

## Idaho Cleanup Project one-year mark

The CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI) team mobilized in the spring of 2005 to tackle cleanup at the Idaho National Laboratory site, established in 1949 as a national reactor testing station. After a year, the site's skyline has changed and long-time threats to the environment are diminishing.

"We have an opportunity to make a difference in southeastern Idaho," said CWI President and CEO Bob Iotti. "By reducing risks posed by former research and defense operations, we can protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer, the water source for more than 200,000 Idahoans."

Over the course of seven years for a cost of \$2.3 billion, CWI will dispose and disposition nuclear materials, stabilize and store spent nuclear fuel, treat and dispose of radioactive waste streams, remediate contaminated soil and water, and demolish reactors, spent nuclear fuel storage basins, and labs used for radioactive experiments.

### After one year, the CWI team has:

#### ✓ Removed 110,200 pounds of sludge from spent nuclear fuel storage basins

Throughout the nearly 50-year life of the fuel storage basin facility, fissile material and radioactive sludge, including flocculent, sediment, debris and radioactive scale, collected in the bottom of the basins. Industrial divers vacuumed sludge from the basin floors and transferred it into high-integrity containers. This is the last of the 1950s-era fuel storage basins to be deactivated at the site.



#### ✓ Demolished 44 facilities and structures, including first high-risk building

CWI's building demolition strategy is simple: attack the highest risk facilities first to reduce the threat to human health and the environment.

The CPP-627 facility, constructed in 1955 to house analytical and experimental facilities for spent nuclear fuel reprocessing, was CWI's first high-risk building demolition. High-risk facilities are typically large, complex buildings with radioactive contamination. This structure, constructed primarily of reinforced concrete on two levels, contained various quantities of radionuclide, lead, mercury, used oil, asbestos, cadmium, chromium and other chemical residue.



#### ✓ Transferred 500 units of spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage

CWI met a major milestone by transferring 500 fuel handling units from wet-to-dry storage four months ahead of schedule. The milestone includes the transfer, conditioning, and storage of aluminum plate fuel from underwater storage to more stable, environmentally sound dry storage.



#### ✓ Retrieving buried waste from Subsurface Disposal Area

For nearly 20 years, the Subsurface Disposal Area received transuranic and other wastes from sites throughout the Department of Energy complex. Most of the transuranic waste buried in the area was received from the Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado between 1952 and 1970.



Since arriving in Idaho, CWI has exhumed nearly 1,900 cubic meters of waste. The waste contained high concentrations of volatile organic compounds and transuranic-contaminated materials.

#### ✓ Disposed all V-tanks from site

Inside a temporary weather enclosure at Test Area North, using a treatment process called "air sparging," liquid waste from four underground tanks bubbled and churned as volatile organic compounds were "driven off" to be captured with activated carbon filters. The treatment solidified the waste inside the tanks, allowing the tanks and contents to be safely stored onsite in a disposal facility.



The four so called V-tanks were installed in the early 1950s as part of a system to collect and treat radioactive effluents from operations at Test Area North. U.S. DOE

### Bob Iotti named president of CH2M-WG Idaho

Twins or birds of a (safety) feather? Not exactly mirror images, but what is identical about Bob Iotti and Alan Parker is their No. 1 priority of seeing the Idaho Cleanup Project completed safely.

You might say they "see eye to eye" on it, said Parker, who at the end of June left the top post at CH2M-WG Idaho to lead CH2M HILL's Federal Client Group.

Iotti stepped into Parker's shoes, so to speak, as president and chief executive of CH2M-WG Idaho, the cleanup contractor at the Idaho project.



Hollywood's Twins



ICP's Twins