

MILESTONES

Superfast Cleanup

USA | A Superfund site in Visalia, California had been used for decades to soak wooden utility poles in creosote and other protective chemicals—which contaminated soil and underground water. Experts estimated it would take more than 100 years to clean up the site, but a steam-cleaning process developed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory let workers finish the job in just 12 years. A Bechtel-University of California team manages the lab.

Dig This

USA | The Dulles Metrorail extension project in the Washington, D.C., area reached a milestone in October when excavation began on a 2,400-foot (732-meter) tunnel beneath Tysons Corner, Virginia. The tunnel section is the most complex engineering and construction challenge of the 23-mile extension, which will permit seamless rail travel between Washington and Dulles International Airport.



On the Road

ROMANIA | The first segment of the Autostrada Transilvania has opened to traffic in central Romania. The 42-kilometer stretch is part of a planned 415-kilometer, four-lane highway that will feature 173 bridges, 84 overpasses, and 19 interchanges. The new highway will boost the country's economy by easing trade and tourism between the Black Sea region and Western Europe. Bechtel is building the highway for the Romanian government.

Safety First In Saskatchewan

CANADA | The Construction Owners Association of Alberta awarded its 2009 Safety Leadership Award to Bechtel, which is teaming with its Canadian subsidiary, Bantrel, to expand the Scotford Upgrader in Fort Saskatchewan. The award honors safety practices that result in significant improvement in safety performance and advancements in creating an incident-free workplace. The project, for Shell Canada, Limited, is part of the company's oil sands expansion project.

HALFWAY POINT

USA | A massive project to treat hazardous waste at a former nuclear production site in Washington state has passed its half way point. The waste treatment plant under construction at Hanford will convert more than 50 million gallons (some 190 million liters) of radioactive and chemical waste into a stable glass-like substance for permanent, safe storage. The waste, dating as far back as World War II, currently is in aging underground tanks. Since construction began in 2001, "10,000 people have touched this historic project," said WTP Project Director Ted Feigenbaum. "Each of these people, whether a skilled craft, engineer or other professional, has contributed to the project meeting this milestone."