

# 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.



## All Aboard

**USA** | Bechtel has wrapped up its work on the modernization of the busy West Coast Main Line in the UK. The rail line, stretching from London to Scotland, now features “tilting” trains capable of speeds as fast as 125 miles (200 kilometers) per hour. The modernization has cut 43 minutes off the trip between London and Manchester, and nearly an hour off the journey between London and Glasgow.

## 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.”