



Recovery Act Funding Used to Accelerate Environmental Clean-up at Brookhaven Lab

With the help of more than \$42 million in funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA) are accelerating a number of environmental clean-up projects at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). These projects are expected to provide employment for approximately 130 people.



Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor



High Flux Beam Reactor



Concrete culvert demolition

BGRR

The Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR) was the world's first reactor built solely to perform scientific research on peaceful uses of the atom. It was an air-cooled, graphite-moderated reactor. It operated from 1950 to 1968 and served as a valuable research facility. It consists of a graphite cube ("pile"), about 25 feet on each side and weighing about 700 tons. The pile contains approximately 60,000 graphite blocks and is completely surrounded by a biological shield that is five feet thick. A remote manipulator fitted with special tools has been installed on top of the biological shield and will be used to remove the graphite blocks from the pile. Graphite removal is expected to be complete by April 2010.



Remote Manipulator

HFBR

The High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) was a research reactor that operated between 1965 and 1996. It provided neutrons for experiments in materials science, chemistry, biology and physics.

The HFBR Record of Decision (ROD), finalized in April 2009, specifies certain near-term remedial actions to be completed no later than 2020, including the removal of underground utilities and piping. The completion date for a number of these actions has been accelerated to 2011 as a result of funding made available through ARRA.

As part of this effort, underground waste transfer pipes that had been used to transfer radioactive liquid wastes from a laboratory to storage tanks are being removed. This work along with the removal of the concrete culvert housing the pipes, the galvanized steel enclosure, nearby pipes and associated contaminated soils, is expected to be completed by February 2010. Planning for removal of ancillary buildings is also underway.

Former HWMF Perimeter Area

Remediation of contaminated soil from the Former Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HWMF) perimeter area is another ARRA-funded project nearing completion.

The contamination is believed to stem from past transfers of wastes to the former HWMF, spills and historical runoff from contaminated soils within the facility. This remediation project is expected to be completed by December 2009.



Soil excavation and waste packaging

More information regarding BNL environmental restoration projects can be found on BNL's website at <http://www.bnl.gov/erd/>.

