

DOE-RL wins four awards for pollution prevention

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office has been recognized — not once, but four times — for its outstanding performance and leadership in protecting the environment.

Employees of DOE-RL, Bechtel Hanford, the Fluor Project Hanford team contractors, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the Environmental Protection Agency were included on the various teams responsible for the award-winning projects.

The teams won two different kinds of honors — two White House Closing the Circle Awards and two DOE National Pollution Prevention Awards.

From a field of 148 projects nominated in 2001, the White House presented 39 Closing the Circle Awards and seven honorable mentions to federal agencies for outstanding performance in several categories such as waste prevention, recycling, affirmative procurement and environmental innovation. DOE-RL's two awards were presented to representatives of the teams on June 12 in Washington, D.C.



Kathleen Hinkelman of DynCorp Tri-Cities Services poses with Hanford phone books destined for recycling. Hinkelman was a member of the team that won a Closing the Circle Award. The team was also a runner-up for a DOE Pollution Prevention Award for improvements in Hanford recycling programs.

Two-award winner

One site-wide Hanford project, "Hanford Recycling Program Improvements," won both a Closing the Circle Award and a DOE Pollution Prevention runner-up award. Paper, glass, plastic, toner cartridges, software, cardboard, diskettes, audio tapes, telephone books, metal and office supplies are just a few examples of products that are recycled or reused at Hanford every year.

The Centralized Consolidated Recycling Center was established in 1995 through the efforts of DOE-RL, its contractors and the Washington State Department of Ecology. It has grown from the original three recycle streams and today accepts lead acid batteries, 19 types of small batteries, lighting ballasts, crushed and intact fluorescent, sodium, mercury and incandescent lamps, mercury and mercury-containing equipment, aerosol cans, used oil, spent antifreeze, used shop towels, and chemicals for exchange.

Infrastructure and site services organizations have made great strides in pollution prevention. Tires, used oil and vehicle batteries are recycled at Fleet Maintenance. Machine coolant from Site Fabrication Services is recycled, and propylene glycol removed from fire systems is recycled at Fire Systems Maintenance.

In fiscal year 2000, Hanford employees recycled 1,622 metric tons of sanitary waste and 37.3 metric tons of hazardous waste, saving \$1.35 million dollars in life-cycle costs.

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PNNL innovation

The other White House Closing the Circle Award recognized “Reuse Systems at PNNL.” The PNNL team tackled the concept of “purchasing used materials for free.” The team established a process for reusing or recycling all materials left from the demolition of buildings. It opened the Office Product Exchange (see <http://www.pnl.gov/esp/greenguide/exchange/>), which allows PNNL employees to shop for needed office products that have been used by other employees. This innovative thinking avoided creating nearly 1,400 metric tons of waste and avoided the purchases of new items, saving well over \$200,000.

The two DOE National Pollution Prevention Awards were for projects called “Significant Waste Site Source Reduction Using Small Diameter Geophysical Logging System,” and “Implementing a Site-wide Cultural Change Through Innovative, Cost-Effective and Environmentally Sensitive Approaches.” Team representatives attended a ceremony in Albuquerque, N.M., on June 20. The projects were funded by DOE-RL’s Return on Investment Program.

The Small-Diameter Geophysical Logging System was developed to collect data on the distribution of sub-surface gamma-emitting radionuclides in the vadose zone. The system is beneficial not only to Hanford but possibly the rest of the DOE complex. Relative to current methods of collecting analogous types of data, it saves costs, produces no waste and minimizes the potential for human exposure to contamination. By using this new system at Hanford, workers were able to complete remediation of the 100F Area one year ahead of schedule. With the support of the local EPA office, implementing the technology was a smooth process.

The second winner of a DOE Pollution Prevention Award, Site-Wide Cultural Change, focused on implementing innovative, cost-effective and environmentally sensitive solutions to the problem of disposing of contaminated and *potentially* contaminated large equipment and materials. The project team developed a “triage” process that focused on sorting and segregating equipment into priority areas for maximizing internal and commercial recycling and reuse. The process diverted a large amount of equipment to reuse and recycling rather than burial.

Site-wide teams

The two projects were staffed by teams representing Bechtel Hanford, Bull Run Metal, CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc., DOE-RL, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, Fluor Hanford, Fluor Federal Services, Duratek and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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In addition to the four awards, DOE-RL received six runner-up awards for the following entries:

- “Innovative Pollution Prevention Concepts Applied to Laboratories”
- “Hanford’s Return on Investment Program Saves Millions of Dollars”
- “Hanford’s Waste Reduction Through Process Changes in Maintenance of Submarine Reactor Compartments”
- “Value Methodology: An Outstanding Tool for Assessing Waste Minimization Opportunities at Hanford”
- “Reuse Systems at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory”
- “Hanford Recycling Program Improvements.”

Thanks to the efforts of all Hanford employees, pollution prevention continues to be a top priority year after year. ♦

Members of the award-winning teams

Significant Waste Site Source Reduction Using Small-Diameter Geophysical Logging System

John April - Bechtel Hanford

Douglas DuVon - Bechtel Hanford

Anna Beard - DOE Richland Operations

Jamie Zeisloft - DOE Richland Operations

Kevin Bergstrom - CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc.

Randall Price - Duratek Federal Services Northwest

Russ Randall - Duratek Federal Services Northwest

Thomas Mitchell - CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc.

Dennis Faulk - Environmental Protection Agency

Implementing a Site-wide Cultural Change Through Innovative, Cost-Effective and Environmentally Sensitive Approaches

Steve Burnum - DOE Richland Operations

Wayne Glines - DOE Richland Operations

Anna Beard - DOE Richland Operations

Abe Greenberg - Fluor Hanford

Joel Milsap - Fluor Hanford

Brian Dixon - DynCorp Tri-Cities

Brad Roach - DynCorp Tri-Cities

Radiological Control - DynCorp Tri-Cities

Stan Holloman - DynCorp Tri-Cities

Crane & Rigging - DynCorp Tri-Cities

Earl Lloyd - Fluor Federal Services

Deanna Klages - Fluor Federal Services

Lee Bishop - DOE Oak Ridge

Michael Gresalfi - Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Chris Reno - Duratek

Robert Ward - Bull Run Metal

Robert Orton - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Reuse Systems at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Theresa Aldridge - DOE Richland Operations

Gordon Beeman - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

William Bjorklund - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Toni Blue - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Marjorie Braddy - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

David Brown - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Sandra Cannon - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Raul Carreno - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

John Deffenbaugh - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Jo Lynn Draper - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Greg Herman - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Deanna Kratzer - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Michael Perkins - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Daniel Ryan - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Laura Tedeschi - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Robert Turner - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Hanford Recycling Program Improvements

Anna V. Beard - DOE Richland Operations

Candice E. Marple - DynCorp Tri-Cities

Kathleen C. Hinkelman - DynCorp Tri-Cities ♦