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### – IN BRIEF –

#### ■ Portsmouth Plant Hosts Information Session

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors held a public information session on cleanup activities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in southern Ohio on June 17 attended by more than 80 people.

Significant cleanup progress was shown on 30 different posters, and through videos at the session, including recent demolition completion of a 21-acre cooling tower complex and the 8,000 square foot former Chemical Engineering Building at the closed gaseous diffusion plant. The gaseous diffusion

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## Deputy Secretary Makes Second Visit to Hanford

Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman says that DOE continues to make good progress at the Hanford Site’s Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) Project and on Recovery Act work.

This message came during his June 14 visit to the massive nuclear construction site in southeastern Washington state to review progress on the plant as well as areas where Recovery Act money is being used to accelerate cleanup activities.



*Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman tours Hanford’s Waste Treatment Plant construction site and receives an update on progress.*

“The Waste Treatment Plant is really important to the nation,” Poneman said. “It’s the largest and perhaps most complex chemical separation process plant, certainly

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## DOE’s Idaho Office Beats Key Cleanup Milestone

The Department of Energy’s Idaho Operations Office and its cleanup contractor, CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI), recently completed the transfer of nearly 6.6 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage.

This milestone of the Idaho Cleanup Project, which spans the cleanup of DOE’s Idaho National Laboratory Site and protection of the Snake River Aquifer, was completed three weeks ahead of schedule.

The seven year, \$2.9 billion project to clean up DOE’s Idaho National Laboratory Site, located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls, focuses on early risk reduction of the aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for more than 300,000 residents of eastern Idaho.

“The transfer of spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage represents a major contract milestone completion by CWI, a five year endeavor,” said Jim Cooper, DOE-ID Acting Deputy Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. “Completion of this campaign places the spent fuel in a safer configuration for the environment, complies with DOE’s commitment to the State of Idaho as agreed to in the 1995 Settlement Agreement, and represents good stewardship in protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer.”

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## Hanford

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that we have within our complex and possibly in the nation.”

The WTP is being built to treat Hanford’s 53 million gallons of radioactive waste stored in aging underground tanks along the nearby Columbia River. When the vitrification plant begins operating in 2019, it will turn the waste into stable glass for disposal.

During his trip, Poneman toured the Waste Treatment Plant Project, C Tank Farm, U Plant and the Plutonium Finishing Plant. He also met with regulators, state and federal officials, Tribal Nations, advisory board members and community leaders. Poneman last visited Hanford in August 2009.

At the WTP Project, staff updated him on progress made at each of the facilities. Poneman visited U Plant, where DOE is using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to demolish the last five ancillary facilities next to the plant. U Plant is one of five large chemical separation plants at Hanford that operated during World War II and the Cold War. He visited the Plutonium Finishing Plant, where DOE is using Recovery Act funding to clean out and remove plutonium processing equipment to prepare facilities for demolition by 2013, three years ahead of the regulatory milestone.

During the trip, Poneman also discussed recent steps taken by the Department to ensure the WTP Project remains on schedule and within cost, including: implementation of the Construction Project Review process; hiring a new project director to lead the project into and through the next phase of construction; and commissioning, and establishing a tank waste technical review panel to focus on complex-wide tank waste issues. Besides Hanford, millions of gallons of waste sit in underground tanks at Idaho National

Laboratory and at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

Like other large construction projects, the WTP Project is entering a new phase as construction progresses, and commissioning and operations get closer. DOE and contractor staffs for both the WTP and Tank Farms projects are working together closely to ensure readiness for and efficiency of operations.

## Idaho

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The Idaho Settlement Agreement between the DOE, Idaho and the U.S. Navy requires that all spent nuclear fuel at the Idaho Site be in dry storage by 2023.

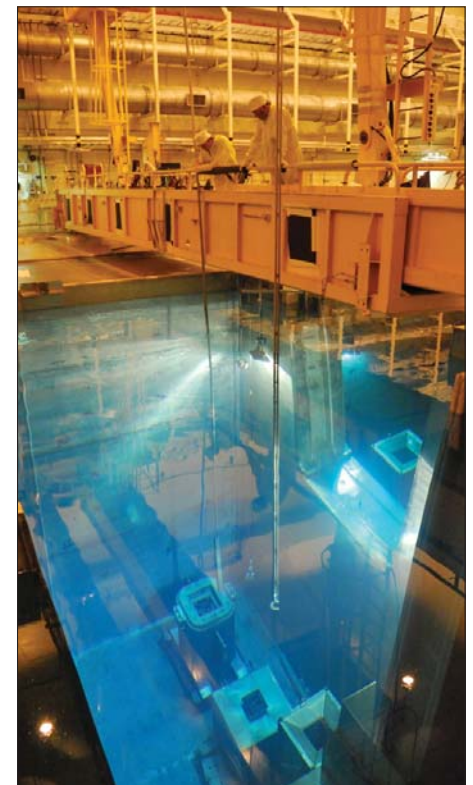
CWI Director Jim Breidenbach said, “Finishing this campaign represents completion of another significant milestone for DOE and CWI. “It’s the result of the effort of hundreds of men and women over the last five years. They completed the work safely and ahead of schedule and showed great teamwork and ingenuity along the way.”

More than half of the spent nuclear fuel transferred to dry storage originated from the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR). Located at the Idaho National Laboratory, it is the world’s largest test reactor.

Spent nuclear fuel is a solid fuel that has been withdrawn from a nuclear reactor following irradiation, the constituent elements of which have not been separated by reprocessing. After spent nuclear fuel is removed from the reactor, it is placed inside concrete basins of water within the reactor facility. The water cools the spent nuclear fuel and shields workers from radiation. This “wet” method of storing spent nuclear fuel is not intended to be used for long-term storage.

Poneman’s visit highlights the top priority the Department has assigned the WTP, and the attention being given all the way up to Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

“This project is really important to the nation. It’s really important to the department. It is really important to the Secretary,” Poneman said. ■



Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) element being moved into the high-load charger.

Spent nuclear fuel that has been cooled can be moved to a “dry” storage area. The spent fuel is removed from the pool, dried, and placed in specially designed canisters which are either stored in a shielded container or in a shielded vault-type dry storage facility where the circulation of air provides cooling. Dry storage reduces corrosion concerns associated with extended storage of fuel under water. ■



EM Major Procurements											
Site	Acquisition Description/ Category	Contracting Office	Solicitation Method	Contract Type	Estimated Dollar Range	Pre-Solicitation Conference/ Industry Meetings	Draft Solicitation	Synopsis	Solicitation	Receipt of Proposal	Anticipated Evaluations Complete/ Award
All EM Sites	Multiple Award/Low Level Waste/Mixed Low Level Waste/Waste Treatment	EMCBC	Full & Open Competition	Cost and Fixed Price IDIQ	\$10M-\$25M	3/23/2009- 3/24/2009	1/10/2009	2/3/2009	7/28/2009	9/30/2009	Apr-Jun 2010
Portsmouth & Paducah	Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Operations Portsmouth, OH and Paducah, KY	EMCBC	Full & Open Competition	Cost Plus Award Fee	\$50M-\$1B	1/14/2009	12/19/2008	12/9/2008	6/17/2009	8/17/2009	Jul-Sept 2010
Portsmouth	Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant/D&D	EMCBC	Full & Open Competition	Cost Plus Award Fee	\$2.5-\$3.2B	3/31/2008	1/13/2009	6/24/2009	6/24/2009	11/13/2009	Oct-Dec 2010
All EM Sites	Multiple Award IDIQ Set-aside Contracts for Nationwide Environmental Services/ Environmental Cleanup	EMCBC	Small Business Set-aside	Cost and Fixed Price IDIQ	\$50M-\$1B	8/20/2009	N/A	6/25/2009	8/6/2009	10/16/2009	Oct-Dec 2010
All EM Sites	Multiple Award IDIQ Unrestricted Contracts for Nationwide Environmental Services/Environmental Cleanup	EMCBC	Full & Open Competition	Cost and Fixed Price IDIQ	\$50M-\$1B	11/3/2009	N/A	6/25/2009	10/15/2009	1/8/2010	Apr-Jun 2011
Oak Ridge & Paducah	Disposition of Nickel	EMCBC	Sales Agreement	N/A	TBD	8/26/2009 & 8/27/2009	7/21/2009	4/29/2010	5/14/2010	7/28/2010	2011
Oak Ridge	Closure for Reindustrialization, D&D, Clean-up and Remediation	ORO	TBD	TBD	TBD	5/7/2010- 5/10/2010	5/7/2010	2010	2010	2010	2011
Moab	Moab Remedial Action Contract/Environmental Cleanup	EMCBC	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	2010	2010	2011	2011
West Valley	West Valley Contract/ Environmental Cleanup	EMCBC	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A	2010	2010	2010	2011
Carlsbad	Carlsbad M&O	EMCBC	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	2010	2010	2011	2012
Idaho	Idaho Cleanup Contract/ Environmental Cleanup	EMCBC	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012

"Major" procurements are those with an anticipated value of \$25 million dollars or more  
M&O (Management and Operating Contract)  
D&D (Decommissioning and Decontamination)  
IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity)  
EMCBC (Office of Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center)  
ETTP (East Tennessee Technology Park)

## – IN BRIEF –



Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office Manager Bill Murphie discusses the progress on several cleanup projects at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant during recent information session.

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plant was built in the early 1950s and ceased production of enriched uranium in 2001.

The meeting provided an opportunity for members of the public to speak one-on-one with DOE officials, LATA/Parallax, Restoration Services Inc., and United States Enrichment Corp. (USEC) officials on a number of pre-decontamination and demolition (D&D) accelerated cleanup projects, and to obtain further information on ways to participate in future decisions.

In addition, members of the PORTS Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board staffed an information station with officials from the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University. These officials, who recently received a grant from DOE, were on hand to discuss the project to obtain input into the future of the

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site located near Piketon, Ohio.

The purpose of the PORTS Future Vision Project is to engage community members and organizations to learn about the community's long-term vision of the PORTS site.

### ■ Sources Sought for DUO Interim Storage

The Department of Energy's Savannah River Operations Office is conducting market research to identify businesses capable of providing interim storage of 9,400 drums of depleted uranium oxide (DUO).

A sources sought notice, which called for interested parties to file their responses electronically by June 14, said DOE wants to obtain interim storage of the DUO for an initial period of five years. The material is in a combination of 55 and 85 gallon drums at the Savannah River Site (SRS), located near Aiken, S.C.

Interested parties must have the appropriate state permit and the ability to receive shipments via rail prior to award. Also, they must be able to handle and store the DUO containers in a way that packaging integrity is maintained during the movement, handling and storage of the waste.

Projected first shipment to a storage facility will occur within 60 days from the award of the contract. The rail shipments of the drums will not be included within the scope of any storage contract and will be made through a separate/existing DOE contract.

The drums of DUO at SRS are a legacy material resulting from processes used at the site during production of defense related nuclear materials. This material is classified as low-level radioactive waste based on process knowledge and/or radiological analysis.

On June 17, the DOE modified its June 9 notice saying that interested sources could visit the DUO drums at the SRS site. The notice can be found at [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov).

### ■ WIPP Retains VPP Star Status

The U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), through URS Washington TRU Solutions (WTS), has retained Star status in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) late last month. Such status is reserved for companies that demonstrate outstanding protection of employee safety and health.

WTS, the managing and operating contractor for WIPP, located near Carlsbad, N.M., achieved VPP status this year after an extensive visit by a

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## – IN BRIEF –

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four-member team from the DOE in the spring. WIPP, through WTS, was the first DOE site in the nation to receive VPP Star status in 1994, and it has continued at that level ever since.

WIPP is the world's first deep underground repository certified for the permanent disposal of transuranic waste, which is typically waste that is contaminated with man-made radioactive elements that are heavier than uranium. The concentration of these transuranic elements in the waste determines whether it is transuranic (TRU) waste or low-level waste.

The VPP program promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management and government at DOE contractor sites.

Brad Davy of the DOE's Office of Health, Safety and Security, told WTS and DOE employees during a meeting at the site this spring that his team planned to recommend that WTS retain its Star status. Davy stressed that continued participation in the VPP process is essential.

"The hard work isn't done yet," he said. "Everyone has to understand that they should always be looking for the next improvement opportunity."

Davy also encouraged a continued strong professional relationship between labor groups and management. "There have been some very good improvements. Congratulations on a job well done," he said.



*Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) employees received several awards at the annual DOE Chief Financial Officer Conference held recently in Santa Clara, Calif. Pictured from left; Roscoe Harris, Dawn Platt, Bonne Peavy, Linda Cable, Brent Johansen, Arthur Cobb, Jackie Wolfe, Ericka French, Kathie Collins, Thom Meyer, Dee Vasquez and John Sellards (center).*

### ■ EMCBC Employees Collect Awards

Employees with the Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) received awards for their contributions at a conference last month in Santa Clara, Calif.

Brent Johansen, a Lead Accountant with the EMCBC Office of Financial Management, received a Significant Contribution Award in recognition of excellence demonstrated in areas of internal control oversight, customer responsiveness and financial review.

Staff from the EMCBC Contracting, Budget and Accounting organizations were awarded a Significant Contribution award in recognition of the team's outstanding coordination and diligence to ensure timely oversight and deobligation of expired purchase order balances, resulting in recovery of funds that have been used to support the EM mission. Team members include: Roscoe Harris, Dawn Platt, Bonne Peavy, Linda Cable, Arthur Cobb, Jackie Wolfe, Ericka French, Kathie Collins, Thom Meyer, Dee Vasquez and John Sellards. Meyer was also part of a winning Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS) Upgrade Testing Team.

## EM Update

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