

Kaiser-Hill rolling closer to Rocky Flats closure

Nuclear cleanup contractor Kaiser-Hill achieved major progress in 2003 toward safely closing Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, including eliminating several of the most pressing risks at the former weapons manufacturing facility.

Overall, the project is more than 80 percent complete, ahead of schedule and under budget as it draws closer to the December 2006 closure deadline.

One of the most noteworthy achievements in 2003 was the final stabilization, packaging and offsite shipment of the last of the weapons-usable special nuclear materials, marking the end of 50 years of nuclear operations. This reduced risk to workers and the surrounding community

and also allowed the last high-security area to be closed, which resulted in the associated nearly \$2 million monthly security cost to be directed to cleanup work.

Rocky Flats continued to ship more radioactive waste for disposal than any other cleanup site in the country. During 2003, Kaiser-Hill disposed of 94,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste, an increase of 230 percent compared to 2002 and more than the total shipped from 1995 through 2002. More than 9,000 waste shipments left the site, which equates to one shipment every 15 minutes. Those numbers are expected to increase dramatically in 2004 as more major facilities are demolished.

The Rocky Flats skyline experienced a visible change as the project demolished 135 structures and buildings in 2003, more than any previous year. To date, 430 of 805 structures have been safely removed.

Building 865, a former metallurgical research laboratory, proved to be a challenging demolition project due to significant amounts of beryllium and uranium permeating cracks in the floors and walls. After decontaminating the walls as much as possible, remaining contamination was encapsulated with a fixative and the building was safely demolished using stringent work controls.

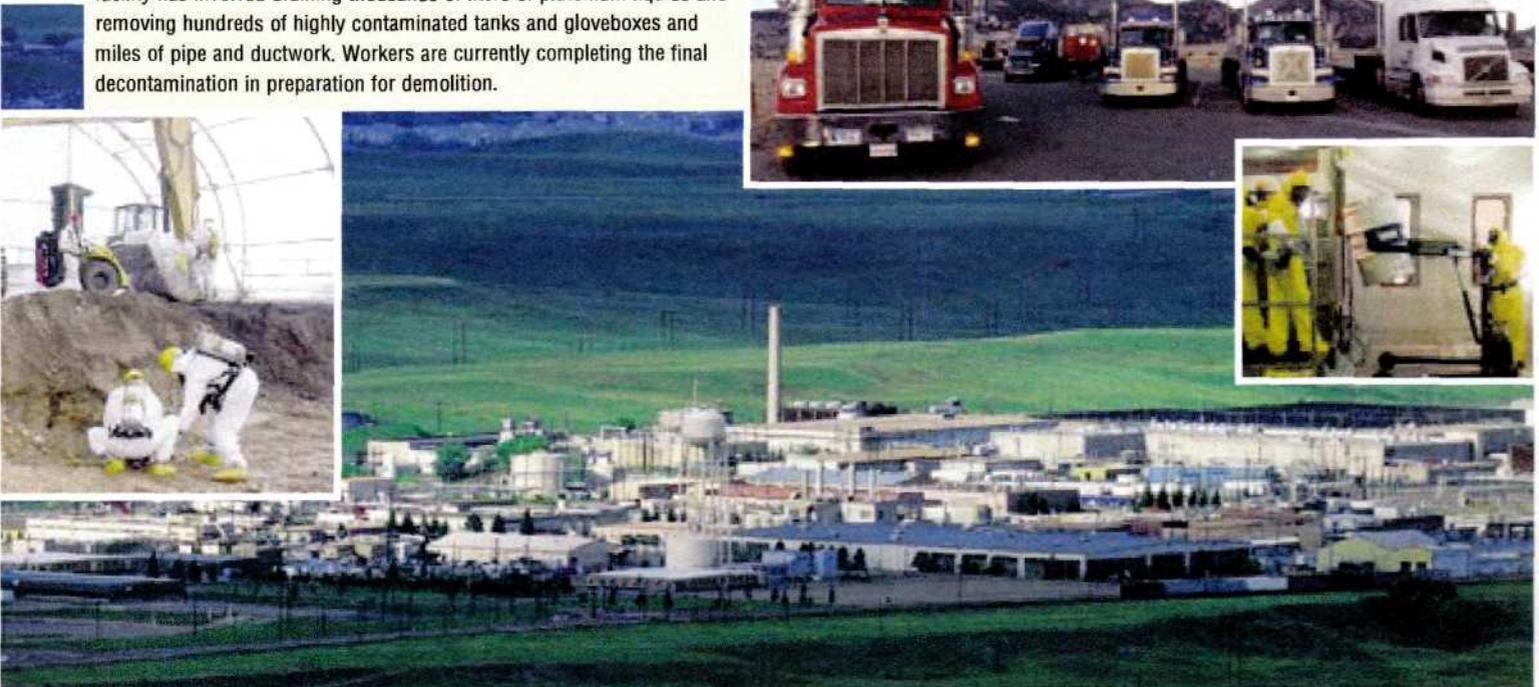
The Kaiser-Hill team also successfully completed the

milestone cleanup of the 903 Pad, the site's largest and most complex environmental cleanup project to date. Drums containing plutonium and uranium-contaminated cutting oils were stored outdoors at the 903 Pad between 1958 and 1967, some of which leaked radioactive solutions into the soil. The cleanup required removing more than 32,000 tons of contaminated soil and asphalt.

Based on the project's record-setting performance in 2003, Kaiser-Hill is optimistic it can successfully navigate the last few years of the project and achieve the goal of closing Rocky Flats by the 2006 deadline and for less than the estimated \$7 billion price tag.

"Most dangerous building in America" to be razed in 2004

Building 771, dubbed the "most dangerous building in America" by *ABC Nightline* in 1994, is scheduled for demolition this summer. The decommissioning effort of this 175,000-square-foot plutonium-recovery facility has involved draining thousands of liters of plutonium liquids and removing hundreds of highly contaminated tanks and gloveboxes and miles of pipe and ductwork. Workers are currently completing the final decontamination in preparation for demolition.





Cleanup progress at a glance:

