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Small businesses benefit from WRPS subcontracts

RICHLAND, Wash.—Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), which operates the Hanford tank farms on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP), awarded more than \$155 million in subcontracts to 327 companies in Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11).

Of that total, WRPS spent almost 65 percent, or \$101 million, with small businesses exceeding the company's goal of placing more than 58 percent of all contract work with small businesses. Almost \$39 million was awarded locally to companies located in Benton, Franklin, Yakima and Walla Walla counties. In addition, WRPS spent another \$8 million with small businesses outside the local area in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

"Exceeding our contractual goal shows our commitment to the small business community," said WRPS Small Business Manager Tess Klatt. "We view small businesses, especially in the local community, as our teaming partners. They provide much-needed talent, skills and resources that help support our mission."

FY11 awards also included \$16 million in subcontracts funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In September, WRPS successfully completed all ARRA-funded field work and met 100 percent of its key milestones safely, on time and on budget. Over the course of the two-and-a-half year ARRA program, WRPS issued 850 subcontracts totaling more than \$152 million with nearly 76 percent of that total given to small businesses.

WRPS is eliminating the risk to the environment posed by Hanford's 56 million gallons of highly radioactive and chemical waste stored in 177 underground tanks. These aging tanks are just a few miles from the Columbia River. WRPS is responsible for managing the waste, removing it from the tanks and preparing to send it to the Waste Treatment Plant under construction at Hanford.

WRPS is owned by URS Corporation and Energy Solutions, with AREVA as its primary subcontractor.

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