

# CHG, Russians meet to share technical information

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More than 55 scientists and engineers from Russia and the United States recently gathered at Hanford to share technologies and practical experience on cleanup of the nuclear waste from the world's weapons production.

The information exchange was a two-day event hosted by CH2M HILL Hanford Group and the Department of Energy Office of River Protection.

CHG President Fran DeLozier, CH2M HILL, Ltd. Vice President Mike Rengel and Bechtel National Project Manager Ron Naventi opened the first day of the exchange by encouraging everyone to discuss common problems and solutions in the storage, retrieval and treatment of radioactive tank waste.

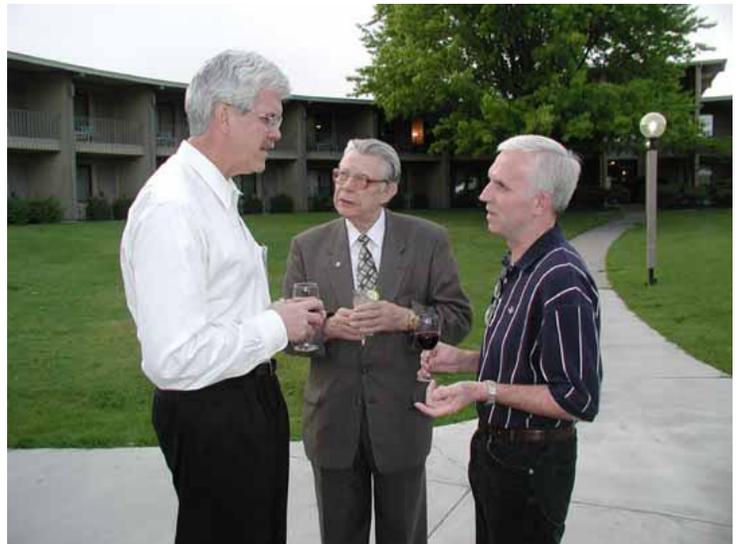
"Technological information exchanges such as this allow CH2M HILL Hanford Group to make the most of its progress in tank waste retrieval by communicating with peers who are currently working in similar activities, and by sharing developing technologies in the nuclear cleanup efforts around the world," said DeLozier.

The Americans who made presentations were from DOE's Hanford, Savannah River, Oak Ridge and Sandia sites. Russian presenters represented the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, the Khlopin Radium Institute in St. Petersburg, the Tank Retrieval and Closure Demonstration Center at the Mining and Chemical Combine site, and the Mayak site. Roundtable discussions followed the presentations with opportunities for participants to talk about engineering solutions in use or under development.

The guests toured the Hanford Site by bus and were treated to American hospitality with a barbecue, a trip to a local winery and an excursion to the Wanapum Interpretive Center. These informal events allowed opportunities for in-depth exploration of the technical challenges inherent in nuclear waste cleanup and ways that U.S. and Russian groups can work together to overcome those challenges.



American and Russian engineers and scientists enjoy a meal together.



CH2M HILL, Ltd. Vice President Mike Rengel (left) chats with Boris Myasoedov of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Valeriy Romanovskiy of the Khlopin Radium Institute.

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## CHG, Russians meet to share technical information, cont.

During the final session, an action list was developed to further the cooperation between U.S. and Russian nuclear sites. The participants walked away with a new appreciation of the common problems shared by the two groups.

“This is one of the most beneficial of these workshops that I have attended,” said Peter Green, deputy director of Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention in the National Nuclear Security Administration, part of the DOE Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation. ♦

### Russia's defense nuclear infrastructure

Russia's **Khlopin Radium Institute** is the oldest nuclear research institute in Russia. Scientists there are researching cleanup of radioactive waste and applications for radioactive isotopes, such as medical uses.

The **Mining and Chemical Combine** is much like DOE's Hanford and Oak Ridge sites, but it is located inside a mountain. The site still produces plutonium.

The **Tank Retrieval and Closure Demonstration Center** at the Mining and Chemical Combine tests equipment such as pumps and robotic arms for use at the Hanford and Savannah River Sites.

The **Mayak site** in the Southern Ural Mountains reprocesses nuclear waste. Mayak has 100 nuclear waste storage tanks with a total volume of around 1.85 million gallons. Liquid waste at Mayak is being vitrified.