

DOE, government employees' union sign agreement

Department of Energy management and Local 788 of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) signed a new collective-bargaining agreement on May 20. It affects the federal employees of the DOE Richland Operations Office and the Office of River Protection for the next three years.

"We think there are some significant improvements to the working conditions for our employees in this contract," said John Sellards, Local 788 executive vice president and chief negotiator for AFGE.

The contract is now at DOE Headquarters for a 30-day review and signature by the Secretary of Energy. It is anticipated that the contract will be implemented locally by June 20.

After the contract is approved by DOE Headquarters, bargaining-unit employees will be provided detailed information and a briefing on the changes that the union will set up. The Labor Relations Office will also give a briefing to manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection. ■



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At a signing ceremony on May 20, representatives of DOE management and the Federation of Government Employees pose for a Hanford photographer. Left to right are Guy Schein, president of AFGE Local 788; John Sellards, executive vice president of Local 788 and chief negotiator; Patty Ensign, chief steward; Steve Veitenheimer, chief negotiator for DOE; Nancy Crosby, union secretary-treasurer; and Joyce Gilbert; secretary and note-taker for the DOE negotiating team. Not pictured is DOE Office of River Protection representative Ron Light.

The DOE management negotiating team

- Steve Veitenheimer, chief negotiator
- Ron Light, ORP representative
- Joyce Gilbert, Labor Relations representative
- Joyce Josephson, secretary and note-taker

The AFGE Local 788 negotiating team

- John Sellards, executive vice president and chief negotiator
- Guy Schein, president
- Patti Ensign, chief steward
- Nancy Crosby, secretary-treasurer
- Janine Becho, secretary and note-taker