

## Picture Pages



### WELDING SNF CANISTERS:

Welding permanent cover assemblies onto the large multi-canister overpacks, or MCOs, is ahead of schedule. The MCOs hold the spent nuclear fuel that has been removed from the K Basins and dried for long-term storage. Workers with Fluor Hanford's Spent Nuclear Fuel Project have attached cover assemblies on 63 MCOs since welding operations began in February.

### WTP, UP-CLOSE AND

**PERSONAL:** Last week, Bechtel National's Scott Neubauer (left), high-level waste area engineer, gave Hanford Advisory Board members a tour of the progress on the High-Level Waste Vitrification facility at the Waste Treatment Plant construction site. The Hanford Advisory Board's Tank Waste Committee held its regular meeting at the construction site on Aug. 12. For most of the committee members, it was their first visit to what will be the world's largest plant for treating radioactive and chemical waste. Pictured, from left, are Neubauer, Hanford Advisory Board members Leon Swenson and Doug Huston, and Suzanne Dahl of the Washington State Department of Ecology.



*Picture Pages continued on page 4.*

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**MITIGATING FIRE IMPACTS:** Last spring, Hanford firefighters spent several weeks conducting prescribed burning activities to help mitigate the impact of wildland fires from all causes on the Hanford Site. Lightning, one of the anticipated causes of wildland fires, struck the site frequently in early August. Thunderstorms on Aug. 5 and 6 caused a number of fires on site and Hanford firefighters were busy extinguishing them. A fire near May Junction during the evening of Aug. 5 burned an estimated 500 acres. HFD also extinguished several small fires caused by the lightning cells that rolled across the area during the night of Aug. 6. After smoldering all day on Aug. 7, a fire was kindled near the old Hanford town site. It was quickly

extinguished by tired firefighters who were glad to see clear skies once again. The small amount of rain (0.38 inch) that accompanied these lightning storms was most appreciated, but it was not enough to break our cycle of *extreme* fire danger. Employees are cautioned to maintain a high level of vigilance as they move about the site, and call 911 to report any fire or smoke.



**MONUMENTAL SIGN:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintenance crew employees J.J. Coates, David MacDonald and Scott Immele stand beside one of the recently installed entrance signs to the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

This 10-foot by 5-foot sign, located at State Highways 240 and 225, welcomes visitors and travelers as they cross the boundary into the only National Monument managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Three other signs mark the main highway entrances to the monument. Rock and masonry bases will be added in the future. Project leader Greg M. Hughes said, "It is our hope that the new signs will help the traveling public recognize when they enter and leave monument lands and raise the awareness and appreciation of this magnificent local, regional and national treasure."

*Picture Pages continued on page 5.*



**FLUOR HANFORD SENIOR STAFF HITS THE ROAD:** Fluor Hanford's senior staff meets in the 100K Area in the first of a series of meetings to be held at Fluor Hanford project locations across the site. The company's senior managers began the on-site meetings this month to see first-hand and understand both the successes and challenges of each of the cleanup projects, and to be responsive to employees in the field. Members of the leadership team listen as President Dave Van Leuven (center) emphasizes the importance of working safely at the K Basins.

**60 Hanford** The Hanford Site  
1943-2003 celebrates 60 years  
**Years** of protecting America



**RECALLING THE GOOD TIMES:** Clarene Anderson points to her old home town of White Bluffs in a photo from the *Sage Sentinel* during Hanford's early years. Then as now, former residents of the towns of White Bluffs and Hanford have bittersweet memories of life before they had to leave their homes and farms under a condemnation order issued by the federal government. The residents left to make way for the facilities that would produce material for the atomic weapons that helped end World War II. See the article, "Hanford-White Bluffs reunion may be the last" (*Hanford Reach*, Aug. 11) to read more about reunions for former residents of the Priest Rapids Valley and their families. The photo is from the archives of the East Benton County Historical Museum, 205 Keewaydin Dr. in Kennewick.