

FFTF, PNNL receive Voluntary Protection Program Gold Star

Fluor Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility is the most recent Hanford organization to receive the Department of Energy's highest safety recognition — the Voluntary Protection Program Gold Star. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory received word on June 28 that it had been given the same recognition of its safety program.

Both organizations, along with Fluor Federal Services, received DOE-VPP Gold Star flags and recognition during special ceremonies late last week. FFS was informed in mid-July that it had achieved Gold Star status ("Fluor Federal Services earns VPP Star status," *Hanford Reach*, July 16).

DOE-VPP Gold Stars were awarded earlier to Day & Zimmerman Protection Technology Hanford and DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, the first two Hanford organizations to earn the highest VPP status.

"For the past few years, our staff and managers have worked hard to demonstrate that PNNL has a strong safety culture where staff and managers share a common belief that all employees are responsible for safety and health in the workplace," said Don Boyd, PNNL deputy laboratory director for Operations, in a message to the PNNL staff. "I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your efforts to incorporate this important program into the workplace."

FFTF is the first of the Fluor Hanford projects awarded the DOE-VPP Gold Star. The River Corridor Project is next in line for review of its application.

"This award shows the world-class nature of the FFTF staff, as we maintain the readiness of the reactor to restart," said Bruce Klos, senior director of the FFTF Project for Fluor Hanford. "The DOE-VPP Gold Star is an employee initiative that surpasses the Integrated Safety Management core functions and guiding principles. It serves as a great test of an organization's character."

"Our success is due to our strong employee safety council, our employees and management support," added Steve Doebler, FFTF plant manager.

FFTF is the first DOE Class A nuclear reactor facility to achieve the DOE-VPP Gold Star. DOE Headquarters commended the FFTF staff of about 250 for having a "very strong safety culture." According to the on-site review team, responses to questions put to employees, managers and DOE representatives showed no differences in attitude, indicating a cohesive safety culture. ♦