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WRPS prepares for 13th year as tank farms cleanup contractor

RICHLAND, Wash. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today it will extend the contract of its Hanford Tank Operations Contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), for another year. The contract is set to expire Sept. 30, 2021.

“This extension speaks to the value our company brings to the tank waste cleanup mission at Hanford and our proven legacy of being able to deliver on our promises,” said John Eschenberg, WRPS President and Chief Executive Officer. “It also gives us an opportunity to build upon the achievements of the past dozen years and move ever closer to the completion of the direct-feed low-activity waste system for our government customer.”

WRPS has made tremendous progress in Fiscal Year 2020, despite facing significant challenges related to COVID-19. The tank farms workforce owns the best safety record in the DOE Environmental Management complex for five years running, while carrying out high-hazard work. This past year, WRPS successfully completed waste removal in single-shell tank AX-102 to the extent of two technologies, developed additional technologies to inspect tanks for structural integrity, and finished key infrastructure upgrades, including improving ventilation systems in the tank farms.

With the recent construction of the Tank-Side Cesium Removal system adjacent to the AP tank farm, WRPS has established a critical link between the tanks and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP), moving one step closer to the Department’s goal of achieving direct feed of low-activity waste operations for vitrification.

In the year ahead, WRPS plans to make additional progress in the areas of tank waste retrieval, infrastructure upgrades, in-tank inspections and tank-farm barrier construction.

“Our record of safety and progress speaks for itself,” Eschenberg said. “We are positioned to make year 13 our best yet.”

WRPS, an Amentum-led company with Atkins and integrated subcontractor Orano, employs about 2,300 direct employees another 500-plus subcontractors. About half of the workforce has returned to the worksite and is performing under strict COVID-19 controls, while the other half remain in a telework status to support field work.

About WRPS

WRPS, a prime contractor to the DOE Office of River Protection, is responsible for the safe and efficient management of radioactive and hazardous wastes stored in Hanford’s underground tanks while preparing to deliver the waste to the WTP for vitrification.