

A million hours of safe progress counted

Fluor Hanford workers on the Central Plateau Remediation Project have reached one million hours without anyone suffering a day away from work resulting from an injury.

“This is a tremendous achievement,” said Larry Olguin, project director. “I’m extremely proud of our workers for doing their work safely, making safety a value, and for looking out for one another.”

Safety milestones at Hanford are based on criteria established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. About 300 workers accumulated the million hours from Oct. 10, 2001, through Feb. 28, 2003 — a time of change and challenge for the project.

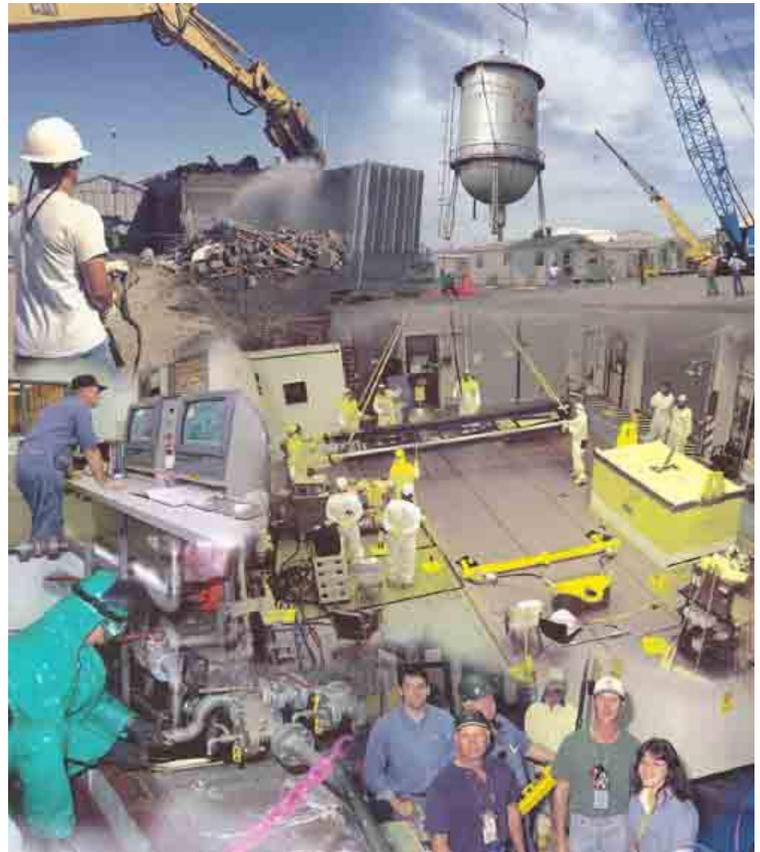
In July, to geographically consolidate waste-management efforts, DOE transferred groundwater and 200 Area work-scope from the Environmental Restoration Contractor to Fluor Hanford. The Central Plateau Remediation Project was formed, and about 100 workers were transferred into it from Bechtel Hanford and its subcontractor CH2M Hill Hanford.

“The million-hour accomplishment represents a successful blend of the safety cultures,” Olguin said.

The Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program Star had been awarded in April to what was then the River Corridor Project. After transition, DOE-VPP criteria were satisfied to transfer the star into the new organization. The DOE-VPP Star is the highest recognition of safety-program excellence, and only 20 exist in the nation — seven of them at Hanford. At the Central Plateau Remediation Project, DOE-VPP Star status and the achievement of the million-hour milestone are credited to ongoing worker involvement and to the efforts of the project’s employee zero accident councils.

While the million hours were being worked, public and environmental risks were reduced by about 10 million curies of radiation through deactivation activities at the 324 and 327 Buildings, and by moving spent nuclear fuel out of the 324 Building and into dry interim storage.

Accomplishments in the 300 Area deactivation include demolishing and removing the 303-K Building slab,



Central Plateau Remediation Project workers engaged in a variety of cleanup activities while doing work safely for a million hours.

A million hours of safe progress counted, cont.

isolating the water to the 333 Building and deactivating its fire-protection system, supporting the removal of the 4,000-ton hydraulic extrusion press from the 313-N Building, and beginning the cleanup of the radiologically contaminated saw and lathe area in the 333 Building.

As a result of the workscope change, the Central Plateau Surveillance and Maintenance Project oversaw transition of five major deactivated facilities, more than 750 waste sites and smaller facilities, and the installation of new, permanent roofs at B Plant and the Plutonium Uranium Extraction facility, or PUREX.

The 233-S facility was prepared for decommissioning and decontamination by the removal of interior structural steel. Additional high-risk efforts have been accomplished to safely reduce plutonium contamination levels and prepare the facility for demolition.

Through the combined efforts of the Fluor and Bechtel teams on the transferred Groundwater Protection Program during 2002, five pump-and-treat systems removed contaminants from more than 1.2 million gallons, and the soil vapor extraction process removed 1,384 pounds of carbon tetrachloride, a suspected carcinogen.

“Our safety culture has helped us make cleanup progress,” Olguin said. “As we meet new cleanup challenges we remain committed to doing work safely.” ■