

DOE NEWS

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Colleen French, DOE-RL, (509) 373-5985
Geoff Tyree, Fluor Hanford, (509) 372-1145

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 26, 2006

U.S. DOE Presents National Worker Safety Award to Fluor Project at Hanford

Patty Bubar, director of corporate safety analysis for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Health, Safety, and Security, today presented a national safety award to Fluor Hanford's Waste Stabilization & Disposition Project at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

Bubar and Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office, presented a flag signifying Voluntary Protection Program "Star Status" to Fluor Hanford this morning.

"This award represents the highest safety honor the Department of Energy can bestow," said Bubar. "These workers are protecting the environment and the public from some of the worst hazards in the world—and they're doing so while also protecting each other day in and day out."

"This project has some of the most visible and important work on site," said Klein. "Among other things, these workers are responsible for getting waste out of the burial grounds and into final disposal, treating contaminated liquids, and ensuring the safe storage of capsules containing more than 120 million curies of radioactivity. But there would be no successes there without the achievement we are recognizing today – people working together to reach the highest level of safety performance."

The Voluntary Protection Program was initiated nationwide by DOE in 1994 and is modeled on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program. The program was adopted by DOE to reduce risk in the workplace

by encouraging and recognizing safety and health programs that demonstrate full involvement and commitment by company management and employees.

Nationwide, 26 projects have been recognized by DOE's Voluntary Protection Program. Twelve projects at Hanford have achieved Star Status, including 8 projects managed by Fluor.

"Since Fluor came to the site in 1996, we have reduced injuries by 80 percent company wide, down from more than 400 injuries to less than 40 per year" said Ron Gallagher, President and CEO, Fluor Hanford. "However, that is still too many. Each injury has an impact on our employees, their families and on our projects. Our goal is zero injuries."

The 700 Fluor Hanford workers in the Waste Stabilization & Disposition Project are responsible primarily for retrieving buried waste, processing waste for disposal and shipment out of the state, treating contaminated liquid waste, and safely storing 1,936 capsules of highly radioactive cesium and strontium.

"Our employees work with some of the most hazardous materials in the world, and they work safely day in and day out," said Dale McKenney, Fluor Hanford Vice President of the Waste Stabilization & Disposition Project. "We achieved this level of recognition because the people on the job know the best way to approach work safely, and management listens to them."

###

RL-06-0010