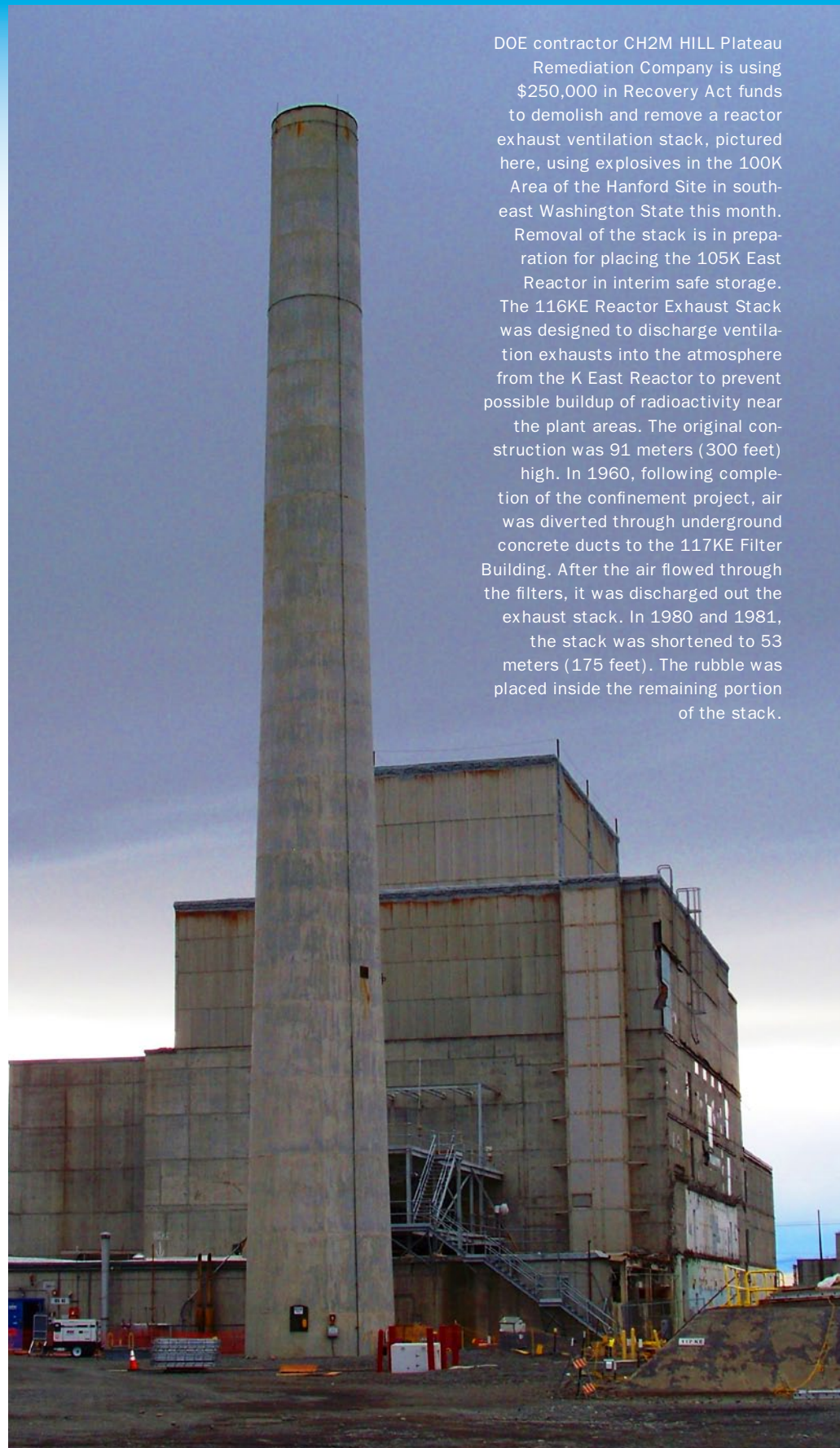
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– Oak Ridge Office American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Portfolio Manager Lee McGetrick.

data drives the decision on how the contamination will be cleaned up.

“Obtaining the public’s trust during a cleanup effort is essential for keeping the project on schedule,” said ORISE Director of Independent Environmental Verification and Assessments Sarah Roberts. “Our organization’s ability to operate independent of the contractor tasked with cleaning up the facilities enables us to provide an objective assessment of whether the cleanup meets federal requirements, which is essential for reducing the liability that DOE could face when the facilities are reindustrialized or demolished.” □



DOE contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company is using \$250,000 in Recovery Act funds to demolish and remove a reactor exhaust ventilation stack, pictured here, using explosives in the 100K Area of the Hanford Site in south-east Washington State this month. Removal of the stack is in preparation for placing the 105K East Reactor in interim safe storage. The 116KE Reactor Exhaust Stack was designed to discharge ventilation exhausts into the atmosphere from the K East Reactor to prevent possible buildup of radioactivity near the plant areas. The original construction was 91 meters (300 feet) high. In 1960, following completion of the confinement project, air was diverted through underground concrete ducts to the 117KE Filter Building. After the air flowed through the filters, it was discharged out the exhaust stack. In 1980 and 1981, the stack was shortened to 53 meters (175 feet). The rubble was placed inside the remaining portion of the stack.