



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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****Photo Release****

Helicopter Removes Aging Truck From Steep Rattlesnake Ravine

RICHLAND, WASH. – A Sikorsky S-64 helicopter removed an old truck from a steep ravine on Rattlesnake Mountain today as part of the cleanup of the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE). The Department of Energy's contractor, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, used the helicopter because it was the safest possible way to remove the vehicle from this culturally and ecologically significant area.

The truck was in an area where heavy equipment could not easily access. Heavy equipment could have significantly damaged the terrain on the reserve.

The truck was on an extremely steep grade in a ravine on ALE near Rattlesnake Mountain. It was reported to have rolled off the mountain and into the ravine 30 years ago. The vehicle rolled from the upper ALE parking area during an inspection in the 1970's. The exact reason why it rolled is not known. No one was injured.

Background on the cleanup of ALE

Cleaning up debris on the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE) is almost complete. The Department of Energy's contractor, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, has completed cleanup on 95 percent of the debris sites on ALE.

The following facilities have been demolished to slab on grade: 646, 6652-G, H, I, J, M, R, S, C-shed, D, T, U-tank, 6631, 6634, (~25,000 square feet). Demolition of 6652-C is currently in progress with an anticipation of completion in early August which will bring the total to about 31,000 square feet complete.

Captions:

01 CHPRC ALE vehicle debris site before 7-16-10.JPG: An aged vehicle rests on Rattlesnake Mountain at the upper Arid Lands Ecology Reserve at the Hanford Site. The vehicle rolled from the upper ALE Reserve in the 1970s; the cause of the roll is unknown but no one was injured. Due to the steep, uneven terrain of the mountainside, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company removed the vehicle using a helicopter to reduce worker and environmental risks. The vehicle is located in a culturally sensitive area, in a steep ravine where it would be very difficult for workers and heavy equipment to access, size reduce, and haul out the debris.

02 CHPRC helicopter for vehicle debris site lift 7-20-10.jpg: A Sikorsky S-64 Sky Crane (left) and grapple claw (right) positioned on the upper Arid Lands Ecology Reserve in preparation for lifting a vehicle from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain. The vehicle rolled from the upper reserve area in the 1970s and is considered a debris site.

03 CHPRC helicopter close-up for debris site lift 7-20-10.jpg: A close-up of the sky crane that was used to lift a vehicle debris site from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain at the upper Arid Lands Ecology Reserve at the Hanford Site. CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company used the helicopter technology to limit risks to workers and the environment while removing the vehicle, which has been on the mountainside since the 1970s.

04 CHPRC helicopter vehicle lift on Rattlesnake 7-20-10.jpg: A vehicle debris site on Rattlesnake Mountain at the upper Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The vehicle was located in a culturally sensitive area, in a steep ravine where it would be very difficult for workers and heavy equipment to access, size-reduce and haul out the debris. To limit worker and environmental risks, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation company used a helicopter to lift and relocate the vehicle to the lower reserve where it will be size reduced and loaded for disposal at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

05 CHPRC helicopter vehicle lift at ALE 7-20-10.jpg

06 CHPRC helicopter vehicle debris site lift at ALE 2 7-20-10.jpg: A helicopter relocates an aged vehicle from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain to the lower Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The helicopter allowed CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company to remove the truck from the mountainside while reducing risks to workers and impacts to the culturally sensitive area. The vehicle was located in a steep ravine where it would be very difficult for workers and heavy equipment to access, size reduce and haul out the debris.

07 CHPRC vehicle debris site in transit 7-20-10.jpg: A damaged truck is carried via sky crane from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain to the lower Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The vehicle rolled from the upper reserve in the 1970s. Today it is considered a debris that CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company is removing with Recovery Act funding to clear the area of facilities and debris. The helicopter allowed CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company to remove the truck from the mountain side while reducing risks to workers and impacts to the culturally sensitive area.

08 CHPRC vehicle debris site on lower ALE 7-20-10.jpg: A helicopter relocated this vehicle from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain to the lower Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. The X beneath the vehicle marked the

intended landing spot for the vehicle. The vehicle was placed in an area sprayed with fixative for dust control. The vehicle will be size reduced and loaded into a container for disposal at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. The vehicle rolled from the upper Reserve in the 1970s. The cause of the roll is unknown but no workers were injured. Today, the vehicle is considered a debris site, one of more than 200 that CH2M HILL clearing away from the 120-square-mile Reserve.

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