

# REACH



A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees

## VPP Gold Star winners display their colors

Hanford was the scene of a flurry of safety recognitions when the Department of Energy awarded its top safety award three times in a 24-hour period July 25 and 26.

DOE Voluntary Protection Program Gold Star certificates and flags were bestowed upon the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory operated by the Battelle Memorial Institute for the DOE Richland Operations Office, the Fast Flux Test Facility Project operated by Fluor Hanford for DOE-RL, and Fluor Federal Services. The awards were made in separate ceremonies by Dr. Harry Pettengill, director of the DOE Office of Regulatory Liaison, which administrates DOE's VPP occupational safety program.

Hanford's three new Gold Stars join elite ranks of 18 DOE entities that include Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford and DynCorp Tri-Cities Services. With five of the 18 DOE VPP Gold Stars, Hanford currently has the most in the DOE complex, accounting for 28 percent of DOE's top-ranking safety and health programs.

Initiated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and adopted by DOE, the DOE VPP encourages companies to exceed minimum OSHA safety requirements, provides them with a mechanism for demonstrating excellence in worker safety and health, and recognizes achievement in both the technical and managerial protection of employees.

The Voluntary Protection Program expands traditional safety and health programs by encouraging employee involvement and a partnership with labor to reduce injuries and obtain superior safety performance.

Fluor Hanford Occupational Safety and Health Director Dave Jackson explained, "Companies that commit to achieving Gold Star status in the Voluntary Protection Program must work hand-in-hand with their employees and labor representatives to ensure that employees own the safety and health program, are involved in hazard prevention and recognition, and assist in the continuous improvement process.



Photo by Gary Eder of FFTF Nuclear Training

**The Fast Flux Test Facility proudly flies its VPP Gold Star flag. DOE announced last Wednesday that it will take another 60 days to decide the fate of the FFTF, while it reviews a proposal to use the reactor for commercial production of isotopes.**

*Continued on page 2.*

## VPP Gold Star winners display their colors, cont.

“Once the partnership is achieved,” Jackson continued, “and the safety systems are successfully reducing injuries, the company is ready to make application to the Department of Energy. After the paperwork is assessed and found acceptable by the DOE VPP criteria, an on-site evaluation is conducted that covers five key areas: management leadership, employee involvement, hazard prevention and control, work-site analysis, and safety and health training.

“These three awards recognize the performance of all employees in these companies, including those represented by the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and the Central Washington Building Trades Council,” Jackson concluded.

The drive to obtain DOE VPP Gold Star status continues at Hanford. Recently, application review began for a second Fluor Hanford project, the River Corridor Project. ♦

*Continued on page 3.*

		Distribution questions: call the Mailroom, 375-5170  See the <i>Hanford Reach</i> on the Web at: <a href="http://www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html">www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html</a>	
<b>Keith Klein, Manager</b> DOE Richland Operations Office	<b>Harry Boston, Manager</b> DOE Office of River Protection		
<b>DOE Richland Operations Office</b> Guy Schein, A7-75, 376-0413, fax 376-1563 <b>DOE Office of River Protection</b> Diane Stock, H6-60, 376-4751, fax 372-1215 <b>Fluor Hanford</b> Editorial office: B3-30, 376-4639, fax 376-5704 Craig Kuhlman, manager of Communications Dennis Cresswell, editor Cornelia Brim, associate editor Sally Green, designer <b>Bechtel Hanford, Inc.</b> Sue Kuntz, H0-09, 375-4673, fax 372-9115 <b>Bechtel National, Inc.</b> John Britton, 371-3677 <b>CH2M HILL Hanford Group</b> Ace Etheridge, H7-07, 372-8058, fax 372-8036 <b>Hanford Environmental Health Foundation</b> Erin Weber, H1-52, 376-7879, fax 372-3139 <b>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</b> Katie Larson, K1-55, 375-3698, fax 375-2221	<p>The <i>Hanford Reach</i> is published weekly for all employees of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site.</p> <p>Deadline is 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 days prior to Monday publication. All articles are subject to editing. Consult with the Reach staff before ordering photos. Contact the editors by phone, fax, site mail or e-mail.</p>	 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.	<b>Hanford Reach, B3-30</b> Fluor Hanford P.O. Box 1000, Richland, WA 99352 Fax: 376-5704 e-mail: <a href="mailto:Hanford_Reach@rl.gov">Hanford_Reach@rl.gov</a> Phone: (509) 376-4639

## VPP Gold Star winners display their colors, cont.

### FFTF's active safety council key component

---

The Fast Flux Test Facility Project was recognized as the first DOE Class A nuclear reactor facility to achieve DOE VPP Gold Star status and the first of the five projects operated by Fluor Hanford for DOE-RL. With regard to commercial reactors, only Entergy's Russellville, Ark., reactor is a Star in the OSHA VPP program.

"This award shows the world-class nature of the FFTF staff as we remain in standby, supporting a possible restart," said Bruce Klos, Fluor Hanford's senior director of the FFTF Project.

Rick Zimmerman, FFTF Safety Team lead, said, "A key component to the success was the active safety council. The bargaining unit-led council has been in operation for over 20 years and initiates an annual Safety Improvement Plan that guides management and employee activities."

Zimmerman said the review team noted an important theme in employee comments like one by millwright and Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council steward Dan Pitts, "VPP is nothing new to us. Someone just figured out what to call it." Zimmerman also said the team found no difference among answers provided by employees, management and DOE — indicating a cohesive safety culture.

### FFS gets Gold Star for strong safety culture

---

In two separate events for its employees on July 25 and July 27, Fluor Federal Services celebrated the VPP Gold Star status the company was awarded earlier in July. In the award letter, Pettengill noted that "...Fluor Federal Services has established a strong safety culture where both managers and employees share the belief that all employees are responsible and accountable for safety and health in the workplace."

Kent Campbell, Fluor Federal Services vice president and general manager, noted, "The daily focus on safety by all our employees and subcontractors is paying off....But the best reward is knowing people, many of whom often work in potentially hazardous conditions, are going home each day, injury-free."

Fluor Federal Services' 840 employees (including 180 Central Washington Building Trades Council craft workers) provide project management, engineering, procurement and construction services worldwide. In addition to work for DOE at Hanford, Fluor Federal Services employees work on construction projects for the Department of Defense and disaster recovery efforts for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### Team effort earns Gold Star for PNNL

---

On July 26, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory became the first Office of Science laboratory nationwide to receive the prestigious Voluntary Protection Program's Gold Star for outstanding performance in employee safety and health. DOE Office of Regulatory Liaison Director Harry Pettengill awarded PNNL Director Lura Powell the VPP Gold Star flag in a ceremony at the laboratory.

"I am pleased to accept this award on behalf of PNNL and Battelle," Powell said. "This has been a team effort on all levels, from the VPP Steering Committee to all 3,500 employees at the laboratory. Having broad employee involvement is the hallmark of VPP."

During the ceremony, Pettengill explained that the program is a partnership among labor, employees, management and government to promote safety and health excellence in the workplace. ♦