

The Paducah Sun

Thursday, July 7, 2022

FRNP contract extended 3 years



Paducah site worker Brandon signals a crane operator to lower a motor from the C-333 Process Building's cell floor to the truck alley for removal. The work was done to support the future construction of a Material Sizing Area in the building, which will be used to downsize large components for disposal.

DOE photo

By [SUN STAFF](#)

Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership recently received the first of two option periods from the U. S. Department of Energy to continue deactivation and remediation work at the DOE's Paducah site through June 19, 2025.

The three-year contract is valued at approximately \$394 million and will be used to further DOE's cleanup mission at the Paducah site.

"FRNP appreciates DOE's confidence in our team to continue making progress in deactivation and environmental remediation efforts at the Paducah Site," said Myrna Redfield, FRNP program manager.

"I am especially proud of our workforce, whose daily commitment to safety and performance is the foundation for this award."

Since beginning work at the Paducah site in October 2017, FRNP has undertaken the preparation of facilities for future demolition and is continuing to implement an effective and compliant environmental remediation program. To date, deactivation efforts centered on preparing facilities for future demolition have resulted in an approximately 99.6% reduction in power needs and 91% reduction in natural gas consumption.

In addition, FRNP's actions have reduced the site's water usage by 94 million galls per year, another notable achievement.

"We are very excited the Department of Energy extended Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership's contract by three years," said Sandra Wilson, president of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce.

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“This is the first extension beyond their initial five-year contract. The chamber’s federal priorities include asking DOE to award long-term contracts to site contractors as they provide more employment stability to local employees. Additionally, Four Rivers is a strong community partner in many ways including with nearly 70% of their procurements awarded to small businesses.

“These are some of our best jobs in the region and we want to support our DOE contractors, and our local small businesses and citizens working at the site,” said Wilson.

FRNP is also focused on steps to identify and implement future actions to address major sources of offsite groundwater contamination discovered in 1988. Workers have also shipped approximately 2.8 million pounds of ozone-depleting R-114 refrigerant from the site and plans to continue shipments over the course of the three-year option period are in place.

“The team brings extensive collective experience from sites across the DOE complex, including Hanford, [West Valley Demonstration Project](#), Idaho Cleanup Project and the Portsmouth Paducah Project Office,” FRNP board of directors chairperson and Jacobs Vice President and General Manager for North American Nuclear David Blevins said.

“We will continue putting safety first as we work to move Paducah’s cleanup mission forward.”

FRNP, led by Jacobs and joint venture partners Fluor and BWXT, was awarded the initial D&R contract at the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant on May 25, 2017. The performance-based contract included a five-year base period, followed by option periods that could extend the contract up to 10 years.

FRNP has made small business investment a priority and will continue to make this a priority in the next three years.

The Paducah site is located on approximately 3,500 acres in western Kentucky, 10 miles west of Paducah and 3.5 miles south of the Ohio River. The site was built in the 1950s to manufacture enriched uranium for military nuclear reactors and weapons development, and later to support the nation’s commercial nuclear power program. PGDP operations ceased in 2013 and the plant was returned to DOE in 2014.

“We are very excited the Department of Energy (DOE) extended Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership’s contract by three years,” said Sandra Wilson, Paducah Chamber President. “This is the first extension beyond their initial five-year contract. The Chamber’s Federal Priorities asked DOE to award long-term contracts to site contractors as they provide more employment stability to local employees. Additionally, Four Rivers is a strong community partner in many ways including with nearly 70% of their procurements awarded to small businesses. These are some of our best jobs in the region and we want to support our DOE contractors, and our local small businesses and citizens working at the site.”