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enable beneficial use.*

River Corridor Closure Project Mission

*Complete the safe, compliant
and efficient cleanup of the
River Corridor by 2012.*

Subcontractor named for D Area cleanup

Washington Closure Hanford has awarded a \$23.5 million subcontract to Safety and Ecology Corp. (SEC), a small business headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., and with offices in Richland, to clean up contaminated burial grounds and remaining sites in D Area.



D Area operated from 1944-1967 and generated tons of radioactive and hazardous waste that were disposed in trenches and covered with soil. Today D and DR reactors have been placed in interim safe storage and liquid waste sites have been remediated.

The subcontract includes remediation of 15 solid waste burial grounds, 13 remaining waste sites and more than four miles of potentially contaminated water treatment and sanitary sewer pipelines.

SEC will dig up, sort, reduce, stockpile, package, load, weigh and transport about 900,000 tons of contaminated materials, reactor hardware and construction debris from the cleanup sites to a container transfer area. Another small-business subcontractor, Integrated Logistics Services, Inc., will transport the material from the container transfer area to ERDF.

SEC will mobilize and begin some preparatory work immediately and begin waste-site cleanup after completing readiness activities. The current goal is to finish the project in 2010.

Safety training pays off

The morning of June 17, Barry Headley, radiation control technician with Eberline Services Hanford, planned to do yard work and ended up knee-deep in fire extinguishers and debris.

It was Saturday morning in Burbank and Barry wanted to remove a tree from his yard. Suddenly, the train whistle sounded and continued to blare until, "I heard what sounded like a wet paper bag exploding and felt a rumble," Barry said.

The approaching train had collided with a semi-truck crossing the tracks. The 122-car Burlington Northern train was nearly empty, as was the truck driven by Ruperto Peraza Diaz.

From his yard, Barry saw the train and truck race down the tracks and come to a stop over a quarter-mile from the intersection. "It was already throwing smoke, fire and dirt. It hit a telephone pole that pulled out the under carriage of the truck and threw it next to the track. The truck motor was knocked out at about 300 feet and parts continued dropping out," he said.



Barry used all of the (now empty) fire extinguishers piled next to the destroyed truck cab to manage diesel fires until help arrived.

After calling 911 and racing to the accident site, Barry's day turned into a real-life safety drill

"This was a competitive procurement set aside specifically for small businesses. SEC was selected based on the cost and qualifications outlined in its proposal. We're pleased to add SEC to our list of small-business remediation subcontractors," said Jon Fancher, D Area Field Remediation Project manager.

As of July, Washington Closure has awarded 87 percent of its subcontracted dollars to small business, significantly exceeding its goal of 65 percent.

D4 Project hits 50 buildings and keeps going

The D4 Project team hit 50 in July – 50 demolished excess Hanford buildings.

"The entire team has gone well above and beyond what was expected in our first 11 months on the job," said John Fulton, D4 Project director. "We were scheduled to complete 13 buildings in the 100 and 300 areas, but we completed many more by accelerating our work and, at the same time, improving our safety performance."



An Aug. 3 celebration recognized the D4 Project's accomplishments. "Our success is due to our team's work ethic and ability to safely put multiple pieces of equipment in operation simultaneously," said John Fulton, D4 Project director. "Not all of our work is glamorous either. Team members suited up in the heat for three months to clean out contaminants. I want to acknowledge their hard work in such uncomfortable conditions."

"We've demolished 24 facilities in the N and K areas and are working on 183/163N and 1314N facilities," said Ruben Trevino, 100 Area superintendent. "We're also moving employees from N to K so we can demolish the trailers as scheduled."

"In the 300 Area, we've demolished 32 facilities since last August," said Mike Swartz, 300/400 area manager.

Mike said one of the ways the D4 Project has been able to safely

that called on all of his emergency response skills. "Safety training at the site pushes you to do things safely for yourself first and then move forward and get help coming," Barry said. "I was able to assess the situation to determine if I could help or if I'd be in the way."

By the time Barry reached the vehicle, "The truck's fuel tank had fire-balled and the driver was still in the cab, held there by his seatbelt," he said.

Barry yelled to the train engineers for fire extinguishers to manage a diesel fire in the cab of the truck. "The engineer gave me a huge 50-pound extinguisher and I went through several more nursing the fire for 20-25 minutes until help came," he said.

Life Flight airlifted the driver to the Walla Walla St. Mary Medical Center where he was last reported to be in critical condition.



Chuck awarded Barry a \$100 Wal-Mart gift certificate for his work in safety and emergency civic service.

Barry's impromptu emergency service traveled quickly around the River Corridor Closure Project. Chuck Stewart, ESHI Operations vice president, saw fit to recognize Barry's courageous actions. "When Barry responded, he went above and beyond his civic duty," Chuck said. "He exemplified our employees' commitment to safety."

While all ended well at the crash

accelerate its schedule has been by "reorganizing existing characterization. This allowed us to streamline procedures without impacting safety."

"This helped us meet our spring safety campaign goal of no lost times or recordable injuries," Ruben added. "And in July, we initiated another safety effort when we started using the side-dump disposal trucks that are more efficient from a safety standpoint."

The D4 Project plans to continue its accelerated schedule. "Planned demolitions in the 100 Area include such facilities as the 108N and 183N," Ruben said.

"In the 300 Area, the 306 Building will be a major demolition milestone", said John Carranco, 300 Area superintendent.

Second HAMTC safety representative on-board

Don King has joined the River Corridor Closure Project as the second Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) safety representative. Don joins HAMTC representative Jay Wheatley to help enhance safety on the project.

Don previously worked as a stationary operating engineer at the 324 Building and looks forward to supporting the project as a safety representative. "At 324, I provided operations support of HVAC and auxiliary equipment, steam and electric utilities. I worked with the LSIT at 324 and 327 buildings," Don said. "Now I look forward to working with the people out here and joining the project's safety team."



New HAMTC representative Don King (right) joins Jay Wheatley in promoting worker safety and handling employee safety concerns.

Safety representatives serve as liaisons between organizations and employees. "Safety reps are trained to assist problem resolution and to address worker health, environmental, and safety issues early in the process before they can become larger issues," Jay said.

After six years of working as the sole HAMTC safety representative, Jay welcomes the new addition. "You can always use a little help," Jay said. "I'm glad to get to work with Don."

site, it wasn't so for Barry, who returned to help cleanup but suddenly saw smoke coming from his yard. "The tree I planned to remove decided to come down on its own and tore through a power line," Barry said. The line sparked a fire that called fire trucks back to Burbank and left Barry with a \$400 bill from his power company. "It just shows you how unexpectedly things happen and how unpredictable your luck can be."

Golf tournament a success

At the River Corridor Employees' Association (RCEA) first annual golf tournament July 15, the ultimate winner was the Second Harvest Food Bank, which will receive \$2,000.

"Proceeds for mulligan and free shot tickets and refreshments sold from six carts will go to Second Harvest," said Tommy Houck, tournament organizer. "It was an easy way to have a good time and support the community."

The tournament welcomed 39 teams. Trophies were awarded for first, second, third and last places. First place won a dozen balls, while last place won a free golf lesson. "It's genuinely about having a good time. You get an award for playing, good or bad, and all your time on the green was for a good cause," Tommy said.

The next tournament will be Sept. 15, with proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity. Employees interested in organizing fundraisers can contact the RCEA at RiverCorridorEmployeesAssociation@wch-rcc.com

Comments or questions?

Please call Edye Jenkins at 372-9176

Or you may Email:

wchnews@wch-rcc.com

First annual picnic a success

The first annual River Corridor Employees' Association's picnic Aug. 5 drew a crowd of 600 employees and their families and raised more than \$700 to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank.

The day included lunch, games and live music. Employees won prizes, including a River Boat dinner cruise, a Murder Mystery Train Ride and a trip to San Antonio's Riverwalk.



Photos from the first annual River Corridor Employees' Association's picnic Aug. 5 can be viewed at http://wch.erc.rl.gov/empassoc/images/WCH_Picnic_06/index.htm. The photos are available for viewing only from networked RCC Project computers.

Osprey Award recipients

Ron Beldon, Doug Bowers, Mike Clancy, Steve DeMers, Greg Dixon, Jonetta Everano, Mike Fitzpatrick, Barry Poorman, John Stephens, Dean Strom and Jon Wiles were recognized for developing an unprecedented bottom-to-top revision of existing work approaches, resulting in reduced worker exposures to radiological and industrial safety risks, more thorough hazards identification, more effective contamination control and overall improved field project productivity. The team designed a gamma array survey instrument, or gamma pipe, which is mounted to a Bobcat and pulled over the cells to remotely survey waste material. DOE and regulators are extremely pleased with the breakthrough results.

Edward Harding was recognized for identifying and evaluating the use of an improved and less expensive absorbent material to mitigate the problem of liquids in the roll-on/roll-off waste containers used for waste shipments to ERDF.

Linda Dietz and Sheri Harshberger were recognized for developing the Stewardship Information System (SIS). The SIS is a greatly improved central database tool for use by the River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project that integrates and documents cleanup and closure activities in the Columbia River Corridor region of the Hanford Site. The system contains key information associated with facilities, waste sites and orphan sites evaluations and has been created by the nominees to specifically align with and document completion of RCC Project mission. It will be a valuable strategic long-term stewardship deliverable provided to DOE near the end of the RCC Contract.