

Small business means big business at Y-12

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Elvado employee Rita Senko performs weekly walk downs at the Old Salvage Yard.

By Maleia Wood — The disposal of nearly 90,000 cubic meters of waste from projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act involves careful and strategic planning. That's where companies like Elvado Environmental come in. Elvado is one company that's helping Y-12 prepare for the future by handling waste from site cleanup projects. Through January, nearly 5,700 cubic meters of waste has been disposed of from the Y-12 ARRA projects.

Based in Knoxville, Elvado is an 8 (a)-certified small business that provides consulting and project management services for environmental compliance and cleanup projects. This woman-owned company is handling the waste management planning and implementation for five of the seven ARRA-funded cleanup projects.

Working with the Y-12 Environmental Compliance staff, Elvado's work for most ARRA projects includes preparing the required documents for waste disposal at the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility. Among these documents are waste lot profiles and a waste handling plan, which lays out how the waste will be sampled and analyzed to ensure it meets waste acceptance criteria for onsite disposal. Terry Cothron, Environmental Compliance coordinator for ARRA projects, said Elvado's work is very challenging, but Elvado has "put in extra effort to accommodate aggressively scheduled, fast moving and frequently changing project work."

The Elvado staff, which grew by six new employees in just seven months, jumped at the opportunity to handle this work. Not only has this contract resulted in a larger staff, Elvado Chief Manager Jill Mortimore said the contract will continue to positively impact the company's business by "increasing capability to bid on future work due to expanded staff and experience."

In addition to waste management planning, Elvado provides Resource Conservation and Recovery Act services, regulatory compliance consulting, civil and environmental engineering, technical reports, and landfill reporting and consulting services.

Elvado and Y-12 are fulfilling the overall ARRA goal of creating jobs and stimulating the economy through needed infrastructure improvements. On the Y-12 ARRA projects, nearly 84 percent of more than \$50 million in contracts has been awarded to small businesses. Funding was distributed to B&W Y-12 as part of the \$755 million the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Office Environmental Management program received.