

IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT Infamous Pit 9 Era Comes to a Close

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MOTIVATE

DELIVER

SAFELY PLAN

Background



Demonstration project – Glovebox Excavator Method (GEM) (2004)
Remediation of small portion of Pit 9
Constructed enclosure structure over pit
Isolated backhoe for excavation

Radioactive Waste Management Complex 2

Glovebox Excavator Method (GEM)





Background (continued)





ICP-I Challenges (post May 2005)



- Ensuring proper balance of available equipment and equipment reliability in order to maintain continuous operations
- Anticipating production impacts such as
 - Pyrophoric events caused by drums containing roaster oxides
 - Subsidence issues with waste retrieval enclosures
 - Potential for degraded drums
- Developing construction/exhumation sequencing to achieve optimal schedule execution



Driver prepares to enter retrieval area

Safety Excellence = Safe Production

- More than 7,500 entries into radiological/contamination areas without an event
- No recordable injuries



Radiological control technician assists ARP worker prior to entering high radiation area

Planning

- Optimized sequencing of GEM decontamination/decommissioning/demolition with ARP V design/construction – ensuring exhumation facility was ready when operations crew was available
- Produced exhumation facility design that utilized
 - Existing Pit 9 concrete foundation saving DOE the cost of constructing a new foundation
 - Worker involvement and feedback for optimum constructability



Sustainable Production

- Invested in appropriate equipment and maintenance capabilities, avoiding production delays due to equipment failure
- Designed, constructed, and operated a fissile material measurement system that reduced the generation of orphan waste – from as high as 12% to less than .02%
- Designed ARP V as a "stand alone" facility, independent of the other four (ARPs) interconnected facilities



Buried waste exhumation in Pit 9

Innovations/Process Improvements

- Instituted procedure modifications to address pyrophoric reactions
 - Analyzed/anticipated/proceduralized recovery action
 - Resulted in little to no impact to production or risk to operators
- Consolidated all key project functions at the job site
- Used existing concrete foundation
- Encased existing firewater supply line in concrete
 - Avoided relocation costs
 - Protected it from exhumation operations
- Applied Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) principles, specifically worker feedback, to achieve operational/construction improvements

Outcomes

- In August 2011, completed the targeted waste exhumation of Pit 9
 - One year ahead of schedule
 - \$10 million under budget
 - No recordable injuries; no radiological events
- Achieved regulatory end-state for one of the most politically charged DOE projects at the Idaho Site
- Reuse of Pit 9 facility for processing of 6,000 AMWTP sludge drums
 - Excessed the facility from CERCLA
 - Received RCRA permit for sludge repackaging

Successful Pit 9 team

