

News from Around the Complex

June 1 – June 30, 2007

June 30, 2007

WEST VALLEY: U.S. names new firm to supervise \$159.3 million nuclear waste cleanup, *The Buffalo News*

ASHFORD — The next phase of the cleanup at the West Valley Demonstration Project will be conducted by West Valley Environmental Services LLC of Aiken, S.C., the U.S. Department of Energy announced Friday. West Valley Environmental Services will be paid about \$159.3 million through June 30, 2011. *** During a meeting Wednesday of the advisory West Valley Citizen Task Force, representatives of the site administrator, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), unveiled a proposal to remove controversial issues from consideration in the decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship plan. Three key areas in the plan are removal of the main process building, remediation of a migrating radioactive plume of underground water containing strontium, and formation of an advisory panel of scientists on issues such as the potential for soil erosion over the next several thousand years.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/otherwny/story/109966.html?imw=Y>

Jun 28, 2007

Governor signs landfill moratorium legislation, *The Daily News Journal*

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen signed legislation today to establish a moratorium preventing radioactive waste and other trash in the state's Bulk Survey for Release Program from being dumped at the Middle Point Landfill pending results from a study. The state's Municipal Solid Waste Advisory Committee must complete a study and offer recommendations by at least Sept. 3, according to the legislation. The committee meets July 5 to initiate the study. Many residents were recently alarmed to learn how millions of pounds of low-level radioactive waste from other states has been dumped at Middle Point Landfill on Jefferson Pike in the Walter Hill community in recent years.

<http://www.dnj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070628/NEWS01/70628010>

June 26, 2007

Cost to clean up transuranic waste could be greater, *Tri-City Herald*

The cost of cleaning up buried radioactive waste at Hanford and other sites could be far greater than the Department of Energy's preliminary estimates, according to a Government Accountability Office report to Congress. The report also questions whether a national repository in New Mexico will be large enough to hold all the waste from the cleanup. The GAO compiled the report in response to questions from the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development about DOE's policy for waste sites where transuranic waste is buried. Transuranic waste typically is debris that is contaminated with plutonium or other man-made radionuclides that may remain radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. Before 1970, transuranic waste was buried in unlined trenches. But that year Congress said that all transuranic waste must be sent to a national repository and some waste was temporarily buried until the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico was named the national repository. DOE's preliminary estimates put the cost of dealing with the waste once thought temporarily buried at \$1.6 billion. But that estimate is based on plans at the Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Savannah River, S.C., nuclear sites where waste is not being dug

up. Instead, a cap of earth, clay and synthetic liners is being placed over the burial grounds to keep out water that could spread contaminants deeper in the ground.

<http://www.hanfordnews.com/news/2007/story/9081789p-8997840c.html>

GAO Report: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-761>

June 25, 2007

Government consults on long-term radioactive waste management plans,
Government News Network (UK)

Proposals for the way in which a site will be chosen for the long-term disposal of higher activity radioactive waste were today published for public consultation by the UK Government and the devolved administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland. The consultation is seeking views on the technical aspects of designing and delivering a disposal facility for higher-activity radioactive waste, and on the process and criteria to be used in deciding where the future facility should be located. Based on the recommendation of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), the Government announced last year that geological disposal, coupled with safe and secure interim storage, is the way forward for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive wastes. UK Environment Minister Ian Pearson said that the Government was proposing an entirely new approach based on the concept of voluntarism - that is, communities expressing an interest in taking part in the process.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=294304&NewsAreaID=2>

June 23, 2007

Skull Valley waste proposal: Defense bill contains threat to case against nuclear dump,
The Salt Lake Tribune

A provision tucked into a defense bill pending in Congress could erode a piece of the state's case against Private Fuel Storage's plan to store nuclear waste in Utah and potentially breathe new life into the waste plan. "We're very concerned that this provision was inserted into the defense authorization bill," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "We're working with the Senate Armed Services Committee to rectify it." Private Fuel Storage, a group of electric utilities that produce nuclear power, received approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to store 44,000 tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel on the Skull Valley Goshute reservation, 45 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. However, in order to move the waste to the site, PFS needed the Bureau of Land Management to change its land-use restrictions on the federal land surrounding the reservation so it could build a rail line to the reservation. In 1999, then-Rep. Jim Hansen, R-Utah, added language to a Defense Department bill that would require the Air Force to study how storing nuclear waste on the reservation would affect the military's use of the adjacent Utah Test and Training Range, before the BLM could make the change. Congress never allocated money for the study and the Air Force never started it. When the Interior Department rejected the PFS lease last September, the unfinished Air Force study was cited as one of the reasons for the decision. The provision, buried in the Defense Authorization bill that has been approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee, would repeal the required study.

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6211056

June 22, 2007

MHI, AREVA and US Partners Propose Plan for U.S. Global Nuclear Energy Partnership,
JCN Newswire

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), AREVA, Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited (JNFL) and US partners Washington Group International, BWX Technologies, Inc. and

Battelle Memorial Inc. have decided to jointly propose a plan for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) initiative being promoted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In response to DOE's open call for candidate plans, on June 21 (U.S. EST) MHI submitted a proposal as the Japanese side representative of this international team. *** The proposal to DOE, which reflects the swift determination of the Japanese government to participate in the GNEP initiative, was submitted after discussions with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and JNFL. *** In this international proposal, MHI is supported on the ARR side by the expertise of Japanese manufacturers and the aforementioned ministries and organizations. For the CFTC, JNFL, which has already announced its teaming-up with AREVA, will lead the Japanese team supporting this part of the proposal.

http://www.japancorp.net/Article.Asp?Art_ID=14738

June 21, 2007

House shoots down Udall's effort to restore New Mexico's nuclear labs' funding, *Albuquerque Tribune*

WASHINGTON — It was obvious that reversing the deep cuts in funding for New Mexico's nuclear weapons laboratories didn't stand a chance in the House when the author of those reductions attacked Los Alamos for an incident that happened at Sandia National Laboratories. The funding battle now moves to the Senate, where Albuquerque Republican Pete Domenici is hoping for more support for the labs than was shown on June 20 in the House - which squashed an amendment by Rep. Tom Udall, a Santa Fe Democrat, to restore \$192 million of the more than \$600 million in cuts for the labs. Udall's move failed by a 312-121 vote, an ominous sign for the New Mexico congressional delegation.

<http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2007/jun/21/house-shoots-down-udalls-effort-restore-new-mexico/>

June 21, 2007

Future of SRS pit plant uncertain, *Aiken Standard*

The future of a proposed billion-dollar facility currently slated for construction at the Savannah River Site was debated on the U.S. House floor Wednesday afternoon. The day's action came to a close without a vote on an amendment offered by a California congresswoman which would reverse existing language in a proposed appropriations bill seeking to move the facility to a plant in Amarillo, Texas. If the amendment is defeated and the current version of the bill passes, the language in the bill would be the first in a long series of events required to move construction of the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF) from SRS to the Pantex Plant in Amarillo. "It is very early on in the congressional appropriations process," said Julianne Smith, spokeswoman for the National Nuclear Security Administration. "We'll continue to work with and engage all of our committees on issues that are important to NNSA." Before the House Appropriations Committee's bill called into question the fate of the pit processing plant, it had long been believed to be destined for SRS. Under the Energy Department's existing plan, the plutonium pit plant was to join the mixed-oxide fuel facility at the site. The pit plant and the MOX plant are the final two major steps in a three-part nonproliferation process that removes weapons-grade plutonium from nuclear warheads and converts it to a mixed plutonium-uranium fuel that can be used in commercial nuclear reactors.

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/289172638370264.php>

June 20, 2007

Statement from Ward Sproat on Yucca Mountain, DOE Press Release
Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

We appreciate Congress's bipartisan vote this afternoon in support of the President's FY2008 funding request for a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Yucca Mountain is critical to the nation's current and future energy and national security needs. We are moving forward to submit a credible and defensible License Application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission no later than June 30, 2008 and full funding for the FY2008 request will help us achieve this important mission. I look forward to working with Congress to advance the opening of the nation's first geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste.

<http://energy.gov/news/5152.htm>

June 20, 2007

House Vote Stops Appropriation for New Generation of Nuclear Weapons, The Washington Post

The House yesterday approved plans to halt funding for the development of a new generation of nuclear warheads as House leaders called on the Bush administration to provide a post-Cold War nuclear strategy that would detail the future size of the U.S. nuclear stockpile. While approving most portions of the \$32 billion fiscal 2008 appropriations bill for energy and water development, the House put off final passage until later this summer while it works out details of funding for local Army Corps of Engineers flood-control projects. The House action, which eliminated about \$82 million for continuing development of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program, also reduced spending for the upgrade and modernization of facilities in the nuclear weapons complex that are involved in refurbishing deployed bombs and warheads, storing older ones and dismantling those no longer needed.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/19/AR2007061901924.html>

June 19, 2007

U.S. Department of Energy Moves Forward with Final Performance Requirements for Yucca Mountain Canister System, DOE Press Release

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the release of final performance requirements for the Transportation, Aging and Disposal (TAD) canister for disposal of spent nuclear fuel at a repository to be located at Yucca Mountain in Nye County, Nevada. This canister approach will minimize the need for repetitive handling of spent nuclear fuel by using the same canister from the time it leaves a nuclear power plant to its placement in a waste disposal package at Yucca Mountain.

<http://energy.gov/news/5134.htm>

June 18, 2007

Staggering security at new DOE building, Knoxville News-Sentinel

OAK RIDGE - With a price tag of \$549 million and a national-security mission, it's designed to be a modern marvel. But it looks like a medieval prison - especially from a distance. The government's new fortress for bomb-grade uranium is rapidly taking shape on the west end of the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant. Security is obvious and ominous even before arriving at the construction site. High fences are topped by razor wire, and barriers line the entry route, placed strategically to stall terrorist assaults. The new facility is impressively forbidding, with massive concrete walls, gun ports galore and special systems in place to safeguard the nuclear assets.

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5590700,00.html

June 16, 2007

K-25 site to sprout wildflowers, grasses, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

OAK RIDGE - Native grasses and wildflowers will soon be growing in front of a former uranium enrichment plant. The Native Meadow Restoration Project is part of an ongoing effort to change the look of the former K-25 site now that it's undergoing cleanup and being transformed into a private-sector business park, Bob Greenwell said. Greenwell, with the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, is heading up the project. CROET is a regional organization charged with finding new uses for old Department of Energy buildings and lands. The planting of eight types of native grasses and 21 different wildflower species began Friday on 100 acres at the front entrance off state Highway 58 to the sprawling complex, which has been renamed East Tennessee Technology Park. Splashes of native wildflowers ranging from Prairie Blazing Star to Aromatic Aster will soon be sprouting next to ETPP buildings that aren't targeted for takedown as part of an accelerated cleanup of the site. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2007/jun/16/k-25-site-to-sprout-wildflowers-grasses/>

June 15, 2007

Proliferation Threat Seen in Nuclear Power Expansion, *Congressional Quarterly*

Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and mounting stockpiles of plutonium pose a significant risk of nuclear proliferation and diversion of materials to terrorists, a nuclear power fact-finding group said Thursday. In a report released by the Colorado-based Keystone Center public policy organization, the group said expansion of nuclear power in ways that substantially increased the likelihood of the spread of nuclear weapons "is not acceptable." The report emerged from analysis and deliberations by the Nuclear Power Joint Fact-Finding (NJFF) panel of 27 experts in the environmental, utility, nuclear power, academic and other fields over the past year. *** The summary said the Bush administration's nuclear energy initiative, the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), is not a strategy for resolving either the radioactive waste problem or the weapons proliferation problem. The program was unlikely to succeed because it required deployment of commercial-scale reprocessing plants, and a large fraction the U.S. and global commercial reactors would have to be fast reactors, the report said. It said that to date deployment of commercial reprocessing plants had proven uneconomical and fast reactors had proven to be uneconomical and less reliable than light-water reactors. The GNEP program could encourage developments in non-weapons states and training of plutonium experts that could pose a grave proliferation risk, the report said.

<http://public.cq.com/docs/gs/greensheets110-000002532359.html>

Report available at:

[http://www.keystone.org/spp/documents/FinalReport_NJFF6_12_2007\(1\).pdf](http://www.keystone.org/spp/documents/FinalReport_NJFF6_12_2007(1).pdf)

June 14, 2007

DOE Cites CH2M-Washington Group Idaho for Price-Anderson Violations, *DOE Press Release*

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today notified CH2M-Washington Group Idaho (CWI) that it will fine the company \$55,000 for violations of the Department's nuclear safety requirements. CWI is the prime contractor responsible for managing the Idaho Cleanup Project at the Idaho National Laboratory site. The Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) cites violations associated with radiation safety and quality improvement deficiencies identified during a DOE Idaho Operations Office May 2006 assessment of radioactive waste processing activities at the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP).

<http://www.energy.gov/news/5132.htm>

June 14, 2007

Rocky Flats a step closer to status as wildlife site, *Rocky Mountain News*

(AP) The Environmental Protection Agency has certified the cleanup of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, another step toward the planned conversion of the site to a wildlife refuge. EPA spokesman Terry Andersen said Wednesday the site northwest of Denver will be turned over to the Interior Department, possibly within weeks, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage, but it would be some time before any of it is open to the public. Areas with the worst radioactive contamination will remain off-limits. Rocky Flats closed in 1991 after a history that included several fires. The FBI raided it in 1989, investigating claims that its operator had knowingly discharged chemicals into creeks that flowed into municipal water supplies, burned toxic waste and failed to adequately monitor groundwater.

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_5585176_0.html

June 12, 2007

US NRC 'torn' on how to proceed with GNEP: Commissioner Lyons, *Platts*

Washington - The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission is "torn" on how to proceed with the Department of Energy's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, NRC commissioner Peter Lyons said Tuesday. In remarks before the Global Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing and Recycling conference in Seattle, Lyons said the agency does not have "sufficient certainty" from the Bush administration and Congress to know what resources need to be assigned, and on what time scale, to develop a framework for licensing facilities under GNEP, an initiative to develop new types of reprocessing plants and fast reactors. In determining fiscal 2008 funding levels, there have been differences between the administration and Congress, as well as within the administration, over the urgency of GNEP work. Lyons also emphasized that spent fuel is now safely stored at reactor sites, although there could be debates over whether such an approach is "desirable." NRC commissioners now are considering a staff proposal for a two-phased approach to setting up a GNEP licensing regime.

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6392155.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear?src=energybulletin>

June 12, 2007

Nuclear Waste: DOE Should Reassess Whether the Bulk Vitrification Demonstration Project at Its Hanford Site Is Still Needed to Treat Radioactive Waste, *GAO Report*

The Department of Energy (DOE) is demonstrating a technology called bulk vitrification, in parallel with the Hanford waste treatment plant, to treat a portion of the radioactive waste stored in 177 tanks at its Hanford site in southeastern Washington state. DOE faces technical and management problems that have affected the original objectives to justify demonstrating the bulk vitrification technology. This report discusses the extent to which DOE (1) has managed the bulk vitrification demonstration project consistent with DOE management guidance and (2) continues to need a supplemental technology, such as bulk vitrification, to treat a portion of the low-activity tank waste. To assess DOE's management of the project, GAO reviewed reports by DOE and others and discussed the project with DOE and contractor officials.

<http://gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-07-762>

June 11, 2007

Cleanup agreement reached: For accepting milestones, DOE gains some flexibility; schedules being negotiated, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

OAK RIDGE - Environmental regulators have resolved their dispute with the Department of Energy over cleanup deadlines in Oak Ridge, although revised schedules still must be negotiated. The agreement will give DOE short-term flexibility to shift cleanup schedules because of budget shortfalls or technical difficulties on some projects. But it will add milestones to the 2009 schedule in order to keep pace with plans to finish the Oak Ridge cleanup program by 2016. Officials from DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation signed the "dispute resolution" document May 31.

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5579983,00.htm
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June 10, 2007

The future of Fernald: Former uranium plant now pure Preserve, *Cincinnati Enquirer*

At the Fernald Preserve open house Saturday, curious neighbors and former workers came to see the transformation of the former uranium production operation to a nature preserve. Birders with binoculars came to look at a potentially great new birding area. Children came to look for frogs in ponds created by the removal of uranium-contaminated soil...This weekend is the first time the public has been invited to the site. It will not open permanently until May, when the "green" visitors center and walking trails are finished. In the meantime, groups will be able to make arrangements to see the progress on the 1,005 acres. Built to process uranium to make plutonium for nuclear weapons, the Fernald plant halted production in 1989. After years spent on a \$4.5 billion cleanup, work began in October 2006 to turn the site into a nature preserve. So far, \$20 million has been spent, with an emphasis on bringing back native grasses and open wetlands.

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070610/NEWS01/706100325>

June 8, 2007

U.S. Speeds Up Nuclear Weapons Dismantlements, *Environment News Service*
WASHINGTON, DC, - Retired U.S. nuclear weapons are being dismantled at a rate 50 percent greater than last year, officials responsible for the nation's nuclear stockpile said Thursday. National Nuclear Security Administration officials said the higher rate of dismantlement will continue for the rest of this year. "NNSA is committed to carrying out the President's vision of the smallest stockpile consistent with national security needs," said Bill Ostendorff, NNSA's acting administrator. In 2004, President George W. Bush directed that the size of the nuclear weapons stockpile be reduced nearly 50 percent by 2012 - making it the smallest since the 1950s.

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jun2007/2007-06-08-09.asp>

June 7, 2007

Senators want to jump-start OR cleanup, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, R-Tenn., are urging the U.S. Department of Energy to speed the cleanup of contaminated facilities at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. An Oak Ridge plan to dismantle and decontaminate dozens of old nuclear facilities has been in the works for a couple of years, but so far has not drawn the necessary support — or funding — in Washington. The proposal, called the Integrated Facilities Disposition Program, would cost about \$1.5 billion and take several years to complete.

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5574851,00.htm
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June 7, 2007

NUCLEAR WASTE THAT WON'T GO AWAY: Storage dilemma nears critical mass: Finding a site to hold spent fuel rods vexes Duke, nation, *Charlotte Observer*

Radioactive waste created by nuclear reactors in the Charlotte area is still at the plants. It's been waiting decades for a permanent home. At Duke Energy Corp.'s McGuire plant on Lake Norman, like at more than 100 nuclear plants nationwide, spent fuel rods are stored on site in pools of water and sometimes outside in concrete dry casks. Federal regulators and nuclear scientists believe it should all be permanently stored in one place. But no state wants to be the site. And, as Congress debates what to do, the nation's and Duke's nuclear waste grows. Two of Duke's three nuclear plants are within 30 miles of Charlotte. Duke keeps the amount of waste a secret. But about 20 plants across the country, including McGuire and Duke's Oconee plant, just north of Clemson, S.C., have run out of room for spent fuel rods in their pools and are using the dry casks for storage.

<http://www.charlotte.com/business/story/150497.html>

June 7, 2007

House bill would hit Hanford vitrification plant, *Tri-City Herald*

Both the vitrification plant and also a project to test bulk vitrification took a beating in the \$1.8 billion Hanford budget in a 2008 appropriations bill to be considered by the U.S. House. However, funding for some other Hanford cleanup projects and for new Pacific Northwest National Laboratory space was increased in the budget bill passed Wednesday by the House Appropriations Committee. Any amounts approved by the House will later have to be reconciled with appropriations set by the Senate, which has yet to take up Hanford funding for 2008. The House bill reduces the budget for the massive vitrification plant under construction to \$590 million, a cut of \$100 million.

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/story/8955090p-8870761c.html>

June 6, 2007

3 exposed to plutonium at Nevada site, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

LAS VEGAS (AP) Authorities are investigating how three workers were exposed to radioactive plutonium during environmental restoration work at the Nevada Test Site, the National Nuclear Security Administration said. Two female workers for the test site's main contractor, National Securities Technologies, received the highest of what NNSA spokesman Kevin Rohrer characterized as "minor radiation exposure" on April 30. A man received less exposure, Rohrer said. The three were among eight workers in the area, including a health physicist and technicians. All were wearing protective gear, including respirators.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1110AP_Test_Site_Mishap.html

June 5, 2007

Demolition of 10-acre K-1401 Building in OR to be complete by October, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

OAK RIDGE - Another piece of Oak Ridge history is rapidly becoming rubble. Demolition of the K-1401 Building, one of the original structures of the Manhattan Project, is well under way and may be completed by October. During the World War II atomic-bomb project, the 10-acre building was used to condition processing equipment before it was installed in the K-25 uranium-enrichment plant, according to local historian Bill Wilcox. "It was a key part of the success in the original startup (of

K-25)," said Wilcox, who came to Oak Ridge during the war and spent much of his career at K-25. The two-story structure with a basement was built in 1944.
http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5570668,00.htm
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June 4, 2007

Nuclear cleanup showing promise: Though too soon to tell for sure, officials say OR efforts appear effective, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

OAK RIDGE - The cleanup apparently is working. The federal government has invested billions of dollars in environmental projects during the past 25 years to mitigate the messes left from Oak Ridge nuclear operations, some dating to the World War II Manhattan Project. If there's a consensus of thought, it might be: So far, so good. "The remedial actions that have been undertaken to date have been determined to be effective," John Owsley, the state's environmental oversight chief in Oak Ridge, said in a telephone interview. "I don't want to give the impression that it's over. The job's not done."

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5569131,00.htm
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June 1, 2007

K East Basin declared sludge-free, *Tri-City Herald*

Hanford workers have finally gotten the best of the radioactive sludge in the K East Basin. They finished removing the last of the elusive muck Thursday from the leak-prone basin that sits 400 yards from the Columbia River. "Two million people down river today can feel better about it being in a safe configuration," said Con Murphy, Fluor Hanford president. The project has been a struggle. The Environmental Protection Agency has extended deadlines on the K East and K West basins at least 10 times. As recently as February, Hanford officials were predicting they would miss yet another revised deadline -- a requirement that all the sludge be moved by the end of May to the sturdier K West Basin to await treatment. But Thursday there was a last-day-of-school feel at the K Basins as about 200 current and former workers gathered to celebrate transfer of the final bit of sludge from K East

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/story/8937154p-8837095c.html>