

Stimulus Funding Creating Cleanup Jobs At DOE's Idaho Site

Arimo resident Jeff Johnson did something this week he hasn't done since January.

He reported to his new job.

Funding for Johnson's position is part of the \$468 million in additional funding that the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho Site received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The additional funding will help accelerate work on both the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) and the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP). Both projects are being managed by contractors for the DOE at the Idaho Site. To date, more than 100 positions have been posted between the two contractors and the local small businesses supporting them.

Jeff Johnson is starting work at DOE's AMWTP Project and is one of several dozen employees who will be hired at AMWTP. Johnson, who previously worked at the Ashgrove Cement Company, is looking forward to his new opportunity. "Right now, I'm real happy to be going back to work and appreciate how quickly DOE and its contractors were able to create a job that will help me to support my family. I didn't realize all the work this project has done getting nuclear waste out of Idaho," said Johnson.

Johnson will be joining a project that has shipped more transuranic radioactive waste to the DOE's only nuclear waste repository – located near Carlsbad, New Mexico – than any other site in the DOE's complex.

The work is being done safely too, as employees have worked more than 8.3 million hours (more than five years) without a lost time injury. "I'm impressed with all the safety training that I'm receiving. There really is an emphasis on leaving work in the evening the same way you reported in the morning so you can keep coming back," Johnson said.

Christie Sharp is another new employee who will be joining Johnson and reporting to work at AMWTP. The Idaho Falls woman was anxious to return to the workforce and had been looking for a job since last November. Now, because of the Recovery Act, she has that opportunity.

Sharp is the first employee hired at the Idaho Site using Recovery Act funding. "I feel privileged to be working again and am proud to be part of a project that is cleaning up Idaho."

Since May 1, 2005, employees at AMWTP have safely and compliantly shipped more than 28,000 cubic meters of transuranic and mixed low-level radioactive waste out of Idaho. Added to previously shipped amounts, nearly half of the 65,000 cubic meters of stored radioactive waste that the Idaho Settlement Agreement requires to be shipped out of Idaho by December 31, 2018 has left the state.

"We're pleased to be getting the Recovery Act money to our contractors, who are quickly moving to hire new employees that will help expedite cleanup work," said DOE Idaho Operations Deputy Manager Rick Provencher. "DOE is delivering on its promise to cleanup its Idaho site and it will happen quicker thanks to the additional Recovery Act funding we have received."

Over the course of the next several months the Idaho Cleanup Project and the AMWTP Project will continue to hire new employees. When positions are open they are advertised on the two projects' internet web sites listed below, where potential employees can electronically submit their resumes for consideration.

For more information, please visit us at: The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project website- <http://amwtp.inl.gov>. The Idaho Cleanup Project website- <https://idahocleanupproject.com>.