Reputation in accelerated nuclear-waste cleanup leads to Ohio Mound

CH2M HILL's unprecedented success in accelerated cleanup of nuclear waste for the U.S. government has taken the firm to yet another Superfund site closure project.

The Department of Energy awarded the firm a $314 million cost-plus-incentive-fee contract to clean up, close and transfer the 306-acre Miamisburg Closure Project in Ohio, also known as the Mound Plant, to an industrial site developer. The contract calls for a March 2006 closure, with financial incentives if the closure project is safely completed sooner.

The Mound Plant began producing weapons components in 1948 as part of the nation's nuclear weapons program. CH2M HILL's mission includes: demolishing 66 buildings; preparing and transferring nine facilities for reuse; cleaning 73 potential contamination release sites; transferring land to the site developer; and shipping radioactive waste to DOE's Savannah River facility and the Nevada Test Site, as well as Envirocare of Utah, a toxic waste disposal site.

John Fulton, who has worked at the DOE's Rocky Flats site in Colorado and Hanford site in Washington, is CH2M HILL's site manager. Mike Rengel was the sales capture manager during the proposal effort.

A delivery to DOE's Suite B

Sales process manager Leslie Lassi pulled up in front of a string of storefronts in Monroe, Ohio, searching for a DOE satellite office. She was there to deliver three crates that contained the Mound proposal and supporting documents. The setting had her a bit confused as she looked for Suite B along the strip mall.

Oddly, though, what appeared to be Suite B had a sign in the window saying "Free pregnancy tests." Concerned that the office was a health clinic and not her intended destination, Lassi walked in feeling a bit uneasy.

"With trepidation, I announced that I had a delivery," Lassi declared. The office staff looked up from their work perplexed.

"After some awkward questions, I clarified that I had a delivery for DOE—not a baby," Lassi said. "An air of relief fell across the room. I was in the right place, but DOE thought I was delivering a baby to the suite next door."

Two helpful gents followed Lassi to her rental car and unloaded the crates. The labor was shorter and easier than they first expected.

"They gave me a receipt for our proposal, delivered two days early, and I left feeling a hundred pounds lighter," Lassi said.

A mound of tidbits

Compiled by Leslie Lassi;

• Massive Mound proposal completed in 45 days

• Proposal comprised of three volumes, totaling 848 pages

• Submittal included 25 books, totaling 65 inches in length

• Documents contained more than 230 graphics

• Project used more than 136 megabytes of server space

• Involved 45 Business Development Services and publications employees from nine offices across North America

• Proposal was hand-delivered two days before the deadline

The Mound Plant, a former nuclear weapons production facility, is in Miamisburg, Ohio. Employees in nine offices helped develop the winning proposal, which included detailed scheduling charts that illustrated to the client CH2M HILL's expertise in decommissioning and demolishing these types of facilities.