

ERC team reaches 4-million-ton milestone

Edye Jenkins, *Bechtel Hanford*

In January, the 4-millionth ton of contaminated waste was placed in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. Four million tons is enough to fill the Empire State Building 1.5 times.

“ERDF is key to cleaning up the Hanford Site in a safe, cost-effective manner and to protecting the Columbia River,” said Owen Robertson, who oversees ERDF work for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Richland Operations Office.

The massive disposal facility for Hanford’s low-level and hazardous waste is on the central plateau. On an average day, workers at ERDF typically receive 145 containers of low-level and hazardous waste, rock, soil and other debris, mostly from liquid waste effluent clean-up sites along the Columbia River.

“In addition, demolition and cocooning debris from Hanford’s old production reactors and waste from other Hanford contractors also is filling the facility,” said Jeff James, ERDF site supervisor for Bechtel Hanford. “The waste-disposal process requires several steps, including coordinating the limited number of containers and trucks so that work at ERDF and the dig sites continues efficiently and safely.”

Once the waste is collected, it is placed into containers — or cans — that hold up to 20 tons. Drivers for various Bechtel Hanford subcontractors haul the cans from the dig sites to a nearby staging area. From there, drivers for RCI Environmental haul the cans over Hanford Site roads to the ERDF container transfer area.

Duratek Federal Services’ drivers then take the cans into the disposal facility, dump their loads and deliver the empty cans back to the transfer area. The cans are then delivered back to the dig sites or wherever they are needed, and the process begins again.

“One of our biggest challenges is to balance the optimum number of cans at each site with ERDF operations,” said James. “Some sites need more than others and that can change from day to day.”



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What was once a very large hole in the ground is nearing its operational capacity of 5.2 million tons. More than 4 million tons of contaminated soil and debris fill the four existing “cells” at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. Work is under way to expand the ERDF’s capacity by 2.8 million tons, or two additional cells. The current design capacity of the ERDF is 12 cells, based on projected waste volumes.

ERC team reaches 4-million-ton milestone, cont.

The ERDF comprises four enormous areas, or “cells,” each with a bottom liner of multiple layers of plastic, other impermeable materials and a system to catch liquids as they drain from waste materials. The waste itself is compacted in two 35-foot layers separated by 2 feet of clean fill.

“The first two cells were completed in 1996 and are 70 feet deep, 500 feet long and 500 feet wide — large enough to contain 2.4 million tons of waste materials,” said Vern Dronen, Bechtel Hanford project manager for Remedial Action and Waste Disposal.

While the team continued disposing of waste in the first two cells, construction of cells three and four began in the fall of 1998. The new cells were ready to begin receiving waste in the spring of 2000. Together, the capacity of the four cells is 5.2 million tons, which will be reached by March 2005, given current operations.

With an estimated 10 million tons of waste along the Columbia River corridor, DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have proposed adding four more cells to ERDF, doubling its capacity. Design for cells five and six will be completed in March, and construction will begin early next fiscal year. The cells are expected to be ready to receive waste in fiscal year 2005.

“We are extremely proud of the design and performance of ERDF and of the efficiency of the team,” Robertson said. “And, the team’s dedication to safety — zero lost-day accidents since operations started in 1996 while working under an aggressive schedule — is an extraordinary accomplishment.”

Duratek Federal Services is responsible for daily disposal operations at ERDF under subcontract to Bechtel Hanford, which manages the facility for DOE. Eberline Services Hanford provides radiological control services. ■

'State of the Site' meetings highlight accelerated cleanup

The Department of Energy, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency held the second series of "State of the Hanford Site" meetings last month in Seattle, Hood River, Portland and the Tri-Cities. The January meetings were intended to inform the public of Hanford's cleanup goals and progress and to answer questions about Hanford activities.

Participants included Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office; Roy Schepens, manager of the DOE Office of River Protection; Tom Fitzsimmons, local director of Ecology for the state; and Mike Gearheard, EPA Region 10 deputy administrator for Superfund programs.

In their opening remarks, Klein and Schepens talked about the recent progress at Hanford and their plans to accelerate cleanup. Klein discussed recent successes with the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, which recently completed removing 957 metric tons of heavy metal from the K West Basin.

In addition, Klein addressed the main concern expressed at last year's meeting, which was the status of Hanford's groundwater. He told stakeholders that DOE has developed a new groundwater-protection strategy and is still dedicated to making progress on this issue.

Schepens spoke about his commitment to moving forward on tank-waste cleanup. He talked about the Waste Treatment Plant and said it is the cornerstone of tank cleanup. In addition, he told stakeholders about supplemental technologies, which are going to assist the Office of River Protection in completing its job by 2028.

The EPA and Ecology officials said that a significant amount of work is being done at Hanford. The agencies plan to continue to establish joint goals and focus on cleanup.

More than 100 people attended each meeting. In Seattle, Hood River and Portland, questions centered around the importation of waste, concerns about groundwater and about alternative ways to treat waste. In the Tri-Cities, the topics included issues about worker safety and health. Fitzsimmons promised that worker safety and health issues would be the focal point of next year's meetings.

Representatives of all three Tri-Party Agreement agencies consider the second annual State of the Hanford Site meetings to have been successful in sharing information about Hanford's past successes and future challenges. ■



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Roy Schepens, right, manager of the DOE Office of River Protection, discussed the numerous successes at Hanford during the "State of the Site" meeting in Portland.

CEO Keith Thomson retires from Fluor Hanford

Fluor Hanford President and Chief Executive Officer Keith Thomson entered retirement last Friday, following a Jan. 30 announcement in which he was praised by Fluor executives.

“Under Keith’s leadership, the Fluor Hanford team has made significant progress on cleanup,” said Ron Oakley, Fluor Corporation’s group executive for the Government Services group. “A most recent success has been removing nearly half of the 2,100 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel in the K Basins, next to the Columbia River — one of Hanford’s most pressing cleanup efforts.

Another highlight of Thomson’s tenure included Fluor’s recent negotiations with the Department of Energy to restructure the Project Hanford Management Contract, defining aggressive deliverables that are pivotal to accelerating the cleanup at Hanford.

“Hanford has been the most complex and technically challenging operation of my 39-year career,” said Thomson. “Equally rewarding was the interaction with the diverse stakeholders involved with the outcome of Hanford’s cleanup. Now, I’m looking forward to a change of pace and pursuing some business interests in Washington, D.C.”

Dave Van Leuven will continue as Fluor Hanford’s executive vice president and chief operating officer. In this capacity, he will lead the Fluor Hanford management team and manage day-to-day operations. Oakley has asked Ron Hanson, former Fluor Hanford president and current lead for the Government Services group’s energy business line, to be personally responsible for leading a corporate team to finalize initiatives, including an organizational realignment already under way.

Thomson assumed his current position in March 2001, with 37 years of experience in engineering and environmental project management. His 12-year career with Fluor Corporation included assignments in Europe, India, South America and the United States. ■



Retiring Fluor Hanford President Keith Thomson accepts a token of his years at Hanford from Al Bowser, president and general manager of Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford.

Energy-saving power strips available on site at no cost

The Bonneville Power Administration Office of Energy Efficiency has provided 6,500 WattStopper™ motion-sensing power strips for use on the Hanford Site, as part of a BPA “Energy Buy Back” energy-conservation initiative through the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, and as proposed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

The motion-sensing power strips are available to all DOE contractors at no cost to the user. While targeted for idle computers, the strips will work for any electrical device you might have in your workspace, provided the loads are within the 15-ampere rating capacity of the unit. Heaters exceed the rating of the unit. Users of WattStoppers should refer to the manufacturer contacts for specifics on unit capacities. Detailed instructions are enclosed with the WattStoppers.

WattStoppers use an infrared sensor to detect movement in the workspace, and restore power to idle computer printers, monitors, task lights and other electrical items. The device also has two “uncontrolled” outlets for your computer’s central processing unit, which should have a constant source of power. The surge-protector power strips are Underwriters Laboratories-listed. They feature an overload breaker, have a manual off-switch and use a new flat-style plug. Make sure you firmly grasp the plug by the indents on the side when plugging or unplugging to avoid coming in contact with the metal prongs and getting an electrical shock.

WattStoppers are packaged six to a box, so organizations are encouraged to order multiples of six units; but the warehouse can accommodate small and large orders. The PassPort number for WattStoppers is 614720.

As part of this energy-conservation proposal, the BPA has provided funding for Hanford Site representatives to speak on the benefits of WattStopper, assist users with installation questions and follow up with users to measure the success of the program. For more information, contact David Kelly, Fluor Hanford Site Operations, at 376-7334. For questions about ordering, contact Joe Caudill at 372-0084. ■



The WattStopper motion-sensing energy conservation power strip features two uncontrolled plugs at the top, six motion-sensor-controlled plugs along the bottom and a master power switch. In the foreground on the left is the new flat-style plug, on the right the motion sensor, attached with double-stick tape to a user-supplied flat magnet so it can be applied under a metal shelf or on a task light.



Keith Ramsay, Richland Fire Department public education specialist, and “Rodney the Rabbit” talk about fire safety at Safe Kids Saturday. A recent \$500 grant from CH2M HILL Hanford Group’s Administrative Accident Prevention Council, with other area funding, will help support several community safety programs.

CH2M HILL safety council grant helps with community safety education

Last year, CH2M HILL Hanford Group awarded each of the company’s safety councils \$500 after company employees reached the 2-million-work-hour safety mark. The use of the \$500 was left up to each safety council.

The Administrative Accident Prevention Council found a safety-related use for their \$500 — they donated it to the Richland Fire Department. The \$500 will help fund such safety programs as Risk Watch, an injury-prevention program for kids under 16, as well as home safety inspections and the purchase of bicycle helmets and life jackets. Presentations on fire safety are made at each of the community’s elementary schools and events such as Safe Kids Saturday, using a 45-minute magic and ventriloquism show.

“We strive to provide cutting-edge, dynamic safety-education programs to the community,” said Keith Ramsay, public education specialist with the Richland Fire Department. “For the number and quality of safety programs offered through our local effort, they’re regarded by many as some of the best in the nation, while relying completely on outside funding. We are incredibly grateful for the \$500 grant.” ■

Mobile assets the result of personal interest, teamwork

Connie Eckard, CH2M HILL

Sometimes it just takes a little personal interest and dedication to get something done. People said Mark Sims of CH2M HILL Hanford Group couldn't get a decontamination trailer ordered before the end of the fiscal year. His co-workers even bet him he couldn't pull it off.

What they didn't figure on is just how strongly Sims felt about the need for mobile units that could handle both radiation and chemical contaminations wherever workers might be exposed at Hanford.

Sims and others doing radiological-control work for CH2M HILL started by developing a list of desired criteria and specifications for a decontamination unit. As the specifications evolved, it was determined that, in addition to being moveable, each unit would also need self-contained power and water supplies for safety showers as well as change areas and locker space for clean clothes and towels.

However, as their desires began to be spelled out, they realized that there was a gap between deciding on specifications and getting such a mobile unit ordered and delivered. "I'm a health physics technician," said Sims. "I didn't know how to make these things happen."

Partly because of his determination to meet the need, Sims had other people working to turn efforts into reality. CH2M HILL senior managers Dave Amerine, John Fulton, Bill Ross, Kevin Dorwick and John Hobbs were responsive and supportive in providing the resources that were needed to make the decontamination units happen. Operators and technicians also worked the issues to support the effort, as did CH2M HILL people from Business Services, Engineering, Operations, Safety and Radiological Control.

Jennifer Simon of CH2M HILL Facilities and Property Management played a key role in expediting the procurement and delivery of the two trailers. From the beginning, she researched the subject, dug out ground-work information and provided Radiological Control with everything needed to initiate the appropriate paperwork to procure the trailers.

"She knew who to call and stayed involved to get things done," said Sims.

Simon credits the teamwork of Diane Kelly of Material Coordinators, Jeff Ranschau of Safety and Health, Perry Bushnell of Procurement and herself. They produced a successful end result by caring and staying in continuous communication from start to finish.

Advanced Containment Systems, Inc. had to build the trailers to specifications developed in the tank farms. The trailers, manufactured outside Houston, include many features ACSI had designed for the Marine Corps. Each trailer contains a water supply, a diesel engine, a generator and a ventilation system.



Mark Sims of CH2M HILL Hanford Group stands in the open bay of a new decontamination mobile unit. The bay includes two water heaters that will sustain 20 gallons a minute of instantly heated water for safety showers.

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Mobile assets the result of personal interest, teamwork, cont.

The trailers are the same type recently ordered by New York State hazardous materials response officials to be used in “ground zero” situations.

Sims was sent to Houston to approve the custom-built trailers before they were shipped from the manufacturer. “I was impressed that the ACSI people fixed every discrepancy from our specifications while we were standing there,” said Sims. He also liked that the trailers were red.

Richard DeBusk, CH2M HILL Safety and Health Program director, led efforts to identify the best spill kits available. DeBusk then used a crosscutting team of hourly and other employees to add materials for responding to specific hazards in the tank farms.



Two decontamination trailers will provide new capabilities for tank-farm worker safety in the 200 East and West areas. Thanks to the dedication and efforts of many people, the trailers were ordered and delivered from Houston in only four months.

The trailers have been located at the 242-S Evaporator in the 200 West Area and across the street from 274-AW at the 2715-AW Building in the 200 East Area.

“A comprehensive plan that addresses responding to spills in the tank farms has been developed and is being implemented,” said Amerine, executive vice president and deputy general manager of CH2M HILL. “In addition to reviewing past events, plans for training and drills are being developed to enhance the proficiency of responses.”

A training series will begin this month, and a lot more effort by Sims and others will be needed before the trailers are operational.

Partly for meeting objectives such as no human errors that would reset the “event-free lock” and no recordable injuries — and as part of the CH2M Hill Process Improvement program, for acquiring the decontamination trailers — Sims’ Interim Stabilization Radcon group was rewarded with a new barbecue grill.

Later this spring, after the trailers are operational, the Radcon group just might invite a lot of people over so Sims can practice cooking his renowned Texas smoked chicken on the big, new grill that’s sitting out behind the group’s mobile office building. ■

New antibody library speeds search for detection tools

Staci Maloof, *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*

Scientists at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have extracted part of the human immune system and reconstituted it in brewer's yeast in a fashion that enables powerful machines to quickly identify new antibodies. The advance could have major repercussions for fundamental biological science as well as industries that use antibodies for sensors, biodetectors, diagnostic tools and therapeutic agents.

The technology could eliminate the need to produce antibodies within animals such as mice, and it opens up new possibilities for rapidly designing medical treatments more acceptable to the human immune system. Antibodies are proteins produced by white blood cells as part of the immune response.

"Our antibody library offers many advantages over traditional approaches," said PNNL scientist Michael Feldhaus. "We expect it will be a more effective tool for scientists. Regulated expression of these antibodies allows the library to be expanded while maintaining its diversity. Furthermore, our unique identification process means we can screen for antibodies in days rather than the months it may take using other approaches." Feldhaus is the lead author of a paper appearing in the February issue of *Nature Biotechnology* and posted online Jan. 21.

Feldhaus and colleague Robert Siegel built a library of 1 billion human antibodies and expressed them on the surface of yeast cells using a platform designed by collaborator Dane Wittrup of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The combined technologies offer a more powerful, less expensive method for identifying antibodies.

Antibodies play an increasingly important role in industry because they are effective tools for recognizing specific molecules. When antibodies bind to a specific protein on bacteria, they signal other cells to either kill or remove the bacteria. In medical treatments, antibodies are being injected into the body to seek out specific proteins on cancerous cells, for example, and target treatment to those cells.

Bio-warfare detectors can use antibodies to locate proteins as a way of identifying harmful agents. Antibodies also are expected to play a major role in helping scientists to more fully understand various biological processes by identifying which proteins are present and whether they interact with any other proteins in the cell.

Most importantly, by incorporating Wittrup's yeast-surface display method, PNNL scientists can readily modify how an antibody binds to proteins. Being able to bind a protein and antibody more tightly, for example, could increase antibody effectiveness for detecting pathogens or disease.

Wittrup originally developed the yeast-surface display as a way to improve the binding of antibodies to chemicals. Now he uses PNNL's antibody library with his display platform in a multitude of studies, many directed at development of novel cancer therapeutics.

"We expect the wide availability of this library will open a door into antibody engineering technology for life-sciences researchers currently using classic mouse hybridoma methods to make affinity reagents," said Wittrup.

PNNL has received additional funding from the Department of Energy to implement the antibody library for bioterrorism detection. This current research was conducted with funding from the National Science Foundation, the Hereditary Disease Foundation and PNNL's own Biomolecular Systems Initiative. ■

Undergrads star in FaST times at DOE laboratory

Based on work they did last summer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, two University of Arizona students have been invited to present a paper at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The AAAS will hold its annual meeting — the largest general science conference in America — in Denver Feb.13-18.

The students, along with four UA faculty members, were participants in the Faculty and Student Teams (FaST) program sponsored by the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. The program allows faculty members and PNNL engineers to work together to pursue research projects, while at the same time providing gifted undergraduates a chance to participate in real-life research that could yield an important product.

The paper, “Development of Polymeric Waste Forms for the Encapsulation of Toxic Wastes Using an Emulsion-based Process,” will be presented during a poster session. It was also selected by DOE for publication in Volume 3 of its Web-based periodical, “Journal of Undergraduate Research.”

The students, Rachel Evans and Anh Quach, teamed with four UA faculty members to develop environmentally friendly ways to isolate toxic waste. The process could eventually produce a lower-cost, more environmentally benign approach to toxic-waste disposal. The project is part of the UA engineering department’s continuing effort to build a long-term working relationship with PNNL.

PNNL senior research scientists Harry Smith and staff scientist Gary Smith, a UA alumnus, provided project support. Managers Rod Quinn and Loni Peurrung secured the financial resources that the FaST team needed to be successful.

The UA faculty members are working to secure another FaST program grant for next summer and plan to continue developing other collaborative projects with PNNL. ■



University of Arizona students Rachel Evans (right) and Anh Quach discuss the results of their research with Ray Orbach, director of DOE’s Office of Science, during a visit to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory last summer. The two will present the results of their research to the upcoming meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Also pictured are two of their faculty advisors, professor Dunbar Birnie (left) and associate professor Brian Zelinski.

Secretary of Energy unveils proposed 2004 budget

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham released the Department of Energy's fiscal year 2004 budget request to Congress, calling it a "good reflection on the Energy Department, its programs and its people."

Abraham said the \$23.4 billion budget request demonstrates that the administration and the Congress recognize the critical contribution the department is making toward national security, energy security and our leadership position in science and technology.

"The President demands results and we have delivered," Abraham said in announcing the budget request. "We have proven our worth by taking huge strides in carrying out our national- security mission by maintaining our nuclear stockpile, rebuilding the capabilities of our defense complex, and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and materials." He also discussed the department's efforts to revise and accelerate environmental cleanup plans.

Environment

Abraham said the budget request of \$7.2 billion for Environmental Management, an increase of \$361 million over the FY 2003 request, reflects a commitment to accelerating the cleanup of legacy waste. Over the past year, he noted, DOE has worked very closely with the states, federal regulators and the general public to establish strategies and prepare detailed performance management plans for 18 of the 39 remaining DOE cleanup sites.

A new Office of Legacy Management has been formed, with responsibility for post-cleanup activities and administering DOE's human and physical resource obligations after a site is closed.

The President's recommendation and Congress' approval of Yucca Mountain, Nev., as the nation's high-level nuclear waste repository was a step forward in advancing the department's goal to ensure the safe and secure disposition of dangerous nuclear materials. The budget request maintains the fiscal 2003 level of \$591

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| | FY02 | FY03 | FY04 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | 792 | 852 | 963 |
|  | 1,028 | 1,132 | 1,079 |
| Total Hanford | 1,820 | 1,984 | 2,042 |

\$ In Millions

NOTE: Proposed FY 2004 figures do not include the Federal Program Direction budget which is considered a "national program."

Secretary of Energy unveils proposed 2004 budget, cont.

million for the department's repository program. This funding will enable DOE to complete work needed for a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2004 and develop transportation capabilities.

The budget also includes \$138 million for the Office of Environment, Safety and Health and \$15 million for the Office of Worker and Community Transition.

Office of Science

The request for the Office of Science includes \$197 million, an increase of \$64 million over the FY 2003 request, to support nanoscience research, the study of matter at the atomic and molecular level, which will benefit every aspect of society. Through this effort, the United States will lead the world in the area of nano science. With this amount, the department will design and construct five new nanoscience research centers.

The department requested \$173.5 million for the Advanced Scientific Computing Research program. The program's goal is to foster and support fundamental research in advanced scientific computing and provide the high-performance computational and networking tools that enable the department to succeed in its science, energy, environmental-quality and national-security missions.

In biological and environmental research, the Genomes to Life program, which funds research to address energy, environmental and national-security needs, continues to expand from \$34.5 million to \$59 million in FY 2004, as a research program on the leading edge of biology.

The FY 2004 budget request reflects the transfer of several activities to the newly established Homeland Security Department. The transfer includes activities relating to chemical and biological, nuclear smuggling, national security, energy security, and nuclear threat assessment. Other related homeland security activities will remain within DOE.

The entire FY 2004 budget can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mbe.doe.gov/budget>. ■

Do you know who your building warden is?

Building wardens assigned to non-hazardous facilities on site are responsible for ensuring protective actions are implemented for building occupants during emergencies. This is a critical duty, as the warden's responsibilities include personnel accountability, shutting down ventilation systems during take-covers and obtaining transportation for evacuations.

With the current shift of employees, building administrators need to ensure that all building warden positions are filled and Facility Emergency Response Information Boards in each facility reflect current contact information.

Before moving to a different building or area, building wardens are required to notify their building administrators so that new building wardens can be identified and trained. Without a trained building warden, building occupants may not take appropriate protective actions during an emergency.

Every employee can help keep emergency- response information up to date. Review the Facility Emergency Response Information Board in your facility today, and on a periodic basis, to ensure that you are familiar with your building emergency organization and information. If you find out-of-date information, inform your building administrator immediately.

For more information on the building warden requirements or other questions regarding emergency preparedness, call Craig Lansing at 373-4308. ■

The Fast Flux Test Facility — tribute to a loyal workforce

Karin Nickola, *Fluor Hanford*

The fate of the Fast Flux Test Facility is still uncertain. And, because of continuing legal proceedings, not much more can be said in this venue about what the final outcome might be.

But there is another FFTF story that bears telling. It is about dedicated people with real jobs who report to work every day, to do what must be done until a path forward is solidified.

The 27-year veteran

“Harv” Harville was born and raised in Payette, Idaho. In 1975, after serving as an instructor in the Navy, he came to Hanford to work on the FFTF project. As an operator, Harv’s first job assignment was in the 300 Area — testing sodium systems and the Closed Loop Ex-vessel Machine, commonly referred to as CLEM. Today he is an FFTF operations manager with more than 60 people reporting to him.

Harville’s main job responsibility is to keep the planned work on track, and that requires a lot of communication.

On a typical workday, Harville arrives early to review his e-mail and read the plant log from the “shut down” watch. By 6:30 a.m. he is in the plant, observing shift manager “turnover” and receiving a daily status report. By 7:10, he’s attending the “plan of the day” meeting so he knows the status of each item in the weekly plan. By 7:40, he’s with the Plant, Engineering, RadCon, Training and Maintenance managers discussing daily work in progress. By 8 a.m., he’s checking on the work being performed.

An avid runner who has completed 14 marathons, Harville is also a bit of an FFTF history buff with an interesting collection of Hanford paraphernalia. One black-and-white newsletter in his file cabinet pictures him at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, July 2, 1978, turning the valve that brought sodium into the FFTF cooling system.

“I’ll never forget that day,” Harville said. “The Hanford Engineering and Development Laboratory that operated the FFTF was managed by Westinghouse then. It was exciting to be a part of the activity. I still have the orange announcement pin awarded for the successful sodium fill.”



FFTF operations manager Harv Harville stands in the FFTF containment dome. In the background is the Closed Loop Ex-Vessel Machine, used for moving fuel.



A 1978 Westinghouse newsletter read, “Len ‘Harv’ Harville, FFTF operator, opens valves in the FFTF reactor coolant system to permit sodium to flow into the first of three secondary loops.”

Fittingly, Harville was chosen to open the valve to begin draining sodium from the plant, first scheduled to

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The Fast Flux Test Facility — tribute to a loyal workforce, cont.

take place Monday, Nov. 6, 1995 — an action that was terminated just hours before initiation.

“I’m very proud of this plant,” said Harville. “I thoroughly enjoy my job and the people I work with. My co-workers are not only some of the best and brightest in the industry, but many have become good friends. There’s a working atmosphere here that’s hard to describe. I guess the heart of it is, the people are very committed to working well and getting their jobs done safely, regardless of the mission.”

To date, Harville has been with the FFTF project for 27 years.



About 25 years after he started the sodium flowing in the FFTF, operations manager Harv Harville converses with operator Dan Golden in the reactor’s control room.

An FFTF returnee

Duane Burstad, a former Air Force nuclear-weapons technician, came to Hanford in 1976 from the Bremerton Naval Shipyard, where he was working as a radiological control technician. He was assigned to the FFTF on a temporary basis in 1978 to help with construction, and his main job responsibilities were making sure workers followed personal exposure radiological control rules and detecting leaks by performing weld-inspection X-rays. He was permanently assigned to the FFTF in 1979.

Burstad eventually became part of a team tasked with writing instrumentation test procedures for engineers. He also helped write a qualification program for RCTs, and trained them when they were newly assigned to the FFTF.



FFTF senior health physicist Duane Burstad evaluates hand-and-foot monitors as Ruben Silvas “surveys out” of the FFTF reactor containment building.

“In those days, RCTs were called radiation monitors,” said Burstad. “The title was changed to differentiate people from the hand-held monitoring instruments of the same name.”

During the early 1980s, he was assigned to shift work at FFTF. His job was to verify that reactor hot-cell shielding was placed correctly so workers wouldn’t incur “shine” from voids where radiation streams could exceed acceptable dose rates.

Relocated to the 300 Area in the mid-’80s, Burstad wrote the first Westinghouse RCT Certification Program. That was followed by a two-year stint in the 200 Area where he consolidated United Nuclear, Rockwell and Westinghouse RadCon procedures. The consolidation formed a basis for the site-wide standard still in use today.

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The Fast Flux Test Facility — tribute to a loyal workforce, cont. 2

In 1992, Burstad returned to the FFTF to serve as a health physicist. He's currently a senior health physicist at the facility, with more 12 years of FFTF experience under his belt.

"One of the things I have always liked about FFTF is its organizational structure," Burstad said. "The facility has kept a strong central core of people who know how the plant works and are intent on ensuring that things are done correctly. Sometimes that means continuing on with conventional modes of operation. Other times, it means finding a better way. And, while staff members are always cognizant of abiding by the rules, they aren't stuck in their ways or resentful of change. It's very refreshing and makes working together a whole lot easier."

Burstad has always had an interest in photography. At one time, he had his own darkroom and especially enjoyed using innovative techniques to print black-and-white photographs on special-effects papers. Today, when he is not helping his wife compete in dressage compulsories, Burstad spends his spare time reading up on the latest developments in digital photography and electronic photo editing.

A relative newcomer

Tom Scotto is a technical-specifications coordinator and scheduler at FFTF. Raised on Oregon's "wet side" in Saint Helens, he and his family now enjoy living on Washington's dryer side of the mountains. In their spare time, the Scottos raise cherry trees (including new varieties), train and board horses, and go camping and fly-fishing in the back country on horseback.

Before arriving at Hanford in 1993, Scotto worked for the Japanese Gas Corporation's Nuclear and Advanced Technology division as a test engineer, maintenance technician and control-room lead shift operator at the Surry Radiological Waste Facility in Smithfield, Va. While at Surry, Scotto also wrote plant operating and emergency-response procedures, conducted on-the-job training for new operators and began writing operating procedures for Hanford's 200 East Area Effluent Treatment Facility. Eventually, the company transferred him back to the west coast to continue writing procedures and begin classroom training and certification programs. Scotto continued his work with the 200 Area project as an employee of Science Applications International Corporation, or SAIC, before hiring on at FFTF.

Besides normal FFTF job responsibilities — which include identifying, scheduling, developing and closing out work packages — Scotto is very enthusiastic about new computer software skills he is acquiring. The software enables users to quickly shift variables and analyze new scenarios that determine how much time and how many resources are needed to complete hypothetical worksopes.

"The people I interface with are really good for me, and I enjoy working with them, tremendously," said Scotto. "They are so knowledgeable of facility systems, and they're consistently patient and supportive of one another. Even though their mission keeps changing, this group of people always seems able to quickly and competently take stock of where they are and where they need to go."



At right, FFTF project control specialist Kathy Higgins instructs FFTF technical specifications coordinator and scheduler Tom Scotto in the use of project scheduling software.

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The Fast Flux Test Facility — tribute to a loyal workforce, cont. 3

Scotto finds FFTF to be like any typical workplace with its ups and downs. “But I have worked in organizations with far fewer people and not known the professionalism I have known at FFTF,” he said. He’s been at FFTF just short of 10 years.

Uncommon people

Even under the best working conditions, some individuals aren’t happy with their job situations. And they move on for a variety of reasons — higher pay, better benefits, job security, family responsibilities or a more fulfilling career.

At FFTF those individuals seem to be the exception rather than the rule. It is hard to find someone who doesn’t have something good to say about the place and the people — even with thoughts of *if* and *when* on their minds.

When employees reflect on the Fast Flux Test Facility, the word that surfaces most often is “professionalism.” Despite the twists and turns in the road toward cleanup, the people who work there do not shirk their duties or draw apart from one another. Rather, like a championship athletic team, they rally with incredible dignity — pulling together at all levels, drawing strength from each other and doing what must be done.

It’s this extraordinary commitment to their joint effort and doing a job well that is keeping FFTF on track *until...* ■

Skills Lab can help improve your writing, reading and math

The Skills Enhancement Lab is offering its popular “brush up” grammar classes this month, plus some new services to help workers improve their basic reading, writing, math and spelling skills.

The Skills Enhancement Lab is a partnership of the Department of Energy, Columbia Basin College and the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center operated by Fluor Hanford. The lab is open from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. No tuition is charged for the lab's classes and services, which are entirely confidential and open to Hanford Site workers.

The Painless Punctuation class will be offered on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the HAMMER administration building. Participants will learn to cure comma-itis; use colons and semi-colons properly; handle exhausted apostrophes; tackle the lowly hyphen; review fragments, comma splices, and run-ons; and review must-know key rules.

The Goof-Proofing your Grammar class will be offered on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the HAMMER administration building. Participants will learn to recognize and deal with the most frequent grammatical goofs: pronoun problems; mangled modifiers; easily confused, misused and abused words; proper use of who/whom, lie/lay, bring/take, who/which/that; pronoun-antecedent agreement; subject-verb agreement; parallel phrasing; and must-know key rules.

Space is limited and classes fill quickly, so reserve a seat now by calling the Skills Lab at 376-3250.

The Skills Lab also provides adult basic skill assessment services to help if your basic math or verbal skills are rusty, or if your co-workers — or perhaps the boss — complain that your written work could stand some improvement. If you'd like to see how your basic skills measure up, the Skills Lab is offering a brief standardized survey of adult basic reading, writing, math and grammar skills, also known as the Test of Adult Basic Skills, or TABE.

You can choose to take both math and verbal portions, or just one. The total time for both portions is two hours. After the assessment is scored, you can schedule a private conference with a Columbia Basin College faculty member at the lab to discuss your results and learn simple ways to brush up your skills — either by using the Skills Enhancement Lab or on your own.

You have probably noticed that different people prefer different learning styles. Some people prefer to read about a subject to master it; others need to see the concept demonstrated; still others prefer to listen to someone explain the concept. Studies show that we learn and remember most efficiently when we take advantage of our preferred learning style.

Often a few minor changes to our thinking/writing/studying processes can make a startling difference in how well we process and retain information. The Skills Lab can administer a “learning styles inventory” that can help you maximize your study potential more fully. After you take the assessment, CBC faculty will discuss ways to apply the information to your work techniques. This assessment takes two hours.

Both the TABE and learning styles assessments are offered by private appointment only on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons at the Skills Lab, located in the Learning Resource Center, room 4, in the HAMMER Training Building. There is no charge or obligation, and all information remains confidential. To schedule an appointment for an assessment, call the lab at 376-3250. ■

'Lessons Learned' on the job can help others in planning work

The Project Hanford Lessons Learned Web site is one good place you can go to learn from others' experiences. There you will find innovations that may help you increase productivity and prevent unfortunate workplace events.

Getting there is easy. From a Hanford office computer, double-click on the Internet Explorer icon and select "Project Hanford Management Contractor." Once at that home page, locate the box labeled "Shortcut URL" at the bottom of the screen, type in "LL" and click "Go."

Two choices appear: to submit information you have gained from your own experience on a job at Hanford, or to view the repository of information submitted by others.

"We want to encourage use of the Lessons Learned Web site when planning work at the Hanford Site," said Lessons Learned coordinator John Bickford of Fluor Hanford's Mission Assurance. "You can type in key words such as 'fall protection,' for example, and learn from the experiences of fellow workers. Lessons learned include both exemplary work practices and situations that had undesirable outcomes, to try to prevent their recurrence. We also encourage workers to submit lessons learned while working at Hanford. We want the Lessons Learned Program to be a useful communications tool."

"The program is designed to provide accurate, timely information to support management decisions and work planning," said Danny Henry, Lessons Learned Program representative for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. "Lessons learned help prevent repeat accidents, injuries, environmental insults and other adverse events. They provide pertinent information to work planners to ensure procedures, resources and materials are ready for craft workers to do their jobs. Lessons learned can be used in preparing for safety meetings and during pre-job briefings."

Henry said Lessons Learned KBLL-02-41, on the fuel transfer system operational readiness review, is an example of a positive lesson learned from the SNF Project. It is being distributed to other Hanford projects and contactors, and the SNF Project is reviewing it for possible application to the planned ORR for the sludge/water system.

In addition to Bickford and Henry, Lessons Learned representatives at Fluor Hanford projects include Dennis Turner of the Central Plateau Remediation Project, Mark Eby of the Fast Flux Test Facility, Don White of Hanford Site Operations, Cecilia Schmidli of the Nuclear Material Stabilization Project, Gerry Whitney of the Waste Management Project and Peg Robinson representing the functional groups. They distribute applicable lessons learned throughout their projects and assist project personnel in finding existing lessons learned or submitting new ones.

Lessons-learned information is also shared throughout the DOE complex through the complex-wide Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing, or SELLS.

Lessons learned are accessible to the public through the Hanford external Internet site. Bickford said he still receives calls about a 1998 lesson learned on a good work practice involving use of a spray-on product to remediate asbestos in aging buildings.

The Lessons Learned Program will again be featured at the annual Hanford Health and Safety Expo and will be represented at an upcoming SELLS conference. ■

Documented safety analysis will assist mission acceleration

There's transition brewing in the tank farms' safety basis that will ripple changes out into CH2M HILL Hanford Group daily operations during the months ahead. The transition is a direct result of Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations 830, "Nuclear Safety Management." This regulation mandates preparation and submittal by April 10 of a documented safety analysis for applicable nuclear facilities in the Department of Energy complex.

Last April, a technical working group was commissioned by the DOE Office of River Protection to develop a documented safety analysis that is compliant with 10 CFR 830. The technical working group is made up of ORP and CH2M HILL senior personnel.

Group members started the development process by re-evaluating the previous final safety analysis report and its associated technical safety requirements that were implemented about five years ago. Their evaluation effort targeted safety basis areas that could be simplified or optimized.

Why was this necessary? During the previous five-year time frame, many of the tank-farm hazards and their associated safety issues, such as the Wyden Watch List, have either been eliminated or changed because of the new support missions of tank retrieval and closure or waste feed delivery for vitrification.

"The focus of the DSA development team and technical working group is to ensure that the resulting DSA streamlines the associated control set while providing workers with the flexibility needed to get work done in a dynamic work environment," said Brad Smith, CH2M HILL Hanford Group director of Nuclear Safety and Licensing.

"We are using Integrated Safety Management System and Voluntary Protection Program principles of worker involvement by affected tank-farm organizations," said Smith. The CH2M HILL organizations include Nuclear Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, ESH&Q, Projects, Strategic Mission Planners and others as needed for all aspects of documented safety analysis development.

Other CH2M HILL inputs considered by the development team for the documented safety analysis were problem evaluation requests and other outstanding issues. These inputs helped capture lessons learned from the previous FSAR development and implementation effort.

"This documented safety analysis belongs to all CH2M HILL and subcontractor personnel who perform work at tank farms, not just one or two select groups," said Smith. "The resulting requirements that are being developed will be easier to understand and therefore more straightforward to implement."

Implementing the documented safety analysis is expected to take the rest of fiscal year 2003 and beyond. Mike Koch of System Engineering is managing the CH2M HILL implementation project. Changes will be made in approximately 450 procedures. In addition, other engineering and safety documents will be reviewed and changed when necessary as part of the implementation process.



Brad Smith, left, and Ron Stevens of CH2M HILL Hanford Group show how documents and procedures will be streamlined and easier to understand with the development of a mandated new documented safety analysis.

Documented safety analysis will assist mission acceleration, cont.

“Developing work packages and procedures to comply with the new requirements will be easier with an emphasis on facility worker protection through the use of safety-management programs, such as radiation protection, operational safety and hazardous waste management, to name a few,” Smith said.

“By focusing the appropriate controls to protect against the hazards found in each unique work environment, workers will be able to use more streamlined documents that will enhance compliance with requirements in the field,” he said.

The documented safety analysis transition also will create new training requirements. Courses will be developed for job-specific areas in a tiered (or graded) approach for CH2M HILL personnel.

After all documented safety analysis implementation preparations have been completed later this calendar year or early next year, a management review will be conducted to demonstrate that the DSA is ready to be implemented.

“More details will be provided in the future as the documented safety analysis development and implementation proceeds,” said Smith. ■

Summer interns provide new perspectives

Could your project benefit from a summer intern's work? Now is the time to start planning for summer intern help. Interns provide a tremendous amount of support and new perspectives for Fluor Hanford managers who have the budget and workscope. Interns benefit, too, from extending their educational experience into the workplace.

The Fluor Hanford summer internship program is not to be confused with a summer jobs program for students. All internships are directly tied to the students' academic areas. Managers must submit position responsibilities, which are then matched to students' résumés according to experience, interest and major. During their internship, students receive a stipend, which is based on their major and level of education.

The summer-internship program begins in May and ends in September. The cost averages from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Students who wish to be considered must complete an online application from CI Interns, available at www.ciintern.com. Program requirements include full-time student status (12 units) and a grade-point average of at least 2.5.

Students are recruited from science, engineering and business majors related to Hanford work. The focus is on recruiting and placing students who attend colleges and universities in the Northwest or who live in the Tri-City area.

Managers can begin requesting student interns immediately. Many students' degree programs require internships, so it is important for the students to know if they have a summer internship lined up as soon as possible. To request an intern, fill out Site Form A-6002-995, "Summer Intern Request Form," and fax or mail it to Teresa Roske. If you have additional questions regarding the internship program, call Roske at 372-0083.■

Picture Pages

A SAFE YEAR:

Workers achieved one year without a first-aid case last week when they completed excavation of the 618-5 Burial Ground. Also included in the safety achievement was excavation of the adjacent 618-4 Burial Ground, which contained 786 drums of depleted uranium



waste. About 35 workers from the Department of Energy, Bechtel Hanford, CH2M HILL Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford, along with remedial-action subcontractor Federal Engineers and Constructors/Thompson Mechanical, have been working at the two sites north of the 300 Area since early 2002. Although 618-5 has been excavated, most of the waste must be sorted and transported to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. All work at the site should be completed by next August.

Awareness is the foundation of counterintelligence

The Tri-Cities and Hanford Site are wonderfully diversified, with many people from many different countries enriching our professional and personal lives. The environment in which we work, live, and play puts us in frequent contact with people from other countries. This is a good thing.

It's such a good thing that we routinely and consistently travel to other countries and invite people from other countries to come to the Hanford Site to share ideas and, in many cases, to become scientific collaborators. The Department of Energy not only believes in the concept of "the global community," but truly lives it. Our personal, social and collective growth and survival as a scientific community depend on our interactions with people who are not U.S. citizens.

However, many foreign countries, including those we call our allies, exert an opposing effort to gain access to knowledge that has an effect on U.S. national and economic security. Additional concerns, particularly with DOE's list of "sensitive" countries, are proliferation and terrorism.

Hanford Site employees are potential targets of foreign intelligence and terrorists — simply because we work at a DOE site. We have access to information, or to the people who have information, that other people and other countries want. We may be potential targets if others simply *think* that we have access.

We can be potential targets when we travel abroad, when we bring foreign visitors into our work areas, and even when we socialize. We need to tune our antennae so that, when the conversation is directed toward the parts of the job that we can't talk about, those antennae start to twitch. That's what counterintelligence awareness is all about. Knowing where to draw the line is part of our jobs and it's part of working in such a special place with such special people

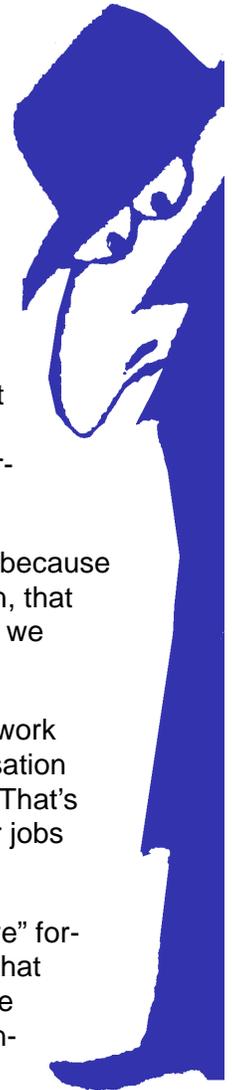
People routinely tell counterintelligence officers that they've traveled extensively to "sensitive" foreign countries and had frequent contact with scientists and others from those countries, and that they have never had a problem. That may be so, but according to a General Accounting Office report published in June 2000, scientists from four national laboratories reported at least 75 incidents in which DOE personnel were targeted by a foreign intelligence service in efforts to obtain sensitive information and proprietary knowledge.

Espionage happens. What can we do to protect ourselves?

The foundation of the counterintelligence program is awareness. Your counterintelligence office provides pre-travel briefings and post-travel debriefings to site employees who travel to countries on the DOE list of sensitive countries. Pre-travel briefings give you "heads-up" information relevant to your travel destination. Post-travel debriefings, on the other hand, are your opportunity to provide a heads-up to Hanford Site travelers who will follow your flight path.

Both briefings and debriefings are concerned with methods that foreign intelligence services use. They also concern counter-terrorism and other general information that may help you to protect yourself. Your counterintelligence office also provides briefings to site employees who host foreign national visitors and assignees.

We also understand many of the pressures that foreign nationals working here on visits and assignments may encounter. We're available to help everyone who feels he or she has been targeted for elicitation of sensitive information.. ■



Hanford Site employees must challenge unbadged individuals

There is no question that everyone is taking security more seriously than we used to, but it's been 17 months since the attack on Sept. 11, 2001, and we all need to be reminded that security needs continuous employee commitment.

The first line of defense at Hanford is also the most common — our security badges. Although few people think of it this way, the security badge plays an important role in safety by not allowing unauthorized personnel on site.

Security and safety rely on employees recognizing authorized and unauthorized access, and that means looking for a valid security badge. It is vitally important that employees remain aware of their surroundings, take an active role in controlling facility access, and ensure that everyone is displaying a valid badge.

Al Bowser, president of Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford, recently called on all members of the Presidents' Zero Accident Council to communicate the expectation that all personnel must become more proactive in the enforcement of administrative challenge procedures. "Employees must immediately challenge any unbadged personnel encountered within Project Hanford facilities," said Bowser.

Are you up to the challenge if you see a person without a displayed badge? Are you looking for security badges on personnel? Remember that the "administrative challenge" is an important part of your daily security responsibilities. Like safeguarding your badge and locking doors, the administrative challenge must become part of what we do every day. Only by working together can we have a safe and secure workplace. For additional information on security and points of contact, go to the Intranet Web site <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas>.

Area security representatives and Security Education personnel are available to discuss security badge and access requirements at staff meetings. ■



LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Thank you Hanford Patrol

I would like to express my gratitude to the Hanford Patrol officers who came to my rescue on Tuesday, Jan. 27. As I was driving toward 200E my pickup truck started making a strange noise. I thought perhaps a tire was going flat.

I pulled over to the side of the road, got out and looked at the tires. Everything seemed all right. I continued to drive a short distance and the noise got louder. Then I decided to turn around and go back home as something was definitely wrong.

After only a few hundred yards I pulled off the road again and along came Hanford Patrol Officer Lauren Buck. He pulled in behind my truck and observed that I had lost half of the tread off the tire and it was about to blow out. As a safety precaution he immediately had me move away from the side of the truck, and then offered to change the tire for me. About this time another Hanford Patrol officer, Darryl Sybouts, came along, and his first comments were also regarding my safety. He then helped change the tire.

I am impressed by the courtesy, kindness and the safe handling of my predicament by these fine gentlemen. Thank you!

Virginia McDevitt
CH2M HILL

Error

The front-page article of the Jan. 27 issue of the *Hanford Reach* ("DOE has led Hanford Site through Cold War, environmental cleanup") indicated that Hanford was under the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission when President Carter proposed the Department of Energy in 1977. That is incorrect.

The AEC was abolished on Jan. 20, 1975. In 1977 Hanford was under the Energy Research and Development Administration.

Frank Panisko
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Editors' note: Thanks to Frank Panisko for helping to set the record straight. We referred to *History of the Plutonium Production Facilities at the Hanford Site Historic District 1943-1990* (DOE/RL-97-1047, available online at <http://www.hanford.gov/docs/rl-97-1047/index.pdf>).

According to the Key Dates section of the document, on Oct. 11, 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the Energy Reorganization Act, which abolished the Atomic Energy Commission and established the Energy Research and Development Administration. Hanford was administered by ERDA until the Department of Energy replaced ERDA on Oct. 1, 1977.

Commentary controversy

I take exception to the commentary by Jennifer Curtis in the Jan. 20 issue of the *Hanford Reach* ("Dr. King committed a crime of passion"). The word "executed" implies legal or at least government-sanctioned death.

Since this theory of Mr. King's murder is unsubstantiated and politically inflammatory, the company newsletter of a government contractor is not the correct place to be expressing it.

While I realize that it is considered poor judgment to criticize anyone on the topic of Mr. King, the *Reach* should be more careful in ensuring that articles printed are accurate and appropriate.

Kevin Russell
Fluor Hanford

Editors' note: In her commentary, Curtis' use of the word "executed" did not in any way imply government or any other sanction of Dr. King's death.

Photos taken without permission

The photos of the accidents on page three ("Winter Isn't Over," *Hanford Reach*, Feb. 3) were taken without the permission of the victims.

I was one of those victims. Both the officer in the photo, who happens to have been a Hanford Patrol officer for more than 17 years, and I were wondering what the heck the guy was doing when he was taking the photos. It was traumatic enough being in the accident, and now to deal with it being in the paper is a whole different situation. The accidents and road conditions could have been mentioned without publishing the photos without a victim's permission.

Rene Teague
Fluor Hanford

Letters continued on next page.



LETTERS, continued

Editors' note: Publishing news photos taken on public roadways or in other public places where no expectation of privacy exists does not require permission. This is especially so if the photos do not single out any individuals. In this case, there were no people at all who were visible in either photo, and we did not know the identities of any of the victims until we received the letter from Teague. We sympathize with Teague and all accident victims, but we think the photo communicates more about the dangers of winter driving than any words could.

Veterans thank Hanford for support

Each November the Hanford Community Diversity Council participates in a recognition program designed to pay tribute to veterans from all service branches and all campaigns. HCDC members are representatives of their respective companies that assist in coordination and planning of events, such as the Veterans' Day recognition program. This year the focus was on local area veterans.

Recently, on behalf of the HCDC, I received a personal letter of thanks from the local veterans organizations that took the financial donations from HCDC member companies and distributed food and clothing to local veterans in need.

The following excerpt is from that letter. I hope these words will give you some idea of the generosity and caring that was expressed this past November, and open all our eyes to the ongoing need here in our own communities. Mary Ellen Morris of the American Legion Post 34 in Pasco wrote:

"The Veterans organizations want to express their appreciation for the most generous contributions each of your companies made toward the Veterans' Christmas Basket Project. The money was shared by the two local American Legion Posts and three Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts.

"We thought you might be interested to know how your donations were distributed:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| HCDC contribution | \$3,000 |
| Posts funds | \$825 |
| Food donations | \$100 |
| Other donations | \$180 |
| Total | \$4,105 |

Sixty-seven baskets were distributed and approximately 265 family members were covered.

"Each basket contained staples for two weeks and a full Christmas dinner. One post had some funds left over and contacted the rest home at the Walla Walla Veterans Medical Center. Eighteen patients there were in need of gloves and jackets, and had requested some fruit. Jackets were donated and gloves and fruit were purchased with this money.

"We thank you for enabling us to serve so many more needy veterans with these extra donations."

I want to add my thanks to these HCDC member companies for their continuing support of this very worthwhile project: Battelle Pacific Northwest Division, Bechtel National, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, COGEMA Engineering Corporation, Department of Energy Office of River Protection, Eberline Services Hanford, Fluor Global Services, Fluor Hanford and Numatec Hanford Corporation.

Greg Mitchell
Fluor Hanford

NEWSBRIEFS



Columbia River Young Marines seeks adult staff members

The Columbia River Young Marines is looking for adults who are reserve or retired members of the U.S. Marine Corps or other branches of the military to volunteer as staff members. Contact Joe Lusignan, commanding officer of the Columbia River Young Marines, at MrClean62@aol.com for more information. ♦

Features continued on next page.

Regular Features

CLASSES



Class on constructing the technical document offered
Constructing the Technical Document: Essential Strategies and Skills will be offered Feb. 26-27, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in the Snoqualmie Room of NSB on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus. The class will show you how to achieve benefits associated with effectively sharing research or products and how to address and affect readers, advance careers and fine-tune technical writing skills. Register early; space is limited. Visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov> for more information or contact Mary Wagner at 372-4259 or at mary.wagner@pnl.gov. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at cory.rhoads@pnl.gov or at 376-7157. ♦



CALENDAR

Black History Month Lecture at CBC tonight

Robert Hill, professor of African-American History at UCLA, will lecture on the topic "Origins of the Harlem Renaissance," at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Byron Gjerde Center at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. The lecture, part of CBC's Black History Month observance, is open to the public and admission is free.

Today is the deadline to order doughnuts

The Fluor Hanford Community Programs Junior Achievement bowling team is accepting orders for Krispy Kreme doughnuts until noon Monday, Feb. 10. The price is \$6.50 per dozen. Contact Lynn Tegeler at 376-4625 or at lynn_e_tegeler@rl.gov, or at ^Community Programs, to get an order form. Send your completed order form and your check payable to "Junior Achievement/Krispy Kreme Fund-Raiser" to Lynn Tegeler, c/o Fluor Hanford, mailstop H8-65, P.O. Box 1000, Richland, WA 99352. Pick up your order between 6 and 8 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, in the lobby of 2420 Stevens Center.

AQP/ASQ scholarship applications available

Applications for the local chapters of the Association for Quality and Participation (AQP) and American Society for Quality (ASQ) \$1,000 scholarship are being accepted now through April 15. The scholarship will be awarded to a college-bound high school senior pursuing a career in a field related to quality and participation. Applicants must be seniors, graduating from high school in Benton or Franklin County, with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher and a combined SAT score greater than 1,000. The application process includes a written essay as well as submittal of two letters of recommendation. For more information, check the AQP Web site at http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQP_ASQscholarship.html.

PMI Feb. 11 meeting discusses River Corridor

Projectizing the Richland River Corridor Project is the topic of the Feb. 11 meeting of the Project Management Institute, Columbia River Basin Chapter, which will be held at the Richland Shilo Inn. The presenter is Beth Bilson, assistant manager for the River Corridor, Department of Energy Richland Operations Office. Networking begins at 5:30 p.m., the buffet dinner is at 6:30 and the program is at 7. The cost is \$17 for members and \$20 for guests. Make your reservation by noon on Feb. 10 by calling Terri Witherspoon 376-4925.

Donate blood Feb. 11 and 18

The bi-monthly American Red Cross blood drawing in the Federal Building will be held Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration will take place in the Federal Building lobby. Blood will be drawn in the bloodmobile located in the parking lot on the north side of the building. To make an appointment, contact Carolyn McCain at carolyn_s_mccain@rl.gov or at 372-3580.

The American Red Cross will be conducting another blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 8:30 am to 1:30 p.m. in the 300 Area. The bloodmobile will be on the east side of the 3763 Building. Although an appointment is not necessary, it is highly recommended. To schedule a time, please call Diane Coleman at 376-9170.

Calendar continued on next page.

Regular Features



CALENDAR continued

'How to Survive Challenges' is NMA meeting theme

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association will hold its monthly dinner meeting on Feb. 12 at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. Dan Miller, author and motivational speaker from Yakima, will present "Living, Laughing and Loving Life!" The social hour begins at 5 p.m. A mini-seminar examining personal ability to deal with adversity also begins at 5 p.m. The business meeting begins at 6, and dinner will be at 6:30. There is no charge for chapter members, and the cost for guests is \$20. Make a reservation by calling Lisa Hart at 376-3484.

Library staff holds Internet seminar Feb. 13

Join Hanford Technical Library staff members on Thursday, Feb. 13, from noon to 1 p.m. in room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center at the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus to learn how to tunnel through mountains of information and discover Internet sites that are useful for your day-to-day work. Contact Mary Frances Lembo at 372-7441 or at mf.lembo@pnl.gov for more information.

Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Day to be held

The public is invited to the Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day observance on Feb. 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Hampton Inn at 486 Bradley Blvd. in Richland. Activities include the presentation of Washington State's CHD day proclamation signed by Governor Gary Locke; a celebration and memorial to honor and remember children affected by CHDs and the health professionals that care for them; a silent auction and fund-raiser to benefit Cardiac Kids, a local support group for families with children born with heart defects, and Congenital Heart Information Network, a national support group; juggling by Tapteal Elementary School's Circus Club members; and fun activities for children. Contact Cathy Manderbach, Washington's CHD Day coordinator, at 967-5738 or 531-0864, or at Cienna88@aol.com for more information.

Volunteers needed for engineering, science demos

The Hanford Engineers Week Committee is looking for volunteers to present classroom engineering and science demonstrations at all Tri-Cities middle schools. Presentations in elementary or high school can also be arranged. This committee organizes annually to inspire interest in children for science and engineering careers. More than 7,000 students came in contact with engineering and science professionals during the 2002 celebration. Presentations are ongoing now and will continue throughout the month of February. Contact Andrew Templeton at 373-5589, or via e-mail to andrew_m_templeton@rl.gov if you would like to volunteer. The National Engineers Week celebration will be observed Feb. 16-22.

National Engineers' Week Friendly Competition

To commemorate National Engineers Week, Feb. 16-22, the Hanford Site will hold its "Friendly Competition" on Feb. 19 at 1200 Jadwin in Richland. Start forming your team of two-to-four people for the competition, which will be Junkyard Wars-style with the theme "Hold Your Water." Rules and supplies will be handed out at the start of the competition. Teams will build a small device out of office supplies. Scoring is based on cost, schedule, safety and function. The competition is open to all Hanford Site personnel. For more information, contact Lori Weidner at 376-4585.

Health fair for in-town FH employees set for Feb. 20

Fluor Hanford Safety and Hanford Environmental Health Foundation added another date to the schedule of health fairs for Fluor Hanford employees. This new health-fair session will be Feb. 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12 noon at 2420 Stevens Center, Room 153. The health fairs will offer information on preventing heart disease and include a presentation titled "Heart Smart: Risk Factors for Heart Disease" as well as blood- pressure checks and body-fat testing.

You can meet the requirement for attending a monthly safety meeting by attending one of the 15-minute "Heart Smart" presentations at the health fair. In addition to the Feb. 20 session, the health-fair sessions are from 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon

Calendar continued on next page.

Regular Features



CALENDAR continued

at the following locations: Thursday, Feb. 13, 200W, MO-278; Wednesday, Feb. 19, 100K, MO-293; Tuesday, Feb. 25, 400, 4706; and Wednesday, Feb. 26, 200E, 2751-E. Contact Carol Powe of Fluor Hanford Safety at 376-8886 or Judi Staley of HEHF at 372-0097 for further information.

Recycling Roundtable meeting to be held Feb. 21

The Washington State Recycling Association, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the City of Richland will sponsor a Business Recycling Roundtable meeting to be held on Feb. 21 from 8 to 11:30 a.m. in the Richland Community Center at 500 Amon Park Dr. The purpose of the roundtable is to hear from area businesses about their experiences, challenges and successes with recycling services. Through this sharing and exchange, Washington State Recycling Association hopes to open up increased recycling opportunities for area businesses. A complimentary continental breakfast will be provided. Participants must pre-register for this free roundtable by Feb. 17. To register, call (425) 454-1267 or send an e-mail message to ecochica@hotmail.com.

Fund-raiser for Catholic Family and Child Services

Catholic Family and Child Services, a local United Way agency, will host the 16th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction, "Families: Bridges to our Future," on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at Tri-Cities Prep, 9612 St. Thomas Dr. in Pasco. Proceeds from this event will support all ongoing programs. Call Catholic Family and Child Services at 946-4645 to make your dinner reservation or donate an auction item. Tickets are \$50 each. ♦



VAN POOLS

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for submission is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring their passengers are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her security badge, access is denied at the barricade. The individual is required to go to a badging station for a temporary badge or go home to retrieve the badge. For more information visit the Safeguards and Security Web page at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas>.

KENNEWICK

Riders needed for Van No. 112 with direct service from Kennewick Albertson's store on Clearwater to the 200E. 8x9 schedule. Current stops in 200E include 2750, Teamster Area/Carpenter shop, Waste Encapsulation, LEF and the HELO pad area. Good Rates. Contact **Scott Davis** at 372-0473 or **Max Towne** at 373-9161. 2/10

Van No. 205 has an opening for a rider on 8x9s. Leaves Albertson's on Edison at Clearwater with a stop at the Richland airport. Drops off at 222-S Lab, 242-WA and WRAP. Contact **Abe Garza** or **Dave Winstead** at 373-2898. 2/3

RICHLAND

Van No. 117 has openings for 8x9 riders within the 200W Area. Departs 6 a.m. and returns about 5:10 p.m. on Mondays-Thursdays and 4:10 on Fridays just north of Densow's Drugstore (1019 Wright in Richland). Drops off and picks up riders at ERDF trailers, Fab Shop, MO-278, MO-556, 272-WA and MO-437. E-mail or call **Gary Bush** at 372-2531, (MO-437). 2/3

Van No. 216 to 200E needs two 8x9 riders. This is a door-to-door van pool that starts in South Richland on Jadwin, travels to Williams, then to Stevens, to Howell, back to Jadwin, and out to the 2750-E and 2101-M neighborhood. If you are near these streets, and interested in a vanpool, call **Michelle Calvert** at 376-5400. 2/10

Van No. 116 to 200E has two openings, 8x9. Picks up at Joe's Chevron on Jadwin and McMurray. Drops off at 2750, MO-286, 2701-HV and 2704-HV. Call **Nester Wise** at 373-9599 or **Colleen Federico** at 376-3623. 2/10

WEST RICHLAND

Are you looking for comfort to and from work? Join our vanpool to 200E. 8x9 schedule, looking for two riders. Leaves Flat Top Park at 6:10 a.m. and drops off at 2750, WESF and 2727-E. Contact **Glenn Garman** at 372-0054 or **Curt Hedger** at 373-7935. 2/10 ♦