

SOLUTIONS

A weekly publication of highlights and progress of the Hanford Tank Operations Contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions Issue 410, Oct. 9, 2017

Transfer line removal team shows flexibility

Crews remove 18 more lines to meet tight deadline

They didn't have much time or space, but they had plenty of determination and resourcefulness.

Because of that, a team of highly skilled professionals overcame several obstacles to safely complete the removal last month of 18 expired hose-in-hose transfer lines (HIHTL) from C Farm to AN Farm.

Project manager Garth Stowe led the team, which included field work supervisors Ken Baird and Mark Sims, engineer Melissa Holm, planner John Tilley and many diverse craft, including crane & rigging personnel and teamsters from Mission Support Alliance.

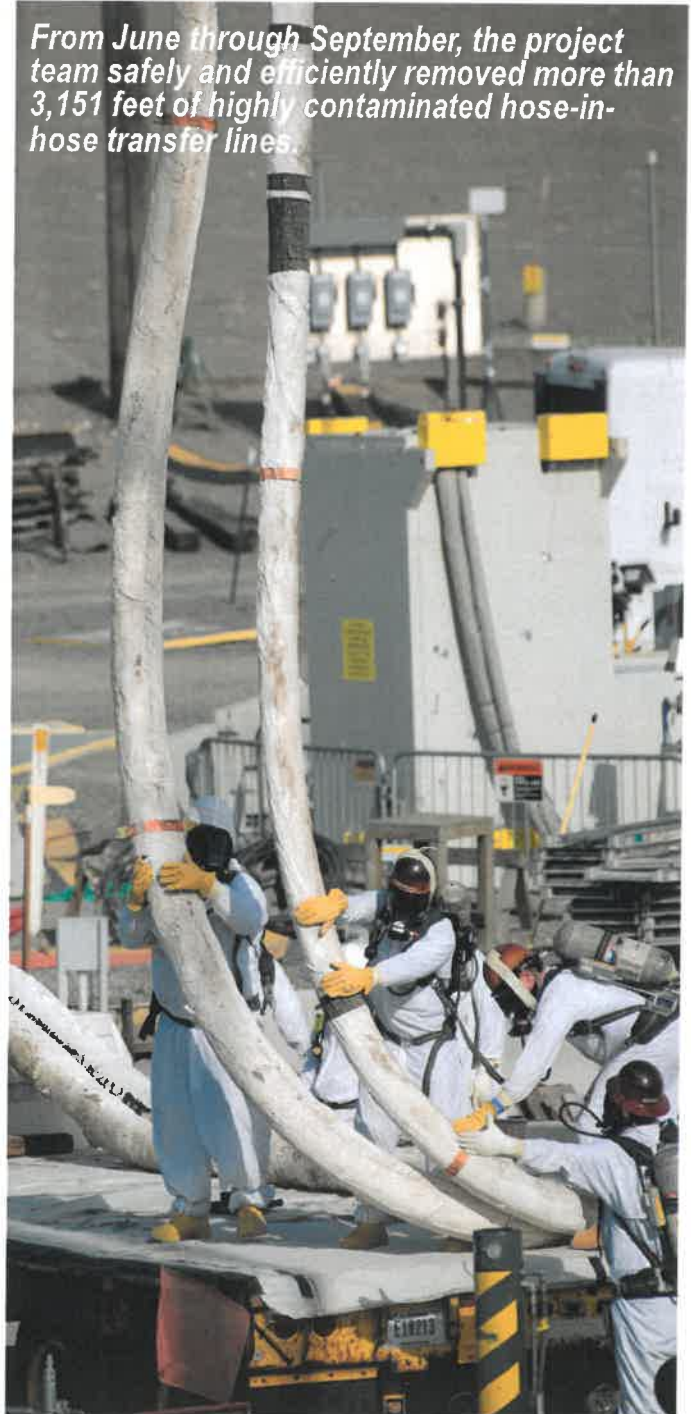
"Teamwork was critical to the success of the project," said Stowe, whose crew did not begin field work in earnest until June because of other priorities in the tank farms. "The communication and collaboration not only among our team members but also the other projects, was exceptional."

One of the big challenges was working around C-105 retrieval construction and maintenance activities, which required the installation of an extended-reach sluicing system and associated equipment. At times, crews were working a few feet apart with cranes stationed in tight confines. In addition, they had to contend with hot weather conditions, beryllium controls, working in supplied air and lost time because of the PUREX tunnel collapse.

"Garth's team did a phenomenal job. They were able to overcome every roadblock put in front of them," said Vikki Wagner, C Farm Retrieval manager. "It seemed like HIHTL was always second fiddle, but the team was very innovative and efficient and got the job done in a safe and efficient manner."

Hose-in-hose transfer lines are used to move highly contaminated waste from single-shell tanks to double-shell tanks. Some of the lines are buried in shallow trenches and covered with 1-inch-thick steel plates while others lie above ground and are shielded by hose barns.

From June through September, the project team safely and efficiently removed more than 3,151 feet of highly contaminated hose-in-hose transfer lines.



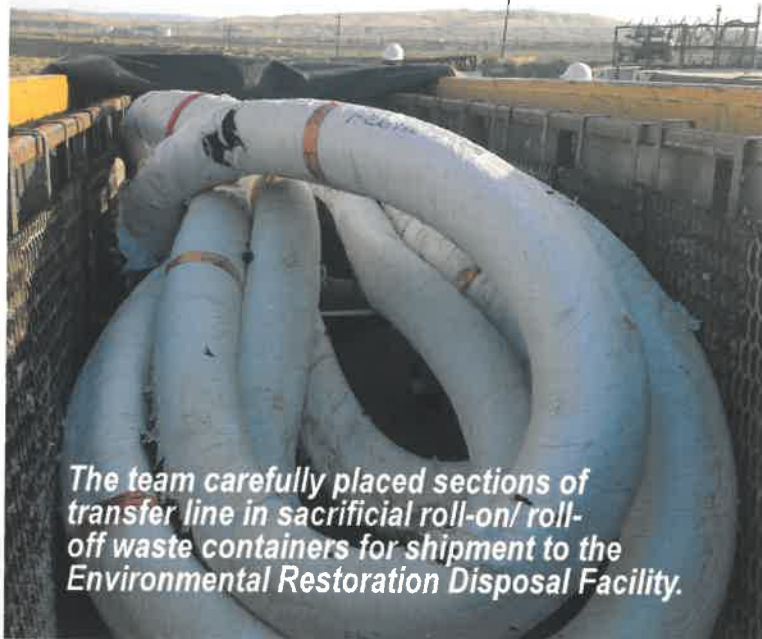
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The project involved disconnecting and capping the lines from tank pits, splitter boxes and diversion boxes, and removing sections that totaled 3,151 linear feet. The sections were lifted by a crane, placed on a flatbed trailer and moved into a radiological materials area, where they were loaded into sacrificial roll-on/roll-off waste containers for transport to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). Typically, up to 200 feet of line was coiled into an ERDF container.

The team then backfilled the trenches and completed final housekeeping tasks and work package and PBI documentation. The shield plates and hose barns were staged inside the farm for reuse.

Stowe, who has worked HIHTL removal projects since 2009, said his team remained confident despite having a few start-and-stops during the course of the project.

"Most of us have been working together on the HIHTL project for several years, so we know the process very well and adjust to any curveballs we face along the way," he said. "I can't say enough about our crew. They are true professionals."



The team carefully placed sections of transfer line in sacrificial roll-on/roll-off waste containers for shipment to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

In all, WRPS has removed 80 expired HIHTL for a total of 5,593 linear feet since 2009. In 2018, the team is planning to remove the final 20 hoses (4,280 linear feet) from C Farm.

WRPS donation to help hungry schoolchildren

Weekends are going to be a little brighter for some local elementary school students, thanks to a contribution from WRPS. In addition to their textbooks and work assignments, the students will be carrying home some meals for the weekend.

WRPS recently awarded \$8,000 to Second Harvest to support the start-up of Bite2Go programs at Amistad Elementary in Kennewick and Virgie Robinson Elementary in Pasco. Bite2Go provides eligible elementary school students, who face chronic food shortages at home, with weekend food kits. Kits are distributed on Fridays and provide four meals and several snacks that are nutritious, easy-to-open, nonperishable and don't require cooking. Over 95 percent of the students at both schools are eligible for free and reduced meal programs.

"Hunger is a serious obstacle to learning," said Amistad principal Andy Woehler. "Poor nutrition poses a strong risk to a student's learning and engagement. Students who don't eat well can have behavioral and cognitive issues resulting from poor nutrition. The Second Harvest/WRPS partnership will help to curb this hurdle for students and their teachers."

Virgie Robinson principal Wendi Manthei witnesses the need every week.



Children from Virgie Robinson Elementary School in Pasco (above) and Amistad Elementary School in Kennewick will benefit from a WRPS contribution to Second Harvest's Bite2Go program.

"It is not uncommon to have very hungry students arriving to school on Monday mornings," she said. "Virgie Robinson Elementary students will benefit greatly from participating in Bite2Go this year. Students feel secure knowing they will receive healthy meals, which helps them perform better at school. This program will also take some of the financial burden from families. We are so appreciative to have been selected to participate in this partnership and look forward to seeing many grateful smiles from students receiving this support before going home for the weekend."

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WRPS Communications and Public Relations Manager Peter Bengtson said WRPS is glad to join with Second Harvest in this effort.

"We often associate child hunger with a foreign country, but

unfortunately it's a reality for some children in the Tri-Cities," he said. "These are two of the higher-need schools in our community. The Bite2Go program is helping meet a basic human need, as well as improving children's chances for academic success."

WRPS' United Way campaign starts today

YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT IT'S EASY TO HELP MANY

MANY DONORS | FUND MANY AGENCIES | HELP MANY PEOPLE | MEET MANY NEEDS

\$5 PER WEEK = 

TOTAL ANNUAL GIFT = \$260

- ▶ **65 hungry students** receive weekend food kits
- ▶ **5 individuals with disabilities** receive health assessments
- ▶ **130 low income children** receive books for early learning

\$10 PER WEEK = 

TOTAL ANNUAL GIFT = \$520

- ▶ **74 nutritious meals** are delivered to a homebound senior
- ▶ **3 weeks of summer camp** for a child with emotional and/or behavioral challenges
- ▶ **2 adults with disabilities** receive the assistance and equipment to live independently

\$7 PER WEEK = 

TOTAL ANNUAL GIFT = \$364

- ▶ **50 comfort kits** for individuals displaced by a disaster
- ▶ **7 grief support sessions** for a child after the death of a loved one
- ▶ **10 bus passes** for adults with disabilities

\$20 PER WEEK = 

TOTAL ANNUAL GIFT = \$1040

- ▶ **Parents for 2 foster homes** are recruited, licensed, trained and supported.
- ▶ **20 medical visits** for those in need.
- ▶ **1 mobile food bank** serves 150 people suffering from hunger.



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United Way of
Benton & Franklin Counties

The WRPS 2017 United Way campaign is underway. Led by Tom Pickles and Liz Norton, the campaign will run through Nov. 20. Electronic pledge forms are available through the Employee Self-Service Menu. Paper forms will also be available to employees to make their pledge. Credit card donations can be made by using the WRPS log-in information available at the WRPS United Way webpage (see link below). Check the webpage regularly for details on campaign events.

The annual United Way campaign provides the funding for improving people's lives in the areas of education, health and financial security. As a company, WRPS is a proud sponsor of the local United Way and, using corporate dollars, is among the largest business donors. It helps fund the Cornerstone Program that allows more of an individual's donation money to go directly to meet community needs.



WRPS United Way webpage

Make your donation quick and easy!

Use Employee Self-Service for electronic pledge forms!

LEAN event leads to improved web app for generating OPEX content

A new WRPS web application is now available that helps users create and route bulletins to share lessons learned, best practices and worker feedback.

A WRPS Lean Management Rapid Improvement Event resulted in improvements for creating Operating Experience/Lessons Learned (OPEX/LL) content and processing the required approvals through WRPS assigned subject matter experts. The application aims to improve consistency in WRPS-generated OPEX/LL content, promote user-

friendly content entry, and decrease review and approval times. It also seeks to help employees better understand the criteria for generating new and relevant OPEX/LL content associated with WRPS work activities and processes.

The app features fillable fields, draft content submittal, and automated reviews and approvals. It eliminates the need to use Word templates, providing user-guided entry of required information.

The purpose of creating and sharing operating experience

is to increase visibility and awareness of significant adverse conditions (for prevention) and to promote and implement good work practices and cost savings at all Department of Energy (DOE) sites. The content is then loaded to the OPEXSHARE site, a web application owned by DOE and managed by Mission Support Alliance, which is required for all Hanford contractors.

For more information, visit the OPEX/LL website using the link provided or contact

Jacki Winters, WRPS OPEX/LL Program Coordinator, at (509) 376-1776.



Click for the OPEX/LL website

Walk to Defeat ALS

The WRPS team, led by Property's Larry Peterson, raised \$1,000 that was matched with a \$1,000 WRPS contribution. Thanks to all who walked and contributed.

**PTB
TRANSFER**

The following employees have been approved for PTB transfers: Matthew Grantham, Karl Swanson, Laurel Zinter, Lisa Shores, Anthony Steffen, Ben Gallaher and Staci Bork. If you would like to contribute PTB time to them, complete site form number A-6002-807, "PTB Transfer Request" and forward it to Human Resources, Tracie Lorenzen (MSIN H3-01). All time must be transferred in one-hour increments.

**DUTY
TO
REPORT**

WRPS employees have a duty to report allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, misuse, corruption, criminal acts, or mismanagement relating to DOE programs, operations, facilities, contracts, or information technology systems. Please report such concerns to an appropriate authority such as WRPS management, the WRPS Ethics and Compliance Program (373-4122), the WRPS Employee Concerns Program (373-5444), the DOE Employee Concerns Program (372-2139), or the DOE Office of Inspector General (1-800-541-1625).

Solutions is published by Washington River Protection Solutions Communications & Public Relations. Ideas or suggestions may be submitted to WRPSadmin@rl.gov. Check out the internal website at: <http://toc.wrps.rl.gov/rapidweb/EXT/index.cfm>

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protection solutions

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