

Survey says...ERC team most satisfied with safety

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Last month, a report released by the National Safety Council found that staff members of the Environmental Restoration Contractor team feel the safest at work among Hanford Site employees.

The ERC team comprises Bechtel Hanford, Inc. and its pre-selected contractors CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc. and Eberline Services Hanford, Inc. The ERC team, as part of the Environmental Restoration Project, cleans up contaminated facilities, soils and groundwater, and performs surveillance, maintenance and transition services at Hanford for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office.

The report is a detailed analysis of data collected last summer by the National Safety Council for DOE. More than 600 Hanford employees completed the survey, which was designed to test employees' perceptions of safety.

The National Safety Council assessed six areas:

- management participation in safety
- supervisory participation in safety
- employee participation in safety
- safety support activities
- safety support climate
- organizational structure.

There were also two additional categories — employees' perceptions of DOE's Integrated Safety Management System and of DOE Headquarters. Combined, respondents answered questions in each of the eight categories based on their experience with their respective employers.

The ERC team ranked the highest overall of the Hanford organizations. The ERC team also ranked in the 99th percentile among companies surveyed nationally.

"The ERC team did well compared to other companies surveyed across the nation," said Tom Logan, Bechtel Hanford vice president of Operations. "We are proud to be among the top companies surveyed by the National Safety Council in regards to employees feeling safe at work. It is a credit to our employees and their work."

The National Safety Council surveyed both exempt and non-exempt employees, and the results showed no difference in safety perceptions between the two groups. Jim Tarpinian, the Bechtel Hanford manager of quality, safety and health, said the parallel feelings within the ERC team reflect safety practices in the field and office.

"The survey results indicate a very healthy safety culture within the ERC team, based on the positive employee perceptions of our culture," Tarpinian said. "The things that we're doing to ensure employee safety are working well for us, but we can't allow ourselves to become complacent. Maintaining a safety culture requires continued focus every single day." ♦



Environmental Restoration Contractor team workers remove a vessel from a process hood, a highly contaminated area at the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility, which the Bechtel-led ERC team is decommissioning. A recent report released by the National Safety Council found ERC team members feel safer at work compared to other Hanford organizations.