Closing In On Closure

Safety/Training

- HAMMER hosted Homeland Security training for Washington State Agriculture inspectors and other professionals. During the June 15-16 hands-on class, participants learned how to mitigate potential risks they may face in the field during investigations. Washington State Agriculture Director Valoria Loveland said in closing remarks that she is encouraging other state departments to complete similar training so, should an actual event occur, department interaction would be more cohesive.

- OSHA recordable illness/injury rates (per 200,000 hours worked)
  - Fiscal year days away from work case rate: 0.05
  - Recordables in June: 1
  - Fiscal year total recordable case rate: 0.61

Deactivating and Decommissioning Facilities

- Plutonium Finishing Plant
  - Decontaminated 40 of 231 glove boxes to low-level waste status in the 15-acre complex.
  - Removed the large, main glove box from the 232-Z Incinerator Facility, which is the first nuclear facility at the plant slated for demolition. The highly contaminated glove box weighs 9,000 pounds and will be transported to a facility on the Hanford Site, where it will be cut up and packaged as transuranic waste for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.
  - A highly specialized crew entered the 242-Z Americium Facility to characterize and decontaminate the scene of one of the worst contamination accidents at Hanford (in 1976).
  - Decommissioned and closed the first of three laboratories inside the giant 234-5Z Building—the main processing facility of the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

- Fast Flux Test Facility
  - Completed the operation to drain an estimated 140,000 gallons of liquid sodium from the reactor’s primary cooling system a week ahead of the Tri-Party Agreement Milestone of June 30. Preparations are underway to drain one of FFTF’s two spent-fuel pools—the Fuel Storage Facility, which holds 31,000 gallons of liquid sodium coolant.
  - Crews have removed 305 of 375 fuel assemblies from the reactor and have finished working on the first of five assemblies that require special processing to identify failed fuel pins and separate sodium-bonded pins.
• 300 Area and Central Plateau
  o Demolished four additional excess structures in the 300 Area, with 17 of 20 structures dismantled to date. On Hanford’s Central Plateau, continued demolition and debris removal on the final three ancillary structures next to the U Plant processing canyon in Fluor Hanford’s contract. Seven of ten structures have been completed to date.

Closing the K Basins
• Spent fuel cask welding
  o Completed welding 18 canisters of Shippingport spent fuel as part of the Hanford Site-Wide Spent Fuel Program. This completes all welding required for spent fuel casks, including 379 Multi-Canister Overpacks containing spent fuel from the K Basins. All work was performed with zero safety incidents, conduct of operations problems, or defective welds.
• Retrieving radioactive sludge
  o Continued to consolidate sludge from the K East Basin in underwater containers, with more than 78% of the estimated 55 cubic yards of sludge consolidated.
  o Finished installing the last of four underwater containers in the K East Basin that will hold sludge vacuumed from the basin until it is transferred to the K West Basin.
  o Five of 6 underwater containers that will be used to containerize sludge from both basins have been placed in the K West Basin.
• Deactivating and decommissioning the basins
  o 4,000 of 7,600 fuel canister lids have been removed from the basins.
  o All hydrolasing equipment for the K East Basin is on site. After sludge is removed from the basin, the hydrolasing system will remove the highly contaminated surface of the basin’s inner walls before the basin is partially filled with grout.

Remediating Groundwater
• Project is 12 wells ahead of schedule on drilling monitoring wells required in the Tri-Party Agreement, with a cumulative total of 42 wells drilled (out of 45 required by December 2005 in the Tri-Party Agreement). Decommissioned 190 wells to date.

Retrieving and Shipping Transuranic (TRU) Waste
• As of the end of June, more than 12,700 drum-equivalents of waste had been retrieved and transferred to a permitted storage facility at Hanford. The next Tri-Party Agreement milestone, in December 2005, calls for completing the transfer of 13,500 drum-equivalents to the storage facility.
• Completed 14 shipments of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico in June, tying the monthly shipping record for the project. That brings the total number of shipments to 188 and the total number of drums shipped to 5,312 (since shipments began in 2000).