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C^{the} Current

River Corridor
Closure Project

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Please submit story ideas or comments to [WCH Communications](mailto:WCH.Communications).

The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted articles for length and clarity.

Cultural Clearances Should Start Early

Hanford is extraordinarily rich in cultural resource sites – to date, more than 3,000 cultural sites have been recorded. Each of these sites is protected by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and has religious and cultural significance for tribal people from the Wanapum, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce Tribes.

“We have one of the most complex and largest numbers of recorded pre-historic sites in the Nation,” said Mona Wright, DOE-RL Archaeologist. “As more and more work is done near the River and along undisturbed land, we are concerned that we protect these invaluable resources and tribes are concerned that sacred sites will be disturbed.”

Recently, contractors like WCH have had to modify how their cultural resource reviews have been conducted to allow for more involvement by the consulting parties pursuant to the NHPA. In the past, the Hanford Cultural Resources Management Plan laid out criteria that allowed projects to move forward without consultation, but not any more.

DOE, the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and the tribes are now negotiating what projects will need consultation. Consultation will require additional time.

“The RL direction to the contractors has resulted in longer schedules for contractors to obtain project clearances to allow time for consultation,” said Jill Thomson, WCH Environmental Services Manager. “In response to these changes, we have implemented a number of measures



Sydelle Harrison (WCH) records the boundaries of a historic farm field in the 100-D area.

Service Awards

The following individuals reached a milestone in their careers.

5 Years:

Foust, David J.
Gratton, Donna M.
Hosier, Judith M.
O'Brien, Kelly D.
Schultz, Christopher M.
Wall, Michael F.

10 Years:

Arteaga, Albert
Axelson, Craig A.
Beaver, Debra L.
Collins, Nicholas S.
Dorman, David C.
Fangman, Stacy L.
Gerds, Timothy A.
King, John W.
Leanderson, Robert H.
Littlefield, Scott O.
Morris, Charles S.
Mussman, Robert L.
Myers, Julia M.
Nelson, Anthony D.
Olson, Barry E.
Pruett, Jason S.
Schilperoort, Jacob R.
Stallcop, James V.
Tarara, Joseph A.
Tolle, Gary W.
Wallace, Robert B.

15 Years:

Stewart, Charles H.

25 Years:

Cortez, Laurie N.

30 Years:

Nelson, Walter B.
Reisenauer, Thomas J.
Teller, Kandi L.

Cultural clearances continued



Dan Martin (CH2M HILL) and George Lucei (Wanapum Tribe) conduct subsurface archaeological testing for WCH near the Hanford Townsite.

to help mitigate impacts, but challenges remain as project work continues in culturally sensitive areas of the river corridor,” said Thomson.

“Projects should allow ample time for the consulting parties to consider the effects a project might have on cultural resources unless there is absolutely no potential to effect the resource,” added Wright.

The RL Cultural Resources Program has been working with contractor cultural resource specialists to implement the proper criteria for submitting documents so delays are less likely to occur and project concurrences are issued in a timely and compliant manner.

In support of the changes, staff are in place and committed to improving the process so the right decisions are made according to the laws, and so decisions are made in a reasonable timeframe for the affected groups. The best advice is for projects to start their cultural clearance process as early as possible and to coordinate them with their cultural resource specialist for the best results.

RCC Exceeds United Way Goal

“The United Way campaign was resoundingly successful,” said this year’s Chairman, Eric Kinnunen. “Not only did we beat the goal by nearly 10 percent, employees pledged 8 percent more than they did last year.”

The goal this year was \$152,011. The amount pledged so far is about \$168,000. Washington Closure Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford are making corporate contributions as well. Respectively, they are contributing \$52,000 and \$3,500.

“That means the River Corridor Closure Project team is contributing about \$223,500 to help people in our community who are in need,” said Eric. “That’s about 10 percent of everything that is collected at Hanford. We can be very proud of that accomplishment.”



“I attended many of the campaign meetings across the project. At each one, I heard stories about how United Way agencies help employees and their families. Sometimes a need hits a lot closer to home than we’d like. It’s gratifying to see that the River Corridor family recognizes that and is willing to help,” said Eric. “Thanks for your generous support.”

New Hires

WCH welcomes the following new employees who have joined our project:

Mark Hasty: WCH, Deputy Director
Contact Closure – Contract Closure

Larry Stephens: WCH, HAMTC Truck
Driver – WO

Brandon Quigley: WCH, HAMTC Temp
D&D – D4

William Turner: WCH, HAMTC Temp D&D
– D4

Benjamin Engel: WCH, HAMTC Temp
D&D – D4

Philip Thoreson: WCH, HAMTC Temp
D&D – D4

Kyle Bricker: WCH, HAMTC Temp D&D
– D4

Anthony Bausch: WCH, HAMTC Temp
D&D – D4

Tom Cupples: WCH, HAMTC Temp D&D
– D4

Lee Winckler: WCH, HAMTC Truck Driver
– WO

Thomas McDowell: WCH, HAMTC Truck
Driver – WO

Richard Cooper: WCH, HAMTC Truck
Driver – WO

Daniel Escobar: WCH, HAMTC Temp
D&D – D4

Don McBride: WCH, Manager, Projects
– Technical Services – D4

Recalls:

Eric Buckenberger: WCH, HAMTC Truck
Driver – WO

Lino Rodriguez: WCH, HAMTC Truck
Driver – WO

Francisco Iniguez: WCH, HAMTC Truck
Driver – D4

Consolidation and Innovation at D & H Areas Increases Safety and Savings

“The Decision to consolidate D and H has improved our safety, conduct of operations and provided an opportunity for substantial cost savings/avoidance for the project,” said Joe Curcio, project manager for Field Remediation (FR) at D/H areas.

“Because D and H areas are right next to each other and share TPMC/Envirocon as the Field Remediation subcontractor, the operational point of control was centralized to one location at D Area. Centralization has led to a uniform and consistent safety and conduct of operations message through standardizing expectations during safety and plan-of-the-day meetings,” Joe said.

“By consolidating operations and instituting other productivity improvements and cost saving measures, we estimate we can reduce overall costs by \$7 million through fiscal year (FY) 2013,” he said.

Additionally, the D/H area crew has come up with a number of innovative productivity improvements. A big one was indentifying and procuring a portable bridge to be placed over groundwater treatment lines in D/H areas. Previously, Washington Closure had to pay CHPRC to construct a crossing over each set of groundwater treatment lines to provide access to waste sites for FR crews.

The new portable bridge is more efficient and is easy to install and remove. Also, it is a cost saver; FR expects to save \$900,000 for the duration of the work.

Other substantial savings have come from innovative thinking. “We are only required to backfill to match existing topography, but we’ve been mounding over former wastes sites – placing significantly more backfill than required,” said Joe.

“By working with DOE and the regulators, we developed a plan to topographically recontour the sites. We’ll end up with much more natural-looking areas as a result and use much less fill, reducing the impacts to the borrow pit areas. We estimate a savings of more than \$500,000 through FY12,” he said.

“Finding more efficient and less expensive ways to get the work done without degrading safety is becoming more important as we see tighter budgets,” said FR Director Rob Cantwell. “The D/H team has done a fantastic job of thinking of innovative ways to reduce cost. As new ideas are generated at each of our individual project sites they are being looked at for application across all of FR.”

“By consolidating operations and instituting other productivity improvements and cost saving measures, we estimate we can reduce overall costs by \$7 million through FY2013.”

*Joe Curcio,
100 D/H Project Manager,
Field Remediation*

WCH Appreciates You



Brad Smith, WCH Deputy Director (right), presented Dave Shea, Josie Cruz, Kathy Wendt, Joan Kessner, Rich Weiss and Katie Wood one of two "WCH Appreciates You" awards.

Two "WCH Appreciates You" awards were given out in October, to two deserving groups. One was awarded to the sampling team: Dave Shea, Josie Cruz, Kathy Wendt, Joan Kessner, Rich Weiss, and Katie Wood. Brad Smith, WCH Deputy Project Manager handed out the certificates, which stated, "In appreciation for the countless hours of hard work performed by you and your team. The total number of samples you have managed through the laboratories and processed for the projects has increased from approximately 7,700 in 2009 to approximately 35,000 in 2011. Your diligence and dedication help keep Field Remediation safely moving forward."



Carol Johnson, WCH President (second from right) and Emily Millikin, WCH SH&Q Director (center), honored Kris McCargar, Frank Moran, Terry LaFreniere, Dennis Hill, Mike Groff and Steve Huddleston with a "WCH Appreciates You" award.

The second award went to a team of Radiological Control Technicians (RCT) that played a large role in the transitioning of the incoming RCTs due to the bump and role. Carol Johnson, WCH President and Project Manager awarded certificates to Kris McCargar, Frank Moran, Terry LaFreniere, Dennis Hill, Mike Groff, and Steve Huddleston. Their certificate stated, "Your outside-the-box thinking and use of additional resources led to the greatly accelerated qualification of incoming 50 RCTs. These efforts directly supported project needs by providing qualified RCTs to the field significantly faster than has previously occurred."

Congratulations to both teams.



A recently completed snake den



Field Remediation workers recently completed building two snake dens near the old Hanford town site. One den was constructed to replace a den that had to be removed while cleaning up a waste site. The other was constructed at the request of Field Remediation. Both are constructed of a specific rock size and at a required depth. Washington Closure Hanford ecological resources personnel designed the construction of the new dens and selected their locations. One is located near the remediated waste site.

Snake dens are used by multiple species as a place to hibernate for the winter. The den sites are used year-after-year.

FACTOID

The total size of the River Corridor Closure Project is equal to the size of Chicago, IL.

“All of the new drivers have had great attitudes...”

*Frank Farmer,
ERDF Waste Transportation
Manager, Waste Operations*

ERDF Drivers

About 25 truck drivers who joined the Waste Operations team as part of the “bump and roll” process have completed training and are transporting waste to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). Two new mechanics and two new tire-and-lube workers also have completed training and are on the job.

The new drivers and mechanics join a team that has logged more than eight million miles transporting waste to ERDF since Washington Closure assumed management of the River Corridor Closure Project in 2005. The team, which consists of about 60 drivers, 11 mechanics and three tire-and-lube workers, has maintained a perfect safety record during that time.

During the bump and roll, bargaining unit workers were replaced by higher seniority workers who were laid off by other Hanford contractors. Frank Farmer, ERDF’s Waste Transportation Manager, said the transition of the new drivers and mechanics to Washington Closure has been a smooth one.



Keeping the ERDF containers moving across the River Corridor Project safely and efficiently is like a well choreographed dance.

“All of the new drivers have had great attitudes, and they’ve been very receptive to our way of doing things,” Frank said. “The new drivers also have meshed well with the others to create a real team atmosphere.”

One of the new drivers recently brought doughnuts to a plan-of-the-day meeting to show his appreciation for his new opportunity.

“It was a nice sign of goodwill,” Frank said. “He wanted to thank everybody for making him feel welcome and for the training he received. That was great to see.”

High-rad Pipes Transported to ERDF

Traffic was detoured recently to transport a special shipment from the 118-K-1 Burial Ground. The shipment contained two highly radioactive pipes that were likely used in one of the K reactors and were buried in the Trench O of the main reactor burial ground.



Through a team effort, a shipment of two highly radioactive pipes went from 118-K-1 to ERDF safely and successfully.

“We had great cooperation and coordination with D4, Waste Operations, Waste Services, Mission Support Alliance, Hanford Patrol and the Department of Energy.”

*Brian Stubbs,
118-K-1 Project Manager,
Field Remediation*

FACTOID

Two waste sites have reached groundwater – 100-F-57 and 100-C-7.

High-rad pipes continued

“These were the hottest of the many highly radioactive items we uncovered and handled during cleanup of 118-K-1,” said Brian Stubbs, project manager for the 118-K-1 Burial Ground.

The limit for shipments to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) is 200 millirem/hour (mR/hr) on contact with the container. “Our instruments pegged out at 1,000,000 mR/hr on contact with the pipes, which would have far exceeded the transportation limit. The pipes were radioactive enough that a special concrete box had to be designed and built to hold them. The pipes were placed inside and then the box was filled with cement.

“We had great cooperation and coordination with D4, Waste Operations, Waste Services, Mission Support Alliance, Hanford Patrol and the Department of Energy,” said Brian.

“We’ve removed a number of high-rad items from the burial ground that have required special handling,” he said. “I appreciate everyone working together to ensure these materials were safely transported to ERDF for disposal.”



In order to transport two highly radioactive pipes to ERDF, a special concrete box was designed and built.

Field Work in Segment 3 Completed

Field work has been completed in Segment 3. “That means we have completed our cleanup requirements for 98 square miles out of the 220 square miles in the River Corridor Closure Contract,” said Bruce Covert, Closure Director.

Work in Segments 1 and 2 was completed in December 2010, and totaled 60 square miles. “The work scope in each of these segments involved removing abandoned railroad tracks, fencing and surface debris, remediation of waste sites, reviewing thousands of documents and aerial photographs, and conducting walkdowns to ensure we hadn’t missed anything. It required a lot of work from a lot of people in many different organizations to get the job completed,” said Rob Cantwell, Field Remediation Director.

To help meet the Department of Energy’s 2015 Vision for River Corridor cleanup, Washington Closure Hanford devised a phased closure plan. “That was so we

FACTOID

98 square miles of completed cleanup is equivalent to 474 football fields.

Segment 3 continued

could develop and refine the closure process and transfer management responsibility for the land in stages, as opposed to transferring everything at the very end of the contract,” said Bruce Covert, Closure Director.

“DOE recently transferred Segment 1 to Mission Support Alliance for long-term stewardship. Our next big milestone will be when DOE sends us acknowledgement that we have completed our contractual obligations for Segment 1, which is targeted in the near future. We are working closely with DOE and MSA on the Segment 2 and 3 closure packages.”

This is the first time that land at Hanford has been cleaned up to regulatory requirements and transferred into DOE’s long-term stewardship program. “Field work in each of these segments was professionally completed, and it was a huge task to ensure all the paperwork, procedures and contractual requirements were in place to document our completion of the work,” said Bruce.

“We took the best closure practices from other sites, such as Rocky Flats and Mound, to develop this phased approach to closure and transfer,” he said. “We’ll apply this approach to the other segments and areas as we close them out over the next three years.”

“ ... it was a huge task to ensure all the paperwork, procedures and contractual requirements were in place to document our completion of the work.”

*Bruce Covert,
Director, Closure*



Wrapped in a protective bag that weighs approximately 700 pounds, the CRCTA tank, contaminated with asbestos, was removed from the basement of the 337 Building where mock-up work was conducted for the Fast Flux Test Facility in the 300 Area.



After extensive preparation, the 40-foot long tank is carefully laid on a prepared landing pad.



A special trailer for heavy loads was used to haul the CRCTA tank to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. It took the crew several hours to slowly drive the Goldhofer trailer with its wrapped package to ERDF