

Integrated Disposal Facility Installs Liner

A temporary authorization (TA) has been issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology to allow installation of the earthen liner at the bottom of the Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF) that is under construction in the 200 East Area.

The IDF will be used to safely dispose of Hanford's low-level waste and mixed low-level waste, including immobilized low-activity waste from the Waste Treatment Plant and the Bulk Vitrification Pilot Plant. Excavation for the landfill was completed earlier this year. This authorization is for the mixed low-level portion of the facility and completes the approvals needed to construct this layer of the liner system.

The earthen liner, known as the "admix liner," is a 3-foot-thick layer consisting of bentonite clay, native soil and water that becomes the first component of the 7-foot-thick liner system to be placed on the bottom of the IDF. It serves as a natural barrier to help prevent the possibility of contaminants escaping to the environment.

When the final permit is issued to complete construction, the natural admix liner barrier will be covered with two high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liners that provide the primary and secondary barriers to protect the environment. The HDPE liners form the base of the leachate collection and removal system and the leak detection system for IDF. The upper HDPE liner is covered by 1 foot of drainage rock and by a 3-foot-thick protective native soil cover to complete the 7-foot-thick liner system.



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New Center for Excellence Initiated by CH2M HILL

CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. has selected YAHS GS, LLC to develop a Center for Excellence in Performance Assessment. The firm will conduct performance assessments for site closures as part of our commitment to producing effective, high-quality analyses and documents to support cleanup and closure actions for single-shell tanks and tank-farm Waste Management Areas.

In accordance with its Small Business Administration Mentor-Protégé Agreement with YAHS GS, CH2M HILL is assisting YAHS GS to become a Center for Excellence that is integral to making risk-informed decisions. This process has already been initiated with YAHS GS participation in the Single-Shell Tank Performance Assessment now under development for the Hanford single-shell tanks under the Tank Farm Closure Project. Work began on this document in 2005, and will culminate in its submission to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for comments this fall.

CH2M HILL retained YAHS GS in 2004 to assist in developing compelling, transparent and defensible state-of-the-art risk and risk/benefit analyses

and performance assessments that will enhance stakeholder and regulator confidence in risk-informed decision processes.

The YAHS GS Center for Excellence in performance assessment for site closures will include a highly qualified and experienced team of scientific, engineering, and regulatory subject-matter experts. This center will be a robust national resource that will be available to CH2M HILL, other contractors and federal agencies in support of cleanup and closure actions, NEPA actions, program decision-making, and other initiatives that require highly credible risk analyses. YAHS GS LLC is a technically sophisticated woman-owned small 8(a) business offering technical consulting and cutting-edge research focused on the protection of human health and the environment. It will continue to assemble a team of in-house experts and other resources required to achieve a national Center for Excellence status over the next 18 months, during which time it will also develop a broad contract base using those resources within and outside the DOE Environmental Management Program.