including waste disposal transportation services. WCS, which operates a radioactive waste disposal site in Andrews County, Texas, also will be responsible for waste management, packaging, transportation, and disposal, while Burns & McDonnell will provide engineering and regulatory support.

In addition to the earlier decommissioning, Entergy noted that the transfer of all of Vermont Yankee's spent fuel to dry cask storage at the site will be completed by the end of 2018, two years earlier than the previously planned date of 2020.

Hanford

Bechtel National and AECOM have agreed to pay \$125 million to resolve allegations that they charged the Department of Energy for deficient nuclear quality materials, services, and testing at Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP), the U.S. Department of Justice an-

nounced on November 23. The settlement also resolves allegations that Bechtel used taxpayer money to lobby Congress and other federal officials for continued funding for the WTP, the waste vitrification plant being built at the DOE's Hanford Site, near Richland, Wash.

The case stems from a lawsuit filed in 2013 by Walter Tamosaitis, Donna Busche, and Gary Brunson under the whistleblower provisions of the False Claims Act, which permits individuals to sue on behalf of the United States when they believe that a party has submitted false claims for government payment or property. Tamosaitis, Busche, and Brunson formerly worked on



The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, under construction at the Hanford Site, near Richland, Wash., photographed on July 28, 2016. (Photo: DOE)

the WTP project, which is being built to treat and vitrify the approximately 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste at Hanford. The WTP, portions of which have been delayed because of technical issues, is being designed and built by Bechtel, with AECOM as its primary subcontractor.

On November 1, after conducting a three-and-a-half year investigation, the DOJ decided to "partially intervene" in the lawsuit. According to the DOJ, Bechtel and URS Corporation, which was acquired by AECOM in 2014, are alleged to have failed to comply with nuclear quality standards (NQA-1) while charging the DOE for the cost of doing so. The case involves

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