



Letters

Employee letters of general interest on work-related topics may have been edited for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Too late to reconsider?

As many have stated, the *Reach* is the best form of communication for all of the contractors on site. Is it too late to reconsider?

I cannot believe we are allowing this paper to go.

Michele Sauer

Lockheed Martin Information Technology

Losing the voice of the site

We want to thank you at the *Hanford Reach* for communicating what is happening around the site. We all know changes are coming, but it does not make it any better to lose the voice of the site. We now have to figure out how to get ahold of that information on our own.

As a Hanford employee for 26 years and a *Reach* reader for nearly 13 years, I appreciate your efforts in trying to keep us all informed. I will be saving the last paper, as I know you will make it an outstanding paper as you always have in the past.

Curt Hedger

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford

Site-wide communication difficult

As one of the original contributing writers/editors who birthed the *Hanford Reach* employee newspaper, I am very sad to see it retire.

Thirteen years ago every contractor (there were quite a few of them) and some individual work groups had their own employee newsletters. While it was great to be able to share more personalized information with employees, it was nearly impossible for one set of employees to know what was going on in the other employee groups. In those days the “fiefdoms” were strong and information was controlled. It very much appears that “what is old is new again” and I’m not sure it’s for the better.

As a site-wide service group, we in the Hanford Fire Department will now have to figure out how and whom to contact in order to share information with all site employees without overloading the general-delivery e-mail system. This will mean more work for those of us who need to communicate on a large scale about safety or security issues.

It’s unfortunate that the only site-wide communication vehicle will be sidelined in favor of more individual (and

sometimes duplicative) efforts. There is much that all of us need to know in order to perform our tasks in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The loss of a centralized communications source seems to be counterproductive.

Best wishes to the *Hanford Reach* staff as they move on to other opportunities. It has been my pleasure to be able to work with such high-quality professionals.

Martha Rice

Fluor Hanford

A forum to express concerns

I am saddened to learn that you will cease publication. The *Hanford Reach* has been a way to voice concerns about topics which the “powers that be” do not always wish to hear.

Not all such letters were responded to, but they were published for the benefit of others. I doubt that a collection of individual company publications will be able to take the place of the *Reach*.

And I hope that the archives of past issues of the *Reach* will remain for some time.

Rick Daughety

Fluor Hanford

Kudos to the *Reach*

For over 50 years, the Hanford Site has had a newspaper. Its original intent was to serve the employees who worked here. The *Hanford Reach* has done more than serve Hanford’s workers — it gave the public at large information about the cleanup effort and reported the difficulty in accomplishing that goal.

To end a successful communications outlet is really inconceivable. Someone needs to make the decision to reverse this course of action. Anyone here with some kind of authority?

Many kudos to the *Reach* for an excellent product that we have treasured in the past and we will all miss.

Don L. Sorenson

Fluor Hanford

Brought site workers together

I have enjoyed the *Hanford Reach* for all of the years of its publication as a way to bring Hanford workers together during difficult as well as good times.

The articles brought knowledge and perspective to my work of providing services to Hanford workers and their families. The newspaper was frequently an enjoyable vehicle for my efforts to share knowledge and perspective.

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I wish to thank the Department of Energy and the contractors for providing the funds and expertise to keep the *Reach* viable and useful these many years.

Dan Lowe

Hanford Environmental Health Foundation

No single source for site-wide news

During the past 13 years, the *Reach* has reported 10 national first-place awards for the Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association, the highest number for any chapter in the nation. I was president of the Hanford Chapter in 2002 when we led the entire nation overall as the highest-scoring chapter. The *Reach* has reported dozens of NMA community service stories and professional development opportunities.

Through NMA, I was able to bring Junior Achievement to the Tri-Cities, and look at what the community has done for it now.

As president of the Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers this year, I also thank the *Reach* for the many articles about our activities that have been reported through the years.

I am sad that so many site-wide efforts can no longer be shared in one news source, for this site is truly united in many efforts. May we remain united for the benefit of our communities as well as for Hanford.

Terry Winward

Fluor Hanford

A fond farewell to the *Reach* staff

It is with great sadness that I wish you all a fond farewell. I am deeply grateful for all the first-class reporting that was done over the years and the key information that you brought to all Hanford employees regarding our many successes as we pioneer the environmental cleanup effort at Hanford.

Thank you for your dedication to your readers. You provided us with every kind of information that we needed and we have come to depend on you. Starting next week you will be missed. Best wishes to you all in your future endeavors.

Guy Schein

Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office

Bummer!

Having been associated with the 100K Area of the Hanford Site for nearly a decade, it's a real bummer to see

the *Hanford Reach* go. The *Reach* has had its finger on the pulse of the site and kept the employees up to date on the different activities going on at Hanford.

I always enjoyed reading the letters from people sounding off — even had a couple of mine published, too.

This is too much like saying goodbye for the last time to a near and dear friend. Thanks for the memories.

Bill Monroe

Framatome-ANP

Thanks for the memories, information

Ah, technology! Electronic communications is a great thing — but picking up your copy of the *Reach* from your mail slot every Monday has become a Hanford tradition!

I have a lot of fond memories associated with the *Hanford Reach* — seeing my first issue as a new employee at the Fast Flux Text Facility many years ago (remember how different it used to look?); seeing, for the first time, one of my own articles published in the *Reach*; reconnecting with former colleagues I'd worked with in the 400 Area or the Basalt Waste Isolation Project after seeing their pictures or reading they received awards; and of course, just keeping up with "what's happening" across the site.

But my fondest memories related to the *Reach* are of the many talented folks who worked on the paper over the years. They say some things never change — and it does seem like Dennis Cresswell has been there for a long time! Some of the others from the past, I have to apologize because I can't remember all their names now (could it be that I've been around a long time, too?) — Carmen Stafford, Tracy Cozzens, Connie Eckard — and the many great photographers, including Jim Reed, Scotty Getchell and so many others.

I hope the Hanford contractor companies will rise to the challenge and ensure the things we have been able to access through the *Reach* will continue to be covered through some easy-to-access method of communication — not just news about key projects and milestones achieved across the site but also information about upcoming classes, professional society meetings, vanpools and HERO offerings.

Thanks for a lot of good information and many great memories!

Jo Haberstock

Fluor Hanford

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Will miss the *Reach*

I want to thank the staff of the *Hanford Reach* for their many years of devotion to a wonderful newsletter. When its publication ends Sept. 29, I (and I think I speak for many) will surely miss this newsletter.

As a long-time Hanford employee, I watched the newsletter grow into what it is today. I can remember when the newsletter used to be called *The Communicator*, and over the many years I've read with interest almost every article printed. I've read with interest the successes and failures of many projects, and the rise and fall of many facilities and companies on the Hanford Site.

Each publication always provided something for everyone including letters to the editor, safety information, employee activities and project milestones. The information in the *Hanford Reach* was so well diversified, crossed many company boundaries, and it was this type of information that really made it the *Hanford Reach*.

I would like to think that a contractor-specific newsletter would cover other contractors' milestones and successes; however, being realistic I don't see that happening. Maybe I'll be wrong.

Thanks again, *Hanford Reach* staff, for your talents and time with this publication.

George Valdez
Fluor Hanford

Imitated, but never duplicated

I have looked forward to reading the *Hanford Reach* each week starting back about the same time as I started work at Hanford. The *Reach* articles have been like a "home town" newspaper with sincerity and objectivity. Other publications will follow, but the *Reach* will never be copied.

As they say, thanks for the memories.

Herb Johnson
Fluor Hanford

Editors' note: And finally. . . thanks to Mr. Muehleisen for submitting the final letter in a very long series of letters about our most popular and long-running topic — Hanford traffic!

Life is too short to drive like that

To the young lady who got mad and honked (repeatedly) at me on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Wye Barricade, I would like to point out a few things:

- You made an illegal lane change without signaling.
- You were traveling at a speed considerably higher than the posted 25 miles per hour.
- The last time I checked, the car in front has the right of way.
- You tailgated me all the way to the guard shack.
- After the guard shack, you tailgated me again. The posted speed limit after the guard shack is 25 mph until the 35 mph sign.
- You passed me in a no-passing area and you were again traveling at a high rate of speed.

I just don't get it. Why do you drive this way going to work? I just hope you learn sometime soon that life is too precious and short to drive this way.

And by the way, it is common courtesy to turn your headlights off going through the Wye Barricade.

Daniel Muehleisen
Fluor Federal Services ■