



News Release

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## Subcontract Awarded to Help Cesium and Strontium Capsule Risk Reduction Efforts at Hanford

Richland, WA (November 4, 2016)- A major effort is now underway to reduce the risk and provide more cost effective storage of a significant portion of the radioactivity on the Hanford Site. Today, U.S. Department of Energy contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M) awarded a subcontract for the design and fabrication of a cask storage system for the 1,936 highly radioactive cesium and strontium capsules currently stored underwater in the aging Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF).

NAC International received the \$23 million subcontract that calls for conceptual, preliminary and final design work for the 16 storage casks, with the first cask fabrication beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

Currently, the capsules are stored at WESF in water-filled pool cells that helps keep them cool and provides shielding from radiation. WESF is an aging facility with high operating costs, and represents one of the DOE complex's largest risks in a beyond-expected magnitude earthquake or other similar type of accident. The storage casks support DOE's plan to reduce risk and cost by transferring the capsules to dry storage until a disposal pathway is available.

The Management of the Cesium and Strontium Capsules Project subcontract award is part of CH2M's continued commitment to meet or exceed our subcontracting goals at Hanford. CH2M is a prime contractor for the DOE on the Hanford site and has awarded more than \$2.4 billion in subcontracts since the beginning of its contract in 2008.

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### About CH2M:

CH2M is the leading professional services firm delivering sustainable solutions to clients working on the world's most complex challenges. More than 25,000 CH2Mers make a positive difference providing consulting, design, engineering and management solutions for vital infrastructure and resources serving diverse public- and private-sector clients. With more than \$US5 billion in revenue, the firm operates from offices in 50 countries across four business segments: environment and nuclear; water; transportation; and energy and industrial. CH2M ranks among Ethisphere's World's Most Ethical Companies; number-one in environmental consulting and program management by *Engineering News-Record*; and among sustainability leaders by independent analyst Verdantix. CH2M in 2016 was selected to receive the World Environmental Center's Gold Medal Award, and in 2015, received the Stockholm International Water Institute's highest Industry Water Award for pioneering water conservation and reuse technologies.

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