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DOE

## **DOE NAMES STEVE VEITENHEIMER DIRECTOR OF QUALITY, SAFETY, AND HEALTH PROGRAMS DIVISION**

Steve Veitenheimer is the new Director of Quality, Safety, and Health Programs Division at the U.S. Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office (RL). He is responsible for occupational health and safety, radiation protection, and quality assurance at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington.

"I am really fortunate to have this opportunity. My top goal is to make Hanford the model of safety for the entire DOE Complex. By emphasizing safety as a way of life, I believe that we can make Hanford's lost work day record, and other safety statistics, as low as the leading firms in private industry," said Veitenheimer.

Paul Kruger, RL's Director of Environment, Safety and Health, said, "I am delighted to have Steve in charge of our quality, health, and safety programs. He has a strong technical background as a Senior Reactor Operator and former U.S. Navy nuclear propulsion officer. Under his leadership, I am confident that he can land our safety program to bring the best in DOE, and among the best as compared to private industry."

Veitenheimer was recently named RL's Facility Representative of the Year. He was recognized for his outstanding performance ensuring that the Hanford facilities under his oversight met stringent radiological control and industrial safety standards.

Veitenheimer, a native of Spokane, Washington, received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry in 1979 from Gonzaga University. He received his Ensign's commission from the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School and completed the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Training Program. He then spent four years on nuclear submarines and surface ships.

In 1983, Veitenheimer left active military service and spent the next eight years in the commercial nuclear power industry. He worked for Iowa Electric, Light, and Power Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the Supply System in Richland, Washington, where he worked as a radiation protection specialist, health physicist, radioactive waste manager, and shift technical advisor.

Veitenheimer joined DOE's Richland Office in 1991, when he was selected as a lead auditor for the former Office of Performance Assessment. He fully qualified as a Facility Representative in April 1995.

"I am excited about Hanford's cleanup mission, and I am personally committed to ensuring that safety is an inseparable part of that job," said Veitenheimer.

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