

# Vit-plant workers celebrate two years, 8 million safe hours

Bechtel National, Inc. assumed full responsibilities as the prime contractor for the Department of Energy Office of River Protection's Waste Treatment Plant Project nearly two years ago. Since then, employees of BNI and its subcontractors have worked more than 8 million safe hours without a lost-time accident.

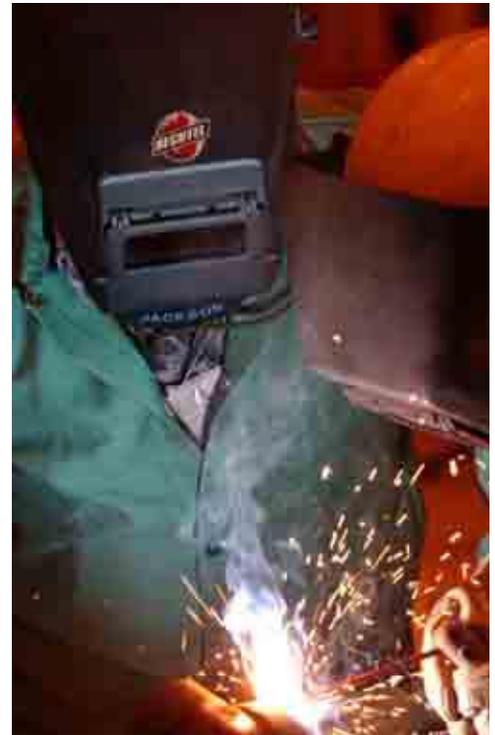
Nearly 3,000 employees make up the Bechtel National-led WTP Project team, which includes Washington Group International as its principal subcontractor. The WTP project workforce also includes employees of George S. Grant, Inc., Central Pre-Mix Concrete, CB&I Services and other construction-support subcontractors. WTP employees reached the milestone of 8 million safe hours last month while designing and building the world's largest radioactive waste processing plant.

"Our employees have made a commitment to safety while focusing on achieving the goal of zero accidents in the workplace," said Ron Naventi, WTP Project director. "Safety is a priority in all the work we perform, in the office and in the field, and we will continue our pledge to be safe both at work and at home."

"Safety is a mirror of attention to detail and the execution of quality work," Naventi explained. "Employees of the Waste Treatment Plant have translated their attitudes toward safety into constructing a facility that will help turn the corner on Hanford's cleanup mission."

Bechtel National's 10-year contract calls for the design, construction and commissioning of a vast complex of facilities to treat and immobilize Hanford's radioactive waste, now stored in 177 underground storage tanks. To date, the WTP Project's workforce has moved more than 900,000 cubic yards of earth, placed more than 30,600 cubic yards of concrete and installed more than 134,000 feet of piping and electrical raceway.

"To reach 8 million safe hours and beyond, there must be a commitment to safety from the top down," said John Skinner, a WTP Project electrician with 32 years of construction experience. "When management truly supports safety at all levels, then achieving zero accidents becomes a real thing." ■



**Waste Treatment Plant Project construction site craft workers weld a piece of piping that will be used to help build Hanford's vitrification complex. WTP Project staff members have combined to work more than 8 million hours without a lost-time accident.**