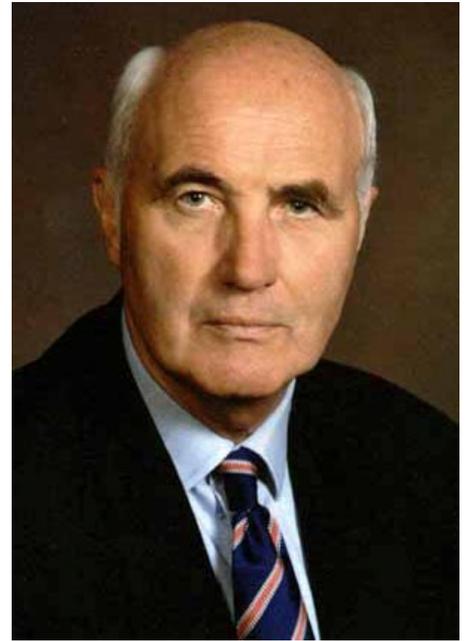


# FH President Thomson addresses Richland Rotarians

Michele Gerber, FH

Fluor Hanford's new president, E. Keith Thomson, addressing the Richland Rotary Club in one of his first major community speeches, called cleanup work at the Hanford Site "a noble task." Speaking on Sept. 11, the day of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, Thomson said, "The whole system of U.S. values and the American way of life is under attack today." He asserted his belief that "it's our personal duty to continue functioning...to continue to hold meetings like this Rotary meeting, because terrorists want attention and disruption. By continuing to meet, we defend our way of life."



**Thomson**

## Tri-Cities, Hanford unique

Thomson won over the crowd with stories of some of his nearly unbelievable experiences in engineering projects around the world, and by underscoring the deep hospitality and warmth he feels in the Tri-Cities community. He likened the Hanford Site to a glorious old "veteran" who needs care. In many local gatherings, he said, "Most of the people have more experience with Hanford than I do....That humbles me."

Thomson acknowledged that while the Fluor Corporation has done excellent work in construction for 76 years and now operates in 60 countries, coming to the Hanford Site and the Tri-Cities was unique. The relationship between FH as the prime contractor and the community, he said, is closer, more personal and more visible, occurs on more levels, and has more implications for all involved than do most corporate-community relationships. "It's obvious to me," he said, "that the Tri-Cities cares deeply about itself and about others. And Hanford people love this community very much."

## Commitments strong

Fluor Hanford's new contract, signed with the Department of Energy last December, extends to Sept. 30, 2006. The contract contains many strong community commitments, including continuing Fluor Foundation support to various community agencies; supporting social, civic, educational and charitable organizations in the Tri-Cities; providing a top-level industrial recruiter to the Tri-City Industrial Development Council, or TRIDEC; maintaining an economic development fund to assist local economic development agencies; and continuing to provide Global Location Strategies consultants in support of economic development and diversification.

"We at FH are proud of the ways that we're pitching in to help build the Tri-Cities into the best community it can be," affirmed Thomson. Together, Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services, a corporate affiliate, constitute the largest single donor to the Tri-Cities United Way campaigns and to TRIDEC. They are also one of the top contributors to the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau.

FH and FFS also are major corporate sponsors for more than 45 other community organizations. In the past two years, the 350 FH Community Involvement Team members donated over 4,000 hours of "sweat equity" to 25 community projects. Thomson also noted that Washington State University is a target school for scholarships and other assistance from Fluor Corporation.

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## FH President Thomson addresses Richland Rotarians, cont.

Thomson said a key FH goal is to treat workers carefully. “We want to plan carefully so as not to hire and then fire in an up-and-down fashion.” He said the company wants to avoid adding to the familiar but discouraging “boom-bust” cycle that has occurred for many years in the Tri-Cities.

### Cleanup the key

As important as direct community support, Thomson told the Rotarians, is the company’s mission. “The best and most fundamental thing we — as FH — can do to assist this community and build this community is to get on with Hanford cleanup,” he said. He said a cleaner Hanford Site can only have a positive effect on all efforts to bring new, diversified industry to the Tri-Cities region.

Fluor Hanford manages four key cleanup projects in addition to the Fast Flux Test Facility and Site Services, and it oversees the subcontractor that protects special nuclear materials. The Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, he said, is FH’s highest-visibility project because it plays such a key and tangible role in protecting the Columbia River.

The SNF Project’s fuel, sludge, debris and water contain 95 percent of the radioactivity in Hanford’s reactor areas.

Since fuel movement began last December, the SNF Project has moved 23 containers of fuel, containing over 3 million curies of radioactivity, away from the rivershore. The project also has innovations in place to move fuel faster. FH expects to move all fuel away from the rivershore by mid-2004, and the company has developed new proposals that will close the entire project by Sept. 30, 2006.

Thomson also reported on FH’s Nuclear Material Stabilization Project, which stabilizes plutonium into forms that can be safely contained and stored. This project has a short and intense schedule much like the SNF Project. Stabilization began in 2000, and FH quadrupled the stabilization rate in 2001. The company expects to complete this work at Hanford’s Plutonium Finishing Plant in 2004.

Thomson reminded the Richland Rotarians that, together with the removal of spent nuclear fuel, the end of plutonium stabilization work will make 2004 a *very* significant and victorious year for all who care about the Tri-Cities.

FH’s River Corridor Project cleans out and tears down old facilities in Hanford’s 300 Area, the nuclear area closest to the Tri-Cities. Additionally, Fluor’s Waste Management Project retrieves, processes, stores, ships and disposes of Hanford’s solid wastes. Some of that waste is being shipped to New Mexico, and those shipments are going safely and well. Other waste is being taken care of here at Hanford with new packaging, labeling and safe burial.

### Fluor’s core values

“Four key core values underscore FH work at Hanford,” Thomson said. “SITE — Safety, Integrity, Teamwork and Excellence — is our motto. We simply won’t do work that isn’t safe, excellent and based on integrity. And, without teamwork, you can’t accomplish anything worthwhile.”

Thomson, a British native, spent eight years in the Royal Air Force in the 1950s and early 1960s. He then moved to the United States, became a citizen and spent 36 years in construction and engineering project management. Having lived in India, Venezuela, Canada, England, the Middle East and the U.S., Thomson joked with the crowd that he’s been “unable to hold a steady job for many years.” He holds degrees in mechanical engineering and business-related fields from Stanford University, Golden Gate University and the University of California. ♦