

# Engineer applies Deming's techniques to cleanup

A Fluor Hanford engineer is the author of "Cleaning up with SPC" (statistical process control), an article appearing in the August edition of *Quality Progress*, the American Society of Quality (ASQ) magazine.

Steven Prevette works for Fluor Hanford Environment, Safety and Health. He is a member of ASQ and an ASQ-certified quality engineer.

The article discusses the role of SPC in managing safety and quality information at Hanford and covers progress achieved in both injury reduction and in process improvement during the past several years as the use of SPC expanded. Prevette submitted the story for the magazine's new "Emerging Sectors" section.

The public can access selected articles at the magazine's Internet site, <http://www.asq.org/pub/qualityprogress/index.html>, but the full text is in the "members only" area.

Prevette said, "We are applying Dr. W. Edwards Deming's System of Profound Knowledge management techniques to improving the Hanford cleanup. The method allows identification of areas ripe for improvement and a focusing of worker inputs, and removes barriers to allow workers and managers to work together to achieve improvement.

"In these days of scarce resources and limited budgets, gaining the most information out of our data and applying it is necessary," Prevette concluded.

The American Society of Quality has sponsored training and application of these statistical methods at Kadlec Hospital, the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Franklin County Coroner's office. Prevette teaches courses at the Richland campus of City University and is co-founder of a Tri-Cities Deming Discussion group for networking among local practitioners of Dr. Deming's methods.

Dr. Deming, who lived from 1900 to 1993, was a pioneer in the quality movement and has been credited with initiating worldwide improvements in manufacturing and business management. ♦