



Nuclear

Client

US Department of Energy,
Office of River Protection

Location

Richland, WA, USA

The Hanford River Corridor is a 210 square mile area along the outer edge of the DOE Hanford site. Projects under the contract include cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination in the 100 Area, originating from nine plutonium production reactors; cleanup of the 300 Area, a solid and liquid waste disposal area contaminated with uranium, volatile organic compounds, strontium-90, and tritium; disposition of facilities in the 400 Area; and remediating the 600 Area burial grounds, high risk sites containing transuranic waste.

Hanford River Corridor Closure

Project Description

CH2M HILL joined forces with Washington Group International and Bechtel National to form Washington Closure Hanford Company. Washington Closure Hanford's mission is to safely clean up and close the Columbia River corridor, an area of roughly 210 square miles along the outer edge of the Hanford Site that includes major portions of the Hanford Reach National Monument.

The River Corridor Closure Contract was awarded to Washington Closure Hanford in 2005. CH2M HILL's environmental remediation operations in the Hanford River Corridor will follow from our work as a subcontractor to Bechtel Hanford, which held the Hanford Environmental Restoration Contract from 1998 until DOE transferred responsibility to Washington Closure Company.

Workscope under the contract includes:

- Deactivating, decommissioning, decontamination and demolishing (D4) 486 facilities, many contaminated with radioactive and/or hazardous materials.
- Remediating and closing 370 waste sites. Waste sites include trenches where reactor liquid wastes were discharged.
- Removing hazardous materials at K-East, K-West and N reactors of the 4 reactors to prepare for interim safe storage. The K-East and K-West were large plutonium production reactors that operated from 1955 until the early 1970s. A "cocooning" method will be used that will involve in situ encapsulation of the reactor piles.
- Remediating the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds. The 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds contain some highly radioactive irradiated nuclear fuel, hazardous chemicals and plutonium, cesium and other radioactive material.
- Operating the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF), a disposal facility for the contaminated soil and materials that are being excavated at the sites along the Columbia River. The ERDF receives about 3,000 tons of contaminated soil and materials per day.

Previous environmental restoration work along the Hanford river corridor was performed under a cost-reimbursable, performance based contract. The River Corridor Closure Contract is a cost and schedule performance incentive contract. Fee is calculated using industry-wide project reporting measurements. Fee at target cost and schedule is 7 percent, with incentives to earn up to 13.5 percent by earning \$0.20 on every \$1.00 saved below target cost, similar to the successful contracting strategy employed by DOE and CH2M HILL for the cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado. In addition, all work is authorized by the contract rather than the submission and approval of annual work plans. This arrangement allows Washington Closure Hanford to capitalize on efficiencies gained as the contract progresses to accelerate out-year work. In addition, the contract features aggressive subcontracting requirements of 60 percent, with half to small businesses.