

FOR APRIL RECOVERY NEWS

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PADUCAH, KY - Brad Morgan credits his new job at ISP Chemicals in Calvert City to training and experience gained as an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) worker at the Department of Energy's Paducah Site.

Morgan, 47, of Fairdealing in Marshall County, supervised Recovery Act workers for contractor LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky, LLC, in cleaning up the Paducah Site's East End Smelter. The smelter was a 21,000-square-foot facility used to smelt (melt or fuse) metals at the Paducah Site until the 1980s.

Heavy equipment demolished the smelter in September 2010, a year ahead of schedule and \$10 million under budget.

"The fact that I worked with hazardous chemicals played a big role in being considered for my new job," he said. "We received training that you wouldn't get anywhere else."

The 240 Recovery Act workers studied hazardous materials handling, hazard communication, regulatory compliance, safety systems, using self-protective gear, and operating mobile equipment.

They also received customized training through West Kentucky Community & Technical College. Maintenance mechanics learned plasma arc cutting to remove old piping from buildings to be cleaned up and torn down. Electricians studied how to safely track and dismantle long-unused electrical systems.

"The training these workers received prepares them to seek good careers elsewhere," said Rob Seifert, DOE's Recovery Act Project Manager at the Paducah Site.

More than \$51 million of nearly \$79 million in Paducah ARRA funding has been spent, including \$2 million for training.

With Recovery Act funding winding down, Morgan left the Paducah Site in late January 2011 after 18 months. Ten days later he became a chemical operator trainee at ISP, (International Specialty Products) one of the region's largest employers.

"They told us coming in that they couldn't promise anything because the Recovery Act money would last only two years," Morgan said. "I moved on to find security for me and my family."

Morgan is proud of the smelter job, which set the pace for two other Recovery Act-accelerated cleanup and demolition projects at the Paducah Site. He managed a crew of 30 wearing protective clothing and respirators. Twenty safety and health personnel assisted.

The workers spent about 117,000 hours dismantling old equipment and piping without a safety-related lost workday.

"I had a great group of people," he said. "I thought that was one of our greatest accomplishments."



Brad Morgan is shown in front of heavy equipment used to demolish the East End Smelter in September 2010. The Recovery Act worker supervised cleanup and destruction of the smelter before leaving DOE's Paducah Site in January to work at ISP Chemicals in Calvert City.



Recovery Act workers remove electrical conduit from the East End Smelter in August 2010. Electricians underwent customized training at West Kentucky Community & Technical College on how to safely track and dismantle long-unused electrical systems.