Mound Closure Project in Ohio: safety by the numbers

CH2M HILL was recently presented with two awards from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the firm's 2004 safety milestones at the Mound nuclear cleanup site.

The May 18 awards ceremony, sponsored by the bureau's Division of Safety and Hygiene, is held annually to honor companies that decrease their incident rate by at least 25 percent and to companies that accumulate 500,000 hours of time (or operate six months) without a lost-time injury.

At the 306-acre Miamisburg Mound site, a U.S. Department of Energy facility, CH2M HILL has worked more than 900,000 hours since the last Days Away Restricted Time (DART) case. The 2005 performance through May represents an improvement in Total Recordable Case and DART rates of 71 percent and 100 percent, respectively, since the site work began in 2003.

"These awards demonstrate CH2M HILL's commitment to safety," said Cheryl Cabbil, Environmental Safety & Health and Quality manager for the Mound Closure Project.

Mound on track for March 2006 site closure

In December 2002, CH2M HILL was awarded a $314 million performance-based contract by the U.S. Department of Energy to clean up the Miamisburg Mound site, a former nuclear weapons facility. The contract includes the demolition of 66 buildings; transfer of an additional nine buildings for industrial redevelopment; removal of all aboveground utilities; the investigation, cleanup and closure of 73 potential release sites (PRSs); and the removal and shipment of nuclear materials in accordance with federal and state regulatory requirements.

To date, the project is 87 percent complete. Of the 66 buildings, 51 radiological, nuclear, and commercial buildings have been successfully deactivated, decommissioned and demolished (over 550,000 square feet of building space that has resulted in the shipment of 127,000 cubic meters of low-level and low-level mixed waste). Only 55,000 square feet (14 utility buildings) remain at the site for demolition. Forty-seven of the 73 PRSs have been investigated and excavated, resulting in the removal of over 4.3 million cubic feet of soil.

Eight of the nine buildings targeted for transfer are ready for industrial redevelopment and reuse by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation, said CH2M HILL site manager John Lehew.

"Over the two and a half year duration of this contract, the project has performed more decommissioning work and environmental remediation than any prior period in the site's history, and the project continues on a path of improved worker safety performance," Lehew said.