



VPPPA

NEWSRELEASE

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Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee Awarded for VPP Outreach Efforts

Falls Church, Va. – The Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association, Inc. (VPPPA) recognized the Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee of the Hanford Site in Richland, Wash., as the winner of the 2013 Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Outreach Award during the opening general session of the 29th Annual National VPPPA Conference in Nashville, Tenn., on Aug. 26, 2013. The Hanford site companies who participated on the committee include Washington Closure Hanford, CH2M Hill Remediation Company, Mission Support Alliance, Advanced Technologies and Laboratories, Bechtel-Waste Treatment Plant, Fluor Federal Services, Washington River Protection Solutions and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Department of Energy (DOE) Field Offices also participated on this committee.

The VPP Outreach Award recognizes those “VPP ambassadors” who reach out to others in the community to communicate and persuade other sites of the benefits of pursuing VPP approval as well as providing assistance. Made up of representatives from Hanford Site contractors, the Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee provided support and assistance to those Hanford companies seeking VPP approval or re-approval on the site. The committee freely exchanged safety information and even



Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee



created a custom website to act as a resource for those seeking safety and health program improvements as well as DOE VPP approval.

“I applaud the Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee’s achievement as the winner of this year’s VPP Outreach Award,” said Susan Jordan Sikes, executive director of VPPPA. “The collaboration of safety and health professionals from the different companies at the Hanford Site embodies the very essence of the Voluntary Protection Programs. It is great to see different organizations coming together for a common goal of keeping their employees safe.”

Richard (RJ) Debevec, safety culture and analyst specialist at Mission Support Alliance, agrees that VPP was the backbone behind the committee’s collaborative efforts. “While competitive by nature, we are most proud of the way we turned that ‘competitiveness’ into ‘collaborativeness’ by sharing our experiences and working together to improve everyone’s safety on site.,” said Debevec. “Overall, the program has improved and greatly strengthened the ability of employees to proactively contribute to the safety, quality and health of the Hanford Site, and embodies the commitment made by workers and management to continuous safety improvement through communication and actions.”

For more information on the VPPPA Annual Awards, visit the [VPPPA website](#).