

# Fast Flux Test Facility heads toward deactivation

**W**hile the Fast Flux Test Facility continued to be maintained in a safe and compliant manner during fiscal year 2002, Fluor Hanford and its external experts began reviewing cost evaluations and schedule profiles associated with the decision the Department of Energy made on Dec. 19, 2001, to permanently shut down the facility.



The Fast Flux Test Facility shone brightly in its early days, but is scheduled for permanent shutdown.

The various scenarios predicted how much money and how long shutdown would take. The outside experts identified a number of alternatives and approaches that would substantially reduce the cost and accelerate the schedule for decommissioning the FFTF.

Upgrades aimed at increasing the efficiency and reliability of the FFTF refueling system were a primary area of focus in fiscal year 2002. A new control system for the Closed Loop Ex-Vessel Machine was installed. An upgrade to the Sodium Removal System's control system neared completion. And major repairs and modifications to the Solid Waste Cask were supported. All of these adjustments are important to safe operations at the facility. Although litigation subsequently affected additional shutdown fieldwork, work-package preparation continued.

Finally, significant changes were made in FFTF senior management during the fiscal year as the organizational structure was changed to a project-oriented approach. The changes will posture FFTF for whatever the future holds. ■