



AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT NEWSLETTER

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DOE Economic Stimulus Funds Bringing New Jobs to Paducah

John Crowder is back on the job. Crowder, who was laid off from his 19-year job as a maintenance mechanic at General Tire in Mayfield, Kentucky in late 2005, had given up hope of finding a full-time position until a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractor posted openings for experienced workers to accelerate removal of inactive facilities at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) site.



(Left) John Crowder learns to operate a lift during training. He is one of the first people hired by Paducah Remediation Services, LLC, to perform new work made possible by funding provided to the U.S. Department of Energy by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

DOE Site Lead Reinhard Knerr announced that Crowder and eight others are the first individuals at Paducah to receive offers through funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. In the next two months, the economic stimulus package will allow DOE contractor Paducah Remediation Services (PRS) to hire an additional more than fifty workers to speed up the removal of inactive facilities at the PGDP.

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EM Recovery Act Funding Summary

As of June 2, 2009, the Recovery Act funding summary for Environmental Management is:

| <u>Sites/Programs</u> | <u>Allotments</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| BNL | \$42,355,000 |
| Moab | \$108,350,000 |
| West Valley | \$73,875,000 |
| Oak Ridge - Non Defense | \$78,800,000 |
| Oak Ridge - ETPP | \$118,200,000 |
| Oak Ridge Y-12 | \$327,000,000 |
| Ur/Th Payments | \$68,950,000 |
| ORP | \$326,035,000 |
| Hanford | \$1,634,500,000 |
| Idaho | \$467,875,000 |
| Oak Ridge | \$231,110,000 |
| Savannah River | \$1,615,400,000 |
| Carlsbad | \$172,375,000 |
| Defense Program | |
| Direction | \$25,635,000 |
| Non-Defense Program | |
| Direction | \$2,415,000 |
| UED&D | |
| Program | |
| Direction | \$1,950,000 |
| Paducah | \$20,000,000 |
| Portsmouth | \$20,000,000 |
| Mound | \$19,700,000 |
| ETEC | \$38,300,000 |
| SLAC | \$7,925,000 |
| SPRU | \$31,775,000 |
| Argonne | \$35,000,000 |
| Nevada | \$44,325,000 |

Total Allotments \$5,511,850,000

Message from the Assistant Secretary of EM

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the third edition of our monthly newsletter. I am so pleased at the progress we have made in the short time that we have been performing under the Recovery Act. All of you have done amazing things in getting us to this point. I meet with the Recovery Act Project team almost every day and I see all the work that is getting done. We have allocated and allotted almost all of our \$6 billion and we are well on the way to definitizing the contracts and baselining the work scope, cost and schedule. The most impressive thing is the actual work that is underway; we have shipped waste, we have broken ground on several cleanup projects and we have interviewed thousands and hired hundreds of new workers while also retaining hundreds of members of the current workforce who otherwise would have been let go.



As you continue your efforts please be mindful of our overall priorities. Safety must remain our top priority; no schedule, milestone or cost consideration is worth any injury to our workers or causing adverse effects to the public or the environment. We must meet the transparency and accountability objectives established by our President and our Secretary. There will be many who may second guess our decisions and actions and transparency is our strongest ally in staying on course. And we must continue to follow through on our management initiatives so that we are always learning and continually improving our organization. I look forward to our continued progress and I urge you to communicate your concerns and suggestions to our management team as we continue the long road ahead as a team helping one another, we will have unprecedented successes.

In the intensity of the activities it is easy to get swept up in the details and I would like to leave you with a saying that I have always treasured.

"If you want to build a ship, don't herd people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Dr. Inés R. Triay

❖ There are approximately 3,280 jobs created or saved to date!

DOE Economic Stimulus Funds Bringing New Jobs to Paducah (continued from page 1)

Crowder and the others hired face about six weeks of intensive training in subjects ranging from working around chemical and radiation hazards to working in enclosed spaces or on lifts high in the air. When training is complete, they will be assigned to work on one of the three facilities that will be removed by September 30, 2011.

“Once final planning efforts are complete, we expect total employment opportunities to reach up to approximately 160. These jobs are good for two years,” said Reinhard Knerr, Paducah Site Lead. “This type of boost in D&D (Deactivation and Decommissioning) jobs has brought a renewed energy to the project teams. Physically reducing almost 300,000 square feet of unused space by 2011 will have a significant visual impact at the site.”

Crowder, 59, is grateful for his new job. “A lot of companies feel older workers are through,” he said. “I was pleased to get an interview with PRS. To get hired ... I feel good.” Since losing his job when General Tire closed, Crowder has gone back to school to complete an associate’s degree, worked as a substitute teacher at a vocational school, and taken care of his grandson, Caleb, now 3. Teaching and taking care of Caleb while he was an infant was rewarding, Crowder said. So is returning to full-time work. “I am not ready to retire,” he said.

The ARRA projects at the Paducah DOE Site will require people with experience in a variety of areas: such as electricians, mechanics, heavy equipment operators, engineering and accounting support, and construction laborers.

Savannah River Site Makes Its 1,000th Transuranic Waste Shipment to WIPP

The Savannah River Site (SRS) recently achieved a significant milestone when the 1,000th shipment of transuranic (TRU) waste is made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

The shipment marks the eighth year of SRS safely shipping radioactive waste from South Carolina to New Mexico without incident. SRS made its first shipment of TRU waste to WIPP on May 8, 2001. SRS has safely shipped more than 28,200 55-gallon drums of TRU waste for disposal at the WIPP geologic repository since that time.

“This is a significant accomplishment for the Savannah River Site and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, demonstrating the Department of Energy’s commitment to cleaning up legacy waste sites and safely disposing of the waste inventories,” said Jeff Allison, Manager of DOE’s Savannah River Operations Office. “Every shipment is inspected by the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Environmental Control to assure it’s safe to go on the road before it’s released. Both agencies have played important roles in maintaining the safety of shipments and supporting the Department of Energy in this accomplishment.”

Since the beginning of SRS operations in the early 1950s, over 30,000 drums and 3,000 non-drum containers of TRU waste have accumulated on concrete pads, where they were covered over with soil, awaiting final disposition. TRU waste consists of mainly clothing, tools, rags, debris, and other such items used during nuclear material production and contaminated with radioactive elements, primarily plutonium, with an atomic number greater than uranium. Radioactive wastes are classified TRU waste if the concentrations of specific radioactive elements exceed a specific limit.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the management and operating contractor at SRS, is continuing to inspect old TRU waste containers, remove items prohibited from disposal at WIPP (e.g., aerosol cans and liquids) and then repackage and characterize the remaining legacy TRU wastes to ensure its acceptability for disposal at WIPP. The remaining legacy TRU waste at SRS is being addressed with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

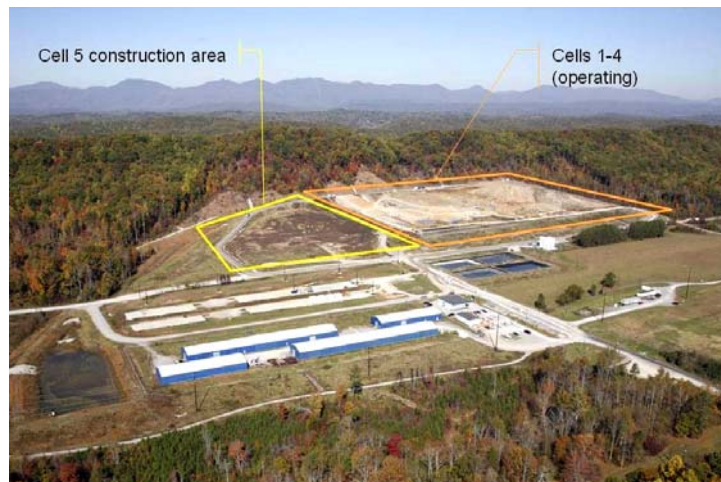
“In the next two and half years, the remaining legacy TRU waste at the Savannah River Site will be disposed of or readied for shipment to WIPP. This important footprint reduction work is now being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will be completed more than seven years earlier than planned,” said Chuck Munns, President and CEO of SRNS.

Oak Ridge Site Office: Highlighted Site of the Month

Subcontracting Progress Made for Expansion of Oak Ridge's Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF)

Bechtel Jacobs Co. (BJC) awarded its first subcontract for work funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to start expansion of the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF), DOE's nuclear landfill in Oak Ridge. Avisco Inc. is a local, woman-owned small business that specializes in heavy civil construction. They received the \$10.5 million award to provide equipment, labor and materials for the landfill expansion. Acceleration of the already planned expansion is funded by ARRA in order to accommodate the volumes of waste that will result from other ARRA funded projects on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Dennis Hill, a spokesman for Bechtel Jacobs Co., said, "DOE worked very closely with BJC (Bechtel Jacobs) to review the EMWMF expansion construction project as a whole and how it fits into site-wide cleanup base and Recovery Act efforts. BJC provided DOE with a bottoms-up presentation of the subcontract approach and discussions were held to determine the best value method for accomplishing this project within the framework of the total site-wide environmental project."



EMWMF Cell 5 Construction

In addition to the Avisco award, BJC awarded another ARRA funded subcontract to Aquaterra Engineering LLC of Chattanooga. This award for \$632,808 was for quality-control services. A subcontract to provide a geosynthetic liner for the expansion is currently out for bids.

Oak Ridge Site Adds 87 New Employees

The Department of Energy recently announced that 87 new employees have reported to work at the Oak Ridge Transuranic (TRU) Waste Processing Center as a result of jobs created with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding.

"Recovery Act funding is providing us with a tremendous opportunity to hire new workers who are committed to the Oak Ridge TRU project and the important environmental cleanup work we are doing here in Tennessee," said Gerald Boyd, Manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Office. "Each of our new employees is receiving the training they need to do their jobs safely and effectively and to help reduce the legacy footprint in Oak Ridge."

DOE contractor EnergX will put the new hires to work supporting second shift operations at the TRU Waste Processing Center. Employees will complete a 90-day training period prior to assuming full job responsibilities in support of second shift operations serving as equipment operators, radiation safety technicians, and support staff. Many of the new employees came from non-nuclear businesses that experienced recent layoffs. Their work will help to accelerate the elimination of hazardous transuranic and chemical waste from the state of Tennessee.

The TRU waste is shipped for permanent disposal one-half mile underground at a special facility in New Mexico. Some of the moderately-hazardous waste is shipped to DOE's Nevada Test Site for permanent disposal.



Department of Energy Announces the Start of Y-12 Cleanup Projects with Recovery Act Funding

The Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office announced that cleanup of the Old Salvage Yard at the Y-12 National Security Complex, has started with funding received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Old Salvage Yard is a seven-acre area containing 1,100 containers and piles of legacy waste from past operations. The yard was used from the 1970s until the mid-1990s.

The funds being used for this project were distributed to the Y-12 National Security Complex contractor as part of the \$755 million in Recovery Act funding allocated to the Oak Ridge Office Environmental Management program. The cleanup of the Old Salvage Yard will proceed according to the tested procedures already in use at the Oak Ridge site.

“The Recovery Act funding has given us the opportunity to move forward with the Old Salvage Yard cleanup project,” said Ted Sherry, Y-12 Site Office Manager. “Each day, we will see clear progress as we remove, remediate, and disposition this material.”

Under the Recovery Act, material in the Salvage Yard will be re-inspected before being shipped for disposal to the Nevada Test Site or placed in the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility. Within a few months, the Oak Ridge Office expects shipments to average seven to eight loads of material a day for a year.

“This cleanup and demolition is vital to the Department of Energy’s environmental stewardship reducing the footprint at Y-12 and it will save taxpayers millions of dollars in the future,” said Sherry.

The Recovery Act is also providing funding to proceed with cleanup work at Y-12’s highest risk facility, Alpha 5 (Building 9201-5), where an estimated one million cubic feet of legacy material will be removed as part of the preparations for the accelerated deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) of the facility. A third task funded by ARRA will remove material from the second floor of Beta 4 (Building 9204-4) and make progress toward a similar accelerated D&D.

NNSA Recovery Act Preparations and Accomplishments under EM

Y-12’s first action in implementing Recovery Act work was to complete safety briefings to ensure work started safely.

At the Y-12 Beta 4 facility, radiological and industrial hygiene teams were mobilized to initiate health and safety characterization. They collected nearly 250 industrial hygiene samples, and some results have already been received. Also, a subcontract was awarded for a waste handling plan.

On the Y-12 West End Mercury Area Storm Sewer Remediation project, the vendor has been selected for the storm sewer video survey. Work packages are being prepared.

Progress on the Y-12 Old Salvage Yard has included:

- Brush clearing efforts were completed.
- Electricity was disconnected from an excess trailer and riggers began trailer removal preparations.
- A limited notice to proceed was provided to a subcontractor to begin data review and inventory for a first shipment.
- A subcontract was awarded for a waste handling plan.



Staff from the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is supporting EPA, meet with DOE-EM, the Y-12 Site Office, and members of the Y-12 Old Salvage Yard team at the yard’s west gate on May 12 for an orientation to the project area.



Work started on the Y-12 Alpha 5 Legacy Materials Disposition project included:

- Industrial hygiene and radiological characterization on all floors, with an emphasis on the fourth floor.
- Workers began establishing temporary lighting on the fourth floor and temporary lifts were ordered.
- Walk downs were completed for material removal estimates on the first floor.
- Validation of the facility's chemical inventory was initiated.
- Solidification of mineral oil was initiated.
- Work packages were developed to sort and segregate two waste containers outside the facility.
- A subcontract was awarded for a waste handling plan.



Workers executing radiological characterization of Alpha 5 materials



Workers performing the solidification of mineral oil for Alpha 5 at Y-12 facility.



Solidification of mineral oil for Alpha 5 being performed at Y-12 facility



Moab Project Prepares to Implement Recovery Act Funding

In April, the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project began shipping by rail the 16 million tons of tailings located at the Moab site in southeastern Utah to a disposal site near Crescent Junction. With Recovery Act funding, the project will increase the quantity of mill tailings relocated by the end of fiscal year 2011 by two million tons.

Two separate efforts will be involved in accomplishing this work: the first is to ship seven days per week instead of the current four. The second effort is to increase the number of containers in each shipment from 88 to 136. To prepare the necessary quantities of tailings for shipment, a second excavation area will be created on the tailings pile.

By October 2009, an estimated additional 150 jobs will be created or saved to perform the Recovery Act tasks, including work crews, supervisors, and technical support staff (e.g., radiation control, health and safety, transportation, and environmental compliance). The project is currently hiring for positions needed for a Friday through Sunday work shift. Additional hiring will occur later this summer to accommodate the preparation of more tailings and loading more containers for larger shipments beginning this fall. Project contractors are posting open positions through the Utah Workforce Services Center and on the Moab Project website at www.gjem.energy.gov/moab.



(Left) A track hoe excavates tailings from the pile into a dump truck that takes them to a drying bed where they are conditioned for disposal.



(Right) The gantry crane is loading a container of tailings onto a railcar.



Recovery Act Funds Working at Hanford

D&D Activities Underway in U Plant Zone on Hanford's Central Plateau



Vertical tanks near the Hanford Site's U Plant before (left) and after (right) asbestos thermal system insulation removed.



(Left and Right) Contractor CH2M HILL has demolished three vertical tanks near the Hanford Site's U Plant. All 15 211-U/UA tanks at U Plant are expected to be demolished with Recovery Act funds by late June.



Contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M HILL) has begun Recovery Act funded activities at the Hanford Site's U Plant Zone. The overall scope of U Plant Zone includes demolishing ancillary facilities, dispositioning tanks, grout-filling processing cells in the plant, and clearing the plant's canyon deck. The activities are helping DOE reduce the footprint of cleanup on Hanford's Central Plateau.

The team removed asbestos insulation from piping on ten 100,000-gallon aboveground tanks (known as 211-UA Tanks) that are contaminated. Using a glove-bag technique, the team double-bagged the asbestos material then placed it into a waste container for disposal.

At the 224-U Yard North, the team completed platform and piping characterization in preparation for deactivation and demolition efforts. The characterization process consisted of reviewing historical data, using process knowledge, and conducting site inspections to determine the types and quantities of waste solutions that may be present in the piping systems.

Preparation efforts have led to the successful demolition of six of the large vertical tanks, along with five smaller tanks. CH2M HILL plans to demolish the remaining tanks by the end of June.



Subcontract Awarded for Nonintrusive Characterization Work at the 618-10 Burial Ground at Hanford Site

Washington Closure Hanford has awarded a subcontract worth up to \$4.4 million to Northwind Inc., a woman-owned small business based in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Northwind will perform nonintrusive characterization at the 618-10 Burial Ground at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington. Funds for the work come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create jobs and accelerate environmental cleanup.

Northwind's work scope includes determining the precise location of 94 vertical pipe units and 12 waste trenches within the burial ground. The vertical pipe units are five bottomless 55-gallon drums welded end-to-end into which Hanford workers dumped highly radioactive waste in the mid-1950s and early 1960s.

The contractor will install cone penetrometers (long steel cylinders) around each of the pipe units and trenches. Instrumentation will be placed in the cone penetrometers to identify the type of radioactive materials disposed of, as well as their location within the pipe units and trenches.

The Northwind data will be used to help determine if intrusive characterization and sampling is needed, how best to clean up the burial ground, and what protective measures to employ during cleanup. Uncertainties at the site are great enough to require the additional nonintrusive characterization work before designing the cleanup plan. The characterization work will take about a year to complete.



618-10 Waste Site

North Augusta Man Starts Work at SRS Thanks to the Recovery Act



James Hall- New Employee for SRS.

During these tough economic times, earning a paycheck has become increasingly challenging for many South Carolinians. For one North Augusta sheet-metal worker, a job and a return to economic stability is one result of the Department of Energy's Recovery Act funding at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

James Hall, 43, of North Augusta, South Carolina is no stranger to employment hardships. As a sheet-metal worker, he has become accustomed to spending extended amounts of time away from home to support his family. Having worked throughout the United States as a skilled member of his craft, Hall is thankful for the recent employment opportunities at SRS funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Hall, who has worked on-and-off at SRS throughout his 27-year career, was one of many construction workers who were affected by layoffs and budget cuts as a result of the country's economic downturn. Having spent more than four months unemployed, he found himself in a day-to-day struggle as he awaited the much-needed call for employment from his local sheet-metal union.

"If it weren't for the Recovery Act, I would be forced to take travel jobs across the country," said Hall. "The money being invested at the Savannah River Site affords me an opportunity to be with my family and provide important services to my community."



Hall will be joined by thousands of new employees as Recovery Act projects are implemented at SRS. DOE and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) expect the projects will take about 30 months to complete and will focus more than \$1.6 billion of funding on projects to cleanup the environment, address legacy waste, and reduce the operational footprint of SRS.

Hall is currently working to decommission P-Reactor. P-reactor is one of the five SRS reactors, and the first of its kind to gain the Environmental Protection Agency, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and DOE's approval for the in-place decommissioning project. This project will chart the course for future decommissioning projects and information learned from the process will be shared broadly within the DOE complex.

"The stimulus plan is a win-win for the site and its workers," said Hall. "The site gets to accelerate the necessary closure of Cold War facilities while preparing for future missions, and I get to put my skills and expertise back to work."

SRS anticipates that several thousand jobs at the site will be saved or created under the Recovery Act, which will benefit local economies and communities across South Carolina.

When asked what excites him the most about his new job, Hall said with a smile, "I am excited that I've been given an opportunity to be a part of history."

For now, Hall will continue putting his skills to work at SRS's P-Reactor where he can do the work that he loves while staying close to the place that he loves – his South Carolina home.

Photos Gallery from SRS Recovery Act Event at Midland Technical College



(Left) Chuck Munns, President and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), joined House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Operations Office (SR) Manager Jeff Allison and Dr. Sonny White, President of Midlands Technical College, to present the status of key projects and actions to implement SRS Recovery Act Project goals at DOE's Savannah River Site.

(Right) More than 130 state and local officials and employment experts attended a standing room only briefing hosted by House Majority Whip, Jim Clyburn (D-SC) during a Savannah River Site Recovery Act Project briefing at Midlands Technical College in Columbia, SC.





(Left) Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC), House Majority Whip, and SRNS President and CEO, Chuck Munns, talk to prospective applicants during a SRS Recovery Act Project job fair.



DOE-SR Manager, Jeff Allison, is interviewed by reporter during a job fair at Midland Technical College, Columbia, SC, which was attended by 1500 local SC applicants seeking work under the SRS Recovery Act Project.

For more information on EM Recovery Act work, please visit <http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery/>, <http://www.recovery.gov/>, and <https://recoveryclearinghouse.energy.gov/>. Feel free to send questions and comments to EMRecoveryActProgram@em.doe.gov. Your feedback is welcomed.

