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## Recovery Act Workers Clean Up ‘Slag Building’ At Paducah

Another Cold War-era building at the Department of Energy’s Paducah Site is ready for demolition, thanks to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers.

In January, a dedicated crew of six members of United Steelworkers Local 550 and a front-line supervisor finished cleaning up the four-story, 4,200-square-foot structure known as the C-340-C Magnesium Fluoride Slag Building. They completed the work about eight months ahead of schedule via job dedication and some innovative waste-handling efforts, said Rob Seifert, DOE Recovery Act Project Manager at the Paducah Site.

“The bottom line is these workers took charge of their scope, and pride and ownership of their building,” Seifert said.

The Slag Building is one of five structures that comprised the C-340 complex, known as the Metals Plant. It operated from 1953 to 1962, and from 1968 to 1973, to convert depleted uranium hexafluoride, or UF<sub>6</sub>, into uranium metal. Two of the five structures that encompassed the C-340 complex known as the C-340-D Magnesium Storage building, including the C-340-D conveyor, and the C-340-E building were demolished in summer 2010 with Recovery Act funding.

The Metals Plant is the second of three large, inactive facilities at the Paducah Site whose cleanup and demolition are being accelerated with nearly \$80 million in Recovery Act funding. In September 2010, the C-746-A East End Smelter was the first complex to be torn down.

Wearing protective suits and respirators, workers in the Slag Building removed a magnesium fluoride system once used in metal production. They stabilized the hazardous material for waste handling by blending it with sand, which avoided having to move it from container to container. As a result, the work was faster and more efficient.

The crew members are among 45 craft personnel and six front-line supervisors working on various portions of the Metals Plant to prepare the complex for demolition. A third and final complex known as the Feed Plant, nearly 200,000 square feet, continues to undergo cleanup and is slated for partial demolition (approximately 31,000 square feet) in summer 2011.

So far, about \$50 million in Recovery Act funds have been spent at the Paducah site. Aside from cleaning up the environment, the work expedites removal of old buildings with no reuse potential.



Recovery Act workers dismantle vacuum piping near the Slag Building of the old Metals Plant at DOE's Paducah Site.



Recovery Act workers remove asbestos used for insulation throughout the old Metals Plant, one of two buildings yet to be torn down at DOE's Paducah Site.