

DOE Names Keith Benguiat Director of Site Operations Division

Lloyd Piper, Assistant Manager for Facility Transition at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office, announced today the selection of Keith Benguiat as the Director of the Site Operations Division.

Benguiat is responsible for supervising site representatives, DOE's technical facility specialists, at the 560-square-mile Hanford Site in southeastern Washington. Benguiat's group is responsible for facility operations at the Plutonium Finishing Plant, Plutonium and Uranium Extraction Plant, B-Plant, Fast Flux Test Facility, Steam Plants, and the site maintenance program.

"I am very pleased to appoint Keith to this position. He was the first DOE employee to graduate from the Site Representatives Training Program and he has demonstrated outstanding leadership during his tenure in this program. Keith also has extensive experience in reactor operations, conduct of operations, and facility maintenance, which make him well qualified for his new position," said Piper.

Benguiat said, "I am really fortunate to have been selected for this post and I look forward to developing new policies to make our facility operations safer as we pursue our cleanup mission at the Hanford Site."

Benguiat began his career as an engineer at the Navy's submarine repair and construction shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1975. He was trained in the Navy's nuclear power program and worked on ship propulsion systems. In 1977, he went to work for Westinghouse Hanford Company as a systems engineer for the FFTF Engineering Staff Maintenance Division.

Benguiat worked as a operations engineer for the Washington Public Power Supply System in 1979. He later was assigned as a startup engineer during the construction of plants 1 and 2 and he implemented preventive maintenance programs.

In 1982, he worked at the San Onofre nuclear power plant in southern California. While employed there he held a number of positions including shift supervisor, restart engineer, and outage supervisor. Benguiat was also responsible for conduct of operations and regulatory interaction with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "We worked hard to receive an outstanding ranking," Benguiat said proudly.

Benguiat worked at the Trojan nuclear power plant in Oregon, as a project engineer in 1988. He was responsible for overhauling the reactor's coolant system. In 1991, he returned to Hanford accepting a position at DOE as a facility representative for the FFTF. He remained in that position until being named Director of the Site Operations Division. # # #

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