



Operations Office: NE-ID / TPO /
Program: Work for Others - U.S. Department of Army (DA)
Topic: Specific Manufacturing Capability Project

Background:

The Specific Manufacturing Capability (SMC) Project, located at the Test Area North (TAN) began in 1983 after a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Department of Army (DA) and the Department of Energy was signed. Originally, Titled Project “X”, the SMC project was totally black until 1990. After 1990 the only unclassified information is the fact that the plant makes armor for the US Army and that Depleted Uranium (DU) is used in the production of the armor.

The program is classified as a Special Access Program (SAP), which requires a Secret “L” or Top Secret “Q” clearance and access authorization or “Need to Know” granted by the Army. So, access to the program is very limited even after almost twenty years. Because of this, we will not be able to tour the facility.

The SMC facility has been producing front armor for over 17 years. In 2000, the Army asked SMC to produce the new Side Armor for the M1A2 developed by the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). We are currently in our third year of side armor production.

There have been five different contractors who have operated the SMC project. EXXON Nuclear 1983 – 1986. Rockwell 1987 – 1991. B&W Idaho 1991 – 1994. Lockheed Martin 1994-1999. Bechtel B&W Idaho 1999 to present.

The current FY-04 budget for SMC is approximately \$72 Millions dollars. We expect this project to continue to grow through FY-08. All budget and funding to upgrade and maintain facilities, operate and produce armor units is through the Army. Annual operating costs for the facility include approximately 36% for labor, 43% for materials, 11% for non-labor, and 10% for engineering projects. Over the many years, SMC has consistently met all production schedule requirements on or under budget and with 100% customer quality acceptance. A feat we expect to continue.

Along with an outstanding production performance the project has demonstrated a commitment to safety by exceeding 1 Million Man Hours Without a Lost Time Case a total of 5 different times in its history. Currently, SMC has worked close to 1.8 Million Man Hours Without a Lost Time Case.

SMC has a strong working relationship with the ARL and is working on potential armor solution for the Future Combat System. In addition, SMC works in partnership with other National Security projects and our armor technology has a number of potential applications that may become a reality to improve homeland security.

Facilities Overview

The Army has consistently provided adequate funding to maintain and upgrade as necessary all SMC facilities. Major utilities and equipment overhauls and replacements have occurred in the past few years and the facility is poised for future work. All of the facilities are well maintained and are in very good condition. SMC has no maintenance backlog issues and no out of date as built drawings. Water for the SMC facilities used for drinking, sanitation and firewater is supplied by SMC operated water pumps and is not supplied by TAN. The electrical sub station at TAN supplies electrical power to SMC. TAN-601 supplies telephone and connection to the INEEL Intra-NET. There is a separate SMC sewage lagoon that is not tied into the rest of TAN. Other than the TAN electrical substation and TAN-601, SMC is self-supporting on all utilities.

The SMC facilities are all built to security standards for a Special Access Program (SAP) that allow classified limited access industrial scale work. There are many security features for the facilities at SMC. The security perimeter fencing and guardhouse allows only authorized and security cleared individuals with access to the SMC area. There is key card access to all inside security perimeter fence facilities and structures that allow compartmentation of areas for separate SAP programs. There is an internal unclassified Local Area Network (ULAN) that is connected to the INEEL's Intra-Net but is protected by an internal firewall, which does not allow access to SMC's unclassified but sensitive information. There is an internal classified LAN (CLAN) for classified computing, communications and manufacturing.

TAN-629, TAN-677 and TAN-675 (Hanger building) – In 1983 construction began on a three-story building inside the Hanger to house the first phase of the project. This is where the armor is fabricated and assembled and prepared for shipping. This facility recently went through some major equipment upgrades and continues to produce armor. There are transformers supplied by one feeder from the TAN electrical substation that distributes electricity internally to the hanger area.

TAN-679 - Rolling operations to support the armor program was originally done at the DOE Rocky Flats Facility in Denver, Colorado. In 1986, authorization was given to construct TAN-679, the rolling operations. This building took over three years to construct and rolling operations started up in 1989. From this point on all armor production is completed here at the Idaho Facility. The facility recently went through major upgrades to the rolling operations and continues to produce material for armor production. There are transformers supplied by two feeders from the TAN electrical substation that distributes electricity internally to TAN-679, TAN-681, TAN-682, TAN-688, TAN-676 and TAN-678.

TAN-682 & 688 - During 1986, TAN-682 and TAN-688 were constructed. They are the warehouses where all of the incoming materials are stored and finished product from TAN-629 is stored before being shipped out to the customer.

TAN-681 – This facility houses all of the main utilities and distribution for the SMC facilities. It contains the steam plant for all heating of SMC facilities. Oil boilers that are fueled by storage tanks located at SMC fire the steam plant. There is compressed air equipment that supplies plant air for all SMC facilities.

TAN – 676 is the guardhouse which was also constructed in 1986 and controls access into SMC.

TAN – 678 is the cafeteria built to support the SMC operations. It is now the only cafeteria at the north end of the site.

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