

T Plant employee chosen as Waste Management ALARA Employee of the Year

Karen Welsh, Fluor Hanford

For his efforts to heighten his co-workers' awareness of working conditions and safe working habits, Chad Bedingfield, a radiological control technician at T Plant, was chosen as this year's Waste Management "ALARA Employee of the Year."

During a recent Monday-morning T Plant all-hands meeting, Barry Burrow, T Plant's facility manager, along with Jim Van Vliet, vice president of the Waste Management Project, recognized Bedingfield for his contributions to the T Plant ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) programs.

"Chad is a wonderful asset to T Plant," said Burrow. "He has been a driver for developing our work packages, radiation work permits and survey plans, which have all resulted in reduced exposure times and lower overall dosage to workers."

Van Vliet echoed Burrow's comments, stating that practicing ALARA principles is a key part of keeping our workers safe, and that Bedingfield has been a big part of that effort.

Duane Medley, T Plant health physicist, and Dave Andrews, T Plant ALARA chairman, submitted Bedingfield's name for the plant's 2002 ALARA Employee of the Year award. Medley's and Andrews' nomination stated, "Chad's efforts and suggestions for reducing dose at the facility are commendable. During the Operational Readiness Review stages of Shippingport fuel removal, Chad provided much of the ALARA briefing for personnel performing the higher-dose-rate area mock-up training in the tunnel. This briefing provided co-workers supporting fuel-removal operations the information needed to help them reduce their individual doses, as well as assisting workers in coordinating their operations to minimize exposure times."

Also noted on the nomination form was Bedingfield's continued briefings to co-workers throughout the ORR on current radiological conditions and his suggestions for keeping their doses to a minimum once fuel shipments commenced.

Bedingfield has 17 years of experience working in the field of radiological control. When asked his thoughts about winning this award, he said that he was "terribly surprised," but he also said that he was pleased that the Waste Management ALARA committee chose him as this year's recipient of the award.

According to Owen Berglund of Waste Management/Analytical Services, the ALARA company technical authority, there were several worthy nominees this year, resulting in a close vote. "This fact demonstrates the value placed on the ALARA program by the Waste Management facilities and the support provided by the facility management," Berglund said. ■



Jim Van Vliet, vice president of the Waste Management Project, presents Chad Bedingfield, a radiological control technician at T Plant, with the Waste Management ALARA Employee of the Year award.