

At SPRU:

CONTAMINATED SOIL REMOVAL BEGINS IN NORTH FIELD

Work began on November 3 to remove radioactively-contaminated soil from the North Field Area at the Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU). Work began on November 3. The North Field project is entirely funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and is being performed by Accelerated Remediation Company (aRc).

The North Field work consists of removing surface soils that are contaminated with radioactive materials (primarily cesium-137) in a 15-acre area located on the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory near Schenectady, New York, which is a Department of Energy – Naval Reactors site. About 6,000 cubic yards of contaminated dirt will be removed from the North Field. The soil will be packaged in lift bags and transported off site for disposal.

aRc has prepared its work planning documents, mobilized equipment and constructed waste soil storage cells. aRc hired and trained new workers and deployed them into the field in late September. Intrusive work began in mid-October with roto-tilling vegetation and tree and stump removal. As of late October, The North Field project had created 26 jobs.

SPRU was a research project located at KAPL in the early 1950's. Its purpose was to research chemical processes for separating plutonium and uranium from irradiated materials. The SPRU facilities at KAPL consist of two contaminated buildings totaling about 50,000 square feet, and several areas of soil that were contaminated with radioactivity and chemicals. The contamination in the North Field resulted from the storage of waste drums there that leaked and spread contamination.

aRc will work through the winter removing soil from the North Field, and expects to finish field work in mid-2010. The project is expected to cost about \$14.8 million. The North Field and other SPRU work is overseen by the Department of Energy's SPRU Field Office.

Please contact Matt Zullo of the SPRU Field Office for more information at (518) 395-7201.