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**COLUMBIA RIVER'S JOHN DAY LOCK & DAM GATE & SHEAVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
NAMED ONE OF 2011'S BEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND MOST SUCCESSFUL  
PARTNERSHIPS**

*Advanced American Construction Wins Associated General Contractors of America's Alliant Build America Award for Best Renovation of a Federal and Heavy Construction Project and Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Special Recognition Award*

HONOLULU – Columbia River's John Day Lock & Dam Gate & Sheave Replacement project is one of the most significant construction projects and successful construction partnerships of 2011, the Associated General Contractors of America announced today. As a result, the project's contractor, Portland-based Advanced American Construction, was one of 16 firms to receive the association's Alliant Build America Award and one of six teams to receive the association's Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Special Recognition Award.

"These projects demonstrate the qualities that have made the construction industry great: hard work, ingenuity and world-class skill," said Kristine Young, the association's president and the CEO of Des Moines, Iowa-based Miller the Driller. "Contractors like these are not only building exceptional projects, they're building a better, more prosperous America."

The John Day Lock & Dam Gate is the tallest navigational lock gate in North America, standing 113-feet tall and weighing 2.5 million pounds. Advanced American Construction was charged with replacing the original gate and two 18-foot-diameter wire rope sheaves that raise and lower the gates, as well as completely restoring the mechanical friction sheave drive system. The firm performed all the work on a 14-week accelerated schedule, which required an unprecedented shutdown of cargo lanes on the Columbia and Snake Rivers in Oregon. The project was funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, and will allow for this top U.S. export gateway to safely transport goods for years to come.

The Alliant Build America Awards recognize the nation's most significant construction projects. A panel of judges, representing all areas of construction, evaluated a record number of submissions this year, assessing each project's complexity, use of innovative construction techniques and coordination with partners, among other criteria.

The Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award recognizes unique and successful partnerships needed to complete complex construction projects. A panel of judges, representing all areas of construction, evaluated a record number of projects that were completed in 2011, assessing contractors' ability to resolve conflicts, the quality of communications with all involved parties and the ability to get many groups to achieve one goal, among other key criteria. The awards, which were announced during the association's annual convention in Honolulu, are considered by many to be the most prestigious recognition of construction accomplishments in the U.S.

[View](#) all the Alliant Build America Award winning projects. [View](#) all the Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Special Recognition Award winning projects.

*Editor's note: If you are interested in photos of project winners, please contact Nahee Rosso at [rosson@agc.org](mailto:rosson@agc.org).*

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