Hanford Reach
Hanford Site Employee News
March 3, 2003

Cleanup in K Area begins ahead of schedule

Edye Jenkins, *Bechtel Hanford*

Bechtel Hanford began work ahead of schedule in December to excavate and remove 700,000 tons of low-level and hazardous wastes, soil and other debris and nearly 18,000 feet of piping at the 100 K Area along the Columbia River.

KW Reactor operated from 1955 to 1970, and KE Reactor operated from 1955 to 1971. “During operation, reactor cooling water was discharged to retention basins to cool and allow time for the short-lived radionuclides to decay before distributing it to cribs and trenches or returning it to the river,” said Mark Buckmaster, Bechtel Hanford resident engineer for the K Area work.

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The sides of the K East and K West retention basins were removed in the mid-1990s. Now, Environmental Restoration Project workers are removing the bottoms of the six basins as well as surrounding contaminated soil and debris.

The retention basins and reactor water effluent pipelines leaked, contaminating the surrounding soil. Cribs and trenches, which work on the same principle as septic tanks and drain fields, also contributed to soil contamination.

“Our job is to remove the K Area retention basins, cribs, trenches, pipelines, and surrounding soil and waste materials and ready them for transport to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility for permanent disposal,” Buckmaster said. The disposal work is expected to fill 38,000, 20-ton containers and be completed in 2005.

The team will use experience gained from similar work conducted at Hanford’s B/C, D, F, H and N areas, as well as at burial grounds and waste sites across Hanford.

“The difference here is that piping used in the K reactors to transport cooling water is a foot larger in diameter than the 60-inch piping used at F and H areas, and it was buried several feet deeper,” said Buckmaster. “This means we will have to bench the deeper areas of the excavations as we remove materials so they do not cave in. We also will have to remove more soil, rock and other debris because we will be digging several feet deeper than at other sites.”

In addition, the K Area includes several culturally sensitive sites located in the vicinity of the cleanup activities. Protection of these sites requires special care and poses additional challenges to the team. Cultural resource protection training has been provided to all employees who work in the area on a daily basis to aid them in monitoring excavations for the presence of cultural artifacts (see sidebar).

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Cleanup in K Area begins ahead of schedule, cont.

Beating schedules

This is the third time the Bechtel-led Environmental Restoration Contractor's "Group 4" team has beat a scheduled Tri-Party Agreement milestone. The team began remedial action in the H Area in March 1999, two weeks ahead of schedule, and completed the work nine months early. Cleanup started in the F Area in August 2000, one month ahead of the scheduled TPA milestone, and that work is scheduled to be finished next September.

The team includes staff members of Bechtel Hanford and pre-selected subcontractors CH2M HILL Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford. At K Area, Duratek Federal Services provides soil remediation services under subcontract to Bechtel.

Since its remedial-action work started in 1999, the 46-person team has maintained a zero-lost-time safe record. "The employees have been able to achieve the exceptional safety record because of their dedication to the zero-accident philosophy and looking out for each other," said BHI's Tom Kisenwether.

"As the contractor team cleans up the K Area, the risk to workers, the public and the environment will decrease," said Jamie Zeisloft of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office. "There's a lot of work yet to be done, but the contractor team is off to a good start." ■

K Area offers unique cultural opportunity

People had been using what is now the K Area for thousands of years before the federal government acquired the Hanford Site lands.

"K Area is one of the most culturally significant locations at Hanford and is a site of significant overlapping cultural interests," said Tom Marceau, Bechtel Hanford cultural resources supervisor. "At K Area, we have documented an archaeological site, a Native American village and cemetery, and a projectile point (arrowhead or spear point) between 8,000 and 11,000 years old. In addition, remnants of the historic Hanford irrigation canal also are located in K Area."

While the exact age of the nearly one-acre village is unknown, Marceau said pit houses, which began appearing about 5,000 years ago, have been found at the site. "Pit houses were generally used as winter camps from late fall through early spring," he said. They are circular structures that typically had a living area sunk a few feet into the ground, four main timbers at the corners to support the roof, a fire pit with an air deflector and an area that might contain bins or pits to store household goods.

"The village is believed to have been used by the Wanapum Band in the mid-1800s," Marceau said. "It is believed that this is the site where Smowhalla, a Wanapum prophet, established the Washani religion, the current Native American religion of the Columbia Basin, making the village an important site for local Native American tribes."

A projectile point was discovered in 2001 on an older terrace in K Area during an archeological excavation that was part of well-drilling preparations for the 100-KR-4 pump-and-treat project. It is the

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Cleanup in K Area begins ahead of schedule, cont. 2

oldest of the projectile points or fragments of points found at Hanford, and the only one of its style, the "Windust" type. The Windust phase, the earliest period of documented occupation of the Columbia Plateau, was 8,000 to 11,000 years ago. Kennewick Man, by comparison, is believed to have lived 8,000 to 9,000 years ago.

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Bechtel Hanford employees Tom Marceau (left) and Sweetser Poon stand on the site of a Native American village near Hanford's 100K Area on the Columbia River. The village is adjacent to a cemetery where members of the Wanapum Band were buried as late as the 1920s.

The relatively large point was probably used on a spear to hunt large animals. "During the time when we believe the point was created, people relied on a semi-nomadic lifestyle that included hunting large mammals, collecting plants, fishing and using other aquatic resources," Marceau said.

All the relics excavated by the Environmental Restoration Contractor's cultural resources staff have been photographed, measured, analyzed and documented. They're being maintained in a secure location until the Department of Energy determines their final disposition.

A Native American cemetery where remains were buried as late as the 1920s provides another challenge. "The cemetery is in a part of K Area that might be contaminated from disposed liquid waste materials," Marceau said. "However, this will not be confirmed until after waste-site characterization is completed to determine the presence or extent of a plume." Characterization within the waste site is planned to begin this spring.

"If we confirm that Hanford contaminants spread into the cemetery, it will be the first time DOE, regulators and Native American tribes have had to protect or handle contaminated human remains," Marceau said, adding that his team is working with the tribes on protecting any remains found in the cemetery or elsewhere.

As a first step in addressing sensitive areas, Marceau said a cultural resources mitigation action plan was prepared, and workshops are under way with Native Americans to develop procedures that will be incorporated in the plan.

Remnants of the old Hanford irrigation canal built between 1905 and 1909 can also be found in K Area. The canal brought water to crops until 1943, when the Manhattan Project began.

Field personnel doing remedial action in K Area have received special cultural resources training. "The training is required for anyone who will be working on the ground in a culturally sensitive area," Marceau said. "The training provides information about ways to prevent cultural resources from being disturbed during cleanup work, as well as the steps to take if an artifact is found." ■

Bechtel Hanford receives 99.1 percent of available fee

On Feb. 21, Bechtel Hanford received what amounted to its 13th consecutive outstanding performance rating from the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office for its management of Hanford's Environmental Restoration Contract.

Bechtel's fee for managing the project is 100 percent performance-based, earned by completing predefined cleanup tasks and support activities. For the 2002 fiscal year, Bechtel earned 99.1 percent of the maximum fee.

"I am extremely proud of the people working on this project and very pleased with our team's performance," said Bechtel Hanford President Mike Hughes. "This is the 13th time the team has had an outstanding score during the more than eight-year history of the project."

The Bechtel-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team also includes integrated teaming subcontractors CH2M HILL Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford. "Our preselected subcontractors have provided consistent, outstanding support since the beginning of the ER Project in 1994," said Hughes.

Some of the significant ER Project accomplishments noted by Hughes in FY 2002 included:

- disposing of 665,000 tons of contaminated material — 9,000 more than planned
- removing 786 uranium-containing drums from the 618-4 Burial Ground and staging them at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility
- completing DR Reactor cocooning a year ahead of the Tri-Party Agreement milestone
- completing hexone tank stabilization
- completing excavation of 12 waste sites
- completing Cleanup Verification Packages for 20 waste sites
- removing and disposing of 2,200 yards of buried, contaminated reactor pipe at B Area
- completing removal of 15 process vessels from the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility a year ahead of schedule, avoiding $5.8 million in costs
- removing nearly one mile of plutonium-contaminated piping from the 233-S Plutonium Concentration Facility
- successfully transferring the 200 Area Central Plateau and Groundwater/Vadose Zone Projects to Fluor Hanford.

Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office, noted in a letter that the project team met or exceeded the performance criteria for remedial action and waste disposal, interim safe storage activities at D, DR, F and H reactor sites, and removal and disposition of vessels from 233-S. Klein also praised the project team's performance in safety, financial excellence, effective leadership and transition activities.

Klein said that safety is an area in which additional improvements could be made, specifically in self-identification of weaknesses, implementation of effective corrective actions, oversight of subcontractors, the event investigation process and procedure training. Performance and documentation of subcontract price analysis also was noted as an area needing improvement.

"I'm gratified we were able to improve our safety performance by reducing accidents by nearly 20 percent over last year," Hughes said. "We'll continue improving on that record until we reach our goal of zero accidents and injuries. We wouldn't have achieved these results, and a 99.1 percent rating, in a safe and efficient manner without the hard work and dedication of our HAMTC workforce, subcontractors and all other members of the cleanup team, including DOE and the regulators."

Bechtel has managed Hanford's Environmental Restoration Contract since its inception in 1994. The contract is scheduled to expire on April 30. ■

Judge supports DOE in FFTF ruling

In a Feb. 25 ruling in a federal court in Richland, Judge Edward Shea sided with the Department of Energy in a suit filed by Benton County over DOE's plan to permanently shut down Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility. He then granted a request to allow another 30 days before shutdown work can begin, while Benton County decides on a possible appeal. County officials want the facility to be privatized for energy research and the production of medical isotopes.

Shea rejected an argument that DOE had failed to follow environmental regulations, and accepted DOE's contention that a statute of limitations was applicable to the case. The judge said that, if Benton County had concerns, it should have filed suit just after DOE completed an environmental analysis in 1995. ■

Polycube stabilization completed at PFP

Michele Gerber, *Fluor Hanford*

A PFP worker handles a polycube inside a glovebox.

Plutonium Finishing Plant personnel have finished stabilizing one of the riskiest forms of plutonium-bearing materials at Hanford. Polycube items, part of the metals/oxides/polycubes collection, are small cubes of polystyrene impregnated with pure plutonium oxide. Hundreds of polycube items remained at PFP after being fabricated for use in criticality experiments at Hanford during the 1960s and early 1970s.

Although the polycubes are small — the largest being 2-inch cubes — the risks associated with this unique form of plutonium made stabilizing polycubes a priority for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, an arm of Congress.

"The important outcome is that we did it," said Fluor Hanford senior scientist Susan Jones, a member of PFP's technical team that worked for more than a year to develop safe parameters and procedures for stabilizing the polycubes. "The polycubes had posed difficult issues for us for many years. They had to be stored in vented containers, and they emitted radiation every time they were handled, moved or inspected. In addition, the composition of polycubes was unique, and we didn't have a proven method to stabilize them for safe, long-term storage. The success of the polycube stabilization campaign is momentous to everyone involved, and definitely eliminates a high-risk component of the Hanford Site."

Polycubes posed unique challenges for several reasons. First, they were fabricated by combining plastic powders with mixed-oxide (plutonium and uranium) powders, heating the mixture in molds until the plastic matrix fused, and then wrapping the cubes in plastic tape for abrasion resistance. During years of storage, some of the plastic disintegrated through radiolysis (chemical decomposition resulting from radiation), and some portions of the cubes crumbled into sandy particulates resembling table sugar or mush.

Second, the cubes generated hydrogen during storage, so they had to be stored in vented containers in PFP's vaults. The vents used filter paper, similar to that used in continuous air monitors, to reduce possible airborne radionuclide releases in the vaults. As the plastic tape around the filter paper degraded over time, it further compounded the stabilization and handling challenges.

Developing the process

When PFP scientists began pre-stabilization testing in the 1990s, they discovered that the radiolyzed plastics added highly toxic fumes to the off-gases, or vapors, driven off during thermal stabilization. Soot and flammable gases were readily formed — especially if the cubes were heated too fast — requiring costly filter replacements and exposing workers to increased doses of radiation.

To solve the problem, the scientists conducted extensive tests and developed a long and complicated "char cycle" that required heating the cubes through a specific process in special metal "boats" in furnaces that were inside gloveboxes. The charring process burned off the polystyrene and other plastics, and left dense plutonium oxide powder that workers could place in sturdy long-term storage containers.

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Polycube stabilization completed at PFP, cont.

"The volume, the timing and the exact temperature cycles all had to be watched carefully over an evolution that took three days, meaning it took six shifts to run about eight cubes," said Fluor Hanford Thermal Stabilization and Polycubes manager Rob Cantwell. "During that entire time, filter conditions and off-gases also had to be precisely measured."

Cantwell has abundant praise for the PFP workforce. "I can't say enough about the crew of operators, maintenance and radiological control personnel, and others who did this polycube work," he said. "They were thorough, professional, innovative and dedicated. This was difficult work, and they did it beautifully."

The plutonium oxide that was generated through the polycube stabilization process was repackaged into stainless steel containers using a "bagless transfer system." Finally, it was welded into the outer "3013" can, meeting the strict specifications of DOE's 3013 standard for long-term plutonium storage.

With completion of the polycube campaign, Hanford's PFP has now stabilized the two forms of plutonium that posed the greatest risks — plutonium-bearing solutions and the small cubes.

Innovative procedures

Terry Merkling, lead PFP radiological control engineer for Fluor Hanford in the polycube stabilization program, headed a team that introduced several measures to reduce radiation doses for workers. Pewter cans were placed around the ordinary metal containers storing the cubes in the vaults, and workers who retrieved the cans and brought them to the furnaces wore leaded surgeon's gloves. Elastic "bonnets" were placed over the containers where tape had deteriorated.

Millwrights assigned to the project fabricated a unique set of tongs with a plate shield in front of a lead handle. The millwrights worked with Merkling's team to fabricate several versions before settling on ones that best protected the workers' hands. "We needed management support and a creative attitude to put these measures in place," said Merkling. "We got both. As a result, we experienced relatively low dose rates when you consider the work being done."

Fluor Hanford pipefitter Ed Woodard said maintenance crews developed and fabricated many one-of-a-kind special tools specifically for the cramped working spaces in the highly radioactive gloveboxes, along with the associated piping and filters.

"Some of the cavities and equipment configurations were almost impossible to reach," said Woodard, "especially working in leaded gloves and two pair of surgeon's gloves, with leather gloves over all of those." Each of the filters used to trap radioactive gases from the five furnaces used in the program had to be changed about every other week. Each filter housing weighs about 70 pounds and is located above the workers' heads. Often, the filters and piping were distended by the intense heat of the stabilization process (1,000 degrees Celsius for many hours). Each piping replacement involved more than 12 pipe components.

Woodard and a team of other pipefitters, electricians, instrument technicians, millwrights, operators, insulators, laboratory technicians, chemical technicians and radiological control technicians devised their own wrenches, gaskets, caps and a special "pusher" tool to hasten the many filter changes. They reduced the time it took them to change filters from almost two days to half a day. "Our main goal was to find ways to speed up the work and get out of the radiation zones," recalled Woodard. "Less time equals less dose. We were motivated to find better ways to get it done."

Continued on page 8.

Polycube stabilization completed at PFP, cont. 2

More challenges

Polycubes continued to challenge the workers. The high radiation doses, inconsistent sizes of polycubes within various items, high waste volumes, plugged filters in the middle of runs, flare-ups of the plastic tape and occasional “puffs” of the residual plutonium oxide powder kept workers on their toes. “We had to keep track of the criticality postings and re-evaluate conditions constantly,” said Fluor Hanford nuclear chemical operator Brett Martin. “The dose rates actually went up as the polystyrene burned away, so we were continually figuring out ways to lower dose and time for every aspect of the job.” They broke waste packages down into smaller packages and took them away in pewter cans. It was one of the first times pewter cans have ever been used for waste handling at Hanford.

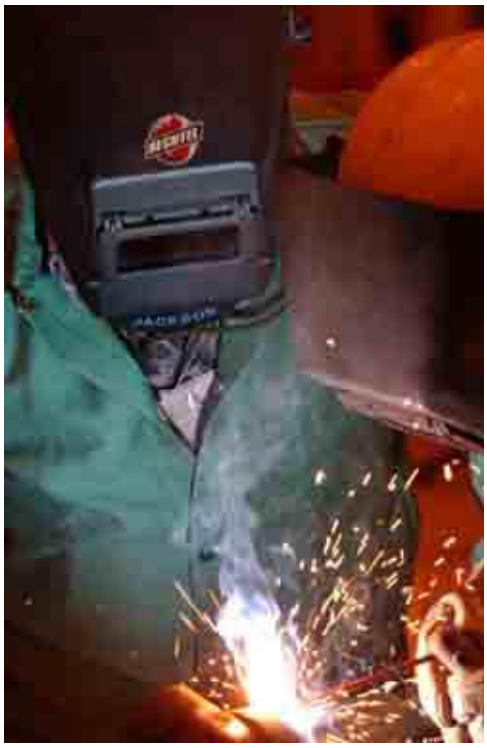
Fluor Hanford PFP Q-shift manager Dave Romine said the polycube stabilization campaign touched every person at PFP — every work group, including administrative people, all DOE personnel at PFP, and even many people in downtown offices who worked on technical analyses and procedures. “This was a huge team effort, and we all benefited,” said Romine. “We saw a radiation-level reduction in the vault storage areas almost immediately after we started stabilizing polycubes. This was important work, and I’m proud of every single person who participated.”

In addition to the polycubes, all of the plutonium metals and solutions at the plant have been stabilized, and miscellaneous oxides are about 25 percent complete. Also, about 95 percent of the other large group, the residues, have been stabilized.

The Fluor Hanford Nuclear Material Stabilization Project, which operates the PFP complex, plans to complete stabilization of the entire inventory of plutonium-bearing materials by February 2004. ■

Vit-plant workers celebrate two years, 8 million safe hours

Bechtel National, Inc. assumed full responsibilities as the prime contractor for the Department of Energy Office of River Protection's Waste Treatment Plant Project nearly two years ago. Since then, employees of BNI and its subcontractors have worked more than 8 million safe hours without a lost-time accident.



Waste Treatment Plant Project construction site craft workers weld a piece of piping that will be used to help build Hanford's vitrification complex. WTP Project staff members have combined to work more than 8 million hours without a lost-time accident.

Nearly 3,000 employees make up the Bechtel National-led WTP Project team, which includes Washington Group International as its principal subcontractor. The WTP project workforce also includes employees of George S. Grant, Inc., Central Pre-Mix Concrete, CB&I Services and other construction-support subcontractors. WTP employees reached the milestone of 8 million safe hours last month while designing and building the world's largest radioactive waste processing plant.

"Our employees have made a commitment to safety while focusing on achieving the goal of zero accidents in the workplace," said Ron Naventi, WTP Project director. "Safety is a priority in all the work we perform, in the office and in the field, and we will continue our pledge to be safe both at work and at home."

"Safety is a mirror of attention to detail and the execution of quality work," Naventi explained. "Employees of the Waste Treatment Plant have translated their attitudes toward safety into constructing a facility that will help turn the corner on Hanford's cleanup mission."

Bechtel National's 10-year contract calls for the design, construction and commissioning of a vast complex of facilities to treat and immobilize Hanford's radioactive waste, now stored in 177 underground storage tanks. To date, the WTP Project's workforce has moved more than 900,000 cubic yards of earth, placed more than 30,600 cubic yards of concrete and installed more than 134,000 feet of piping and electrical raceway.

"To reach 8 million safe hours and beyond, there must be a commitment to safety from the top down," said John Skinner, a WTP Project electrician with 32 years of construction experience. "When management truly supports safety at all levels, then achieving zero accidents becomes a real thing." ■

Environmental stewardship in action at tank farms

Something just didn't smell right that night.

Late in January, saltwell-pumping operators Darin Ebberson and John Senger of CH2M HILL Hanford Group were working on the water tank north of the 242-S Evaporator in 200 West. They noticed an unusual odor and stopped what they were doing to investigate.

They found that a hose between a portable diesel-fuel tank and an air compressor had pulled loose and allowed about 200 gallons of diesel fuel to leak onto the ground. They immediately notified Central Command and Control and remained on the scene to assist in the spill response by CCC, other saltwell operators and the Hanford Fire Department.

"It takes a lot of people in the right places," said Ebberson, recalling the flurry of activities that night. The area was barricaded off with stanchions and caution tape by Glenda Davis, Bill Guidice, B.J. Dabling and John Lund of CCC, Carl Schroeder of Environment, Safety, Health and Quality, and James Petty, Stan Eubanks, Senger and Ebberson of Interim Stabilization.

John Senger, left, and Darin Ebberson came across spilled diesel fuel at the water tower behind them in 200 West. They followed the procedures they had learned in training to help others mitigate an environmental problem. The hole around them is where contaminated soil from the spill had been removed when this photo was taken.

John Guberski, the environmental on-call representative for CH2M HILL, responded to the scene and directed the application of absorbent to soak up freestanding diesel fuel before any more of the fuel soaked into the ground. "It all went the way our training prepared us," said Senger.

"This response is a great example of environmental stewardship plus professional conduct of operations," said Bill Dixon, CH2M HILL Environmental Services director. "The operators could have easily ignored the unusual smell and continued with their assigned work. Instead, their inquisitiveness led them to discover and help mitigate a potentially significant environmental problem."

CH2M HILL Environmental Services employees are working with Waste Management and Operations personnel to clean up the spill site. Traditionally, soil contaminated with spilled petroleum products is dug up, drummed and sent to a commercial hazardous-waste site for incineration or disposal. This approach generates more hazardous waste to be managed at significant cost.

"We are using a more environmentally friendly and less costly 'bioremediation' approach," said Dixon. "What this means is we're digging up the diesel-contaminated soil, putting the soil into a lined pile and will mix it with uncontaminated soil and animal manure."

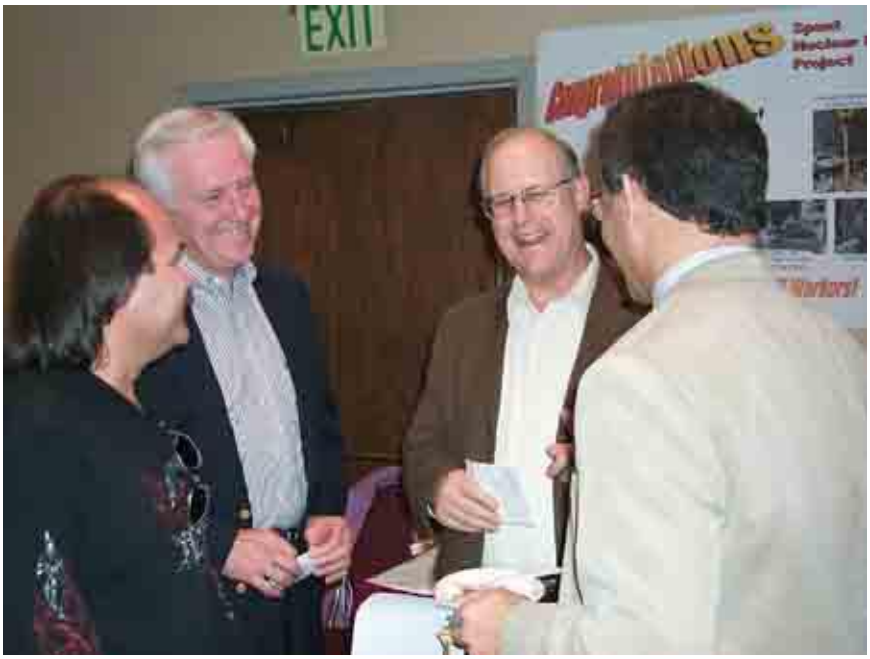
Dixon explained that natural bacteria in the soil and manure eat the diesel fuel, a process that could take as long as a year but could save as much as $300,000.

"The spill of diesel fuel is an unfortunate insult to the natural environment," said Dixon. "However, this event teaches us that by practicing environmental stewardship at the tank farms, we can accomplish our mission to close tanks while also protecting and enhancing the environment."

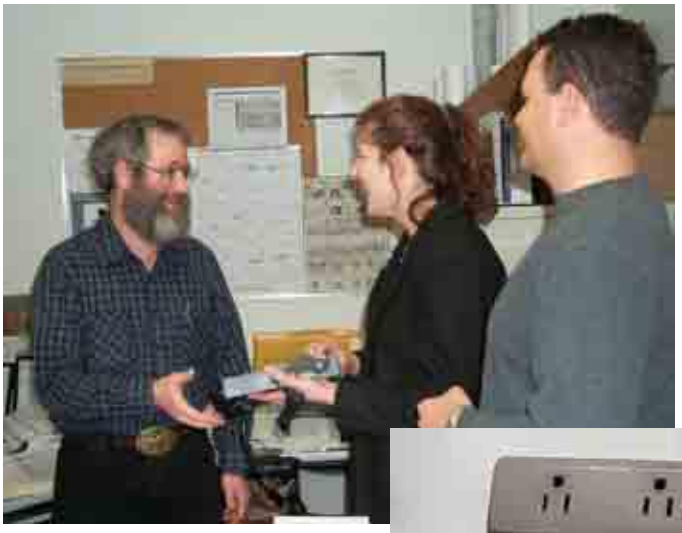
The CH2M HILL Hanford Group mission is to clean up the tank farms and remove significant hazards to workers, the public and the environment. So the company's core work is environmental stewardship. Sometime in the future, the cleanup work could free up major portions of the site for other uses.

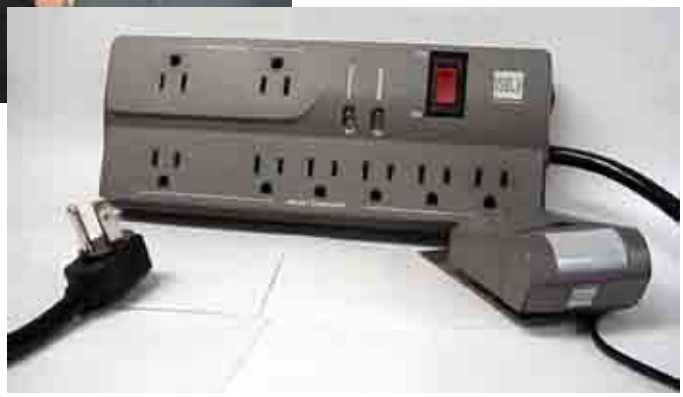
"Our job is to do no further harm to the environment while removing and stabilizing radioactive and chemical contaminants so they don't move into the groundwater and the Columbia River," said Dixon. "Cleanup is being done because the contents of the tanks represent a long-range risk to the groundwater and the river." ■

Picture Pages



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE: (Left to right) Kirk Domina, union steward for the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, Vice Presidents Norm Boyter and Dave Van Leuven of Fluor Hanford, and Keith Klein, manager of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, share in a Feb. 6 celebration with the Hanford Advisory Board. They were commemorating the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's removal of nearly 1,000 metric tons of fuel from the K Basins (*Hanford Reach*, Jan. 13).

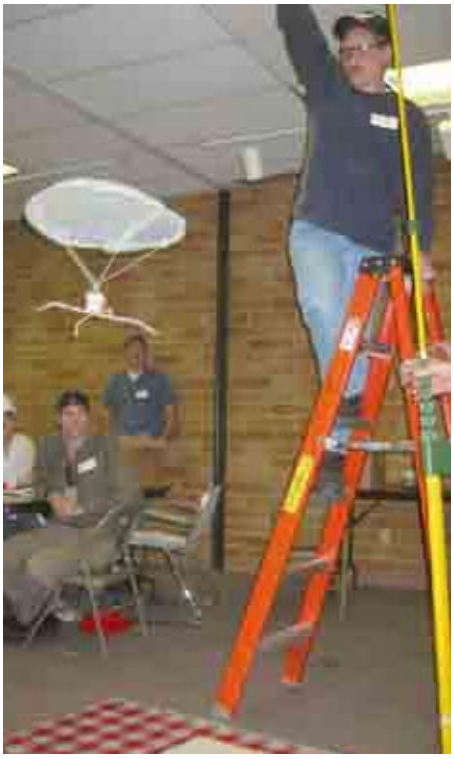




SAVING POWER: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Mike Moran (right) and Rita Pool present a WattStopper® power strip with motion-sensing capabilities (*Hanford Reach*, Feb. 10) to PNNL staff member Marc Berman. The site-wide program began at PNNL, and about 2,300 laboratory staff members have requested the WattStopper. The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office is sponsoring the program and the Bonneville Power Administration provides the power strips. The units shut off power to equipment such as computers when not in use. They can be ordered at no cost through the PassPort system, item No. 614720.

Engineers Week: 'Turning ideas into reality'

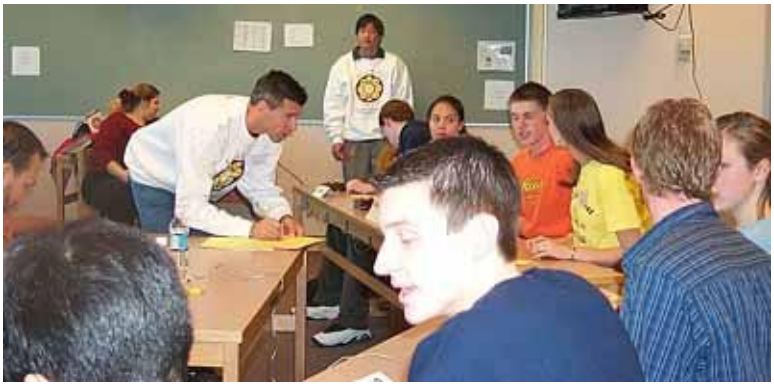
In celebration of National Engineers Week, kids visiting Hanford displays at the Columbia Center Mall try out a robotic device demonstrated by CH2M HILL Hanford Group (left) and a Fluor Hanford vacuum demonstration (below, right). Bechtel National's Mark Anderson (below, left), a Waste Treatment Plant Project construction-site surveyor, demonstrates a Trimble Navigation 5600 Total Station for measuring and logging horizontal and vertical distances. At right, Keith Witwer of Fluor Hanford demonstrates his team's winning design in the Engineers Week Friendly Competition Feb. 19 at Fluor Federal Services. Contestants used office supplies to construct a device to hold water and drop it from a ladder to hit a target. Other members of the winning team were Mike Schliebe and Jerry Oliver of Fluor Hanford. Bechtel National teams took second and third places.



Engineers Week activities continued in next story

Kennewick High School takes Regional Science Bowl title

Kennewick High School Team One took first place at the Department of Energy Regional Science Bowl on Feb. 22, beating 26 eastern Washington and Oregon high- school teams in competition at Washington State University Tri-Cities in Richland.



Science Bowl teams compete in the round-robin competition. First-place honors in the overall competition went to a team representing Kennewick High School.

The win qualified Kennewick High School team members Jason Gilmore, Suzanne Hayward, Jerry Oelerich, Chris Toomey and Craig Weidert along with coach Don Fankhauser, to participate in the National Science Bowl competition in May in Washington, D.C.

In the regional event, teams competed in round-robin matches and a double-elimination tournament before entering the final round. In the final match, Kennewick High School Team One competed against Kennewick High School Team Three.

Southridge High School's Team Three took third place, while Hanford High School's Team One took fourth place.

Walla Walla High School's Team Two took home the Sportsmanship Award. Heather Conner of Kennewick High School, Jason Rosselet of Pasco High School and Peter Scherpelz of Southridge High School won All Star medallions for answering the most toss-up questions.

DOE started the National Science Bowl in 1991 to encourage high school students across the nation to excel in math and science and to pursue careers in those fields. The DOE National Science Bowl provides the students and coaches a forum to receive national recognition for their talents and hard work.

Local companies sponsored the Regional Science Bowl by providing t-shirts, certificates, trophies, food and the winning team's trip to the National Science Bowl. Among the sponsors were the DOE Richland Operations Office and the DOE Office of River Protection, Battelle, Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, Bechtel, CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Fluor Hanford. ■

Eberline reaches five-year safety

Todd Nelson, *Bechtel Hanford*

In mid-February, Eberline Services Hanford, Inc. reached five years without a lost-time accident or illness. ESHI's 125 employees had to put in nearly 1.3 million hours of work to reach the five-year mark.

ESHI is an organization that provides health and safety services. As a preselected subcontractor to Bechtel Hanford, the company has provided radiological control and industrial hygiene services on the Environmental Restoration Project since 1994.

"The staff would not have been able to reach this significant milestone if they weren't watching out for their co-workers and committed to seeing each other go home safely at the end of each day," said ESHI President Chuck Hellier.

Working in tight quarters, Eppie Calderon, radiological control technician for Eberline Services Hanford, Inc., surveys a truck and container carrying contaminated soil and debris from the K West Reactor retention basins. On Feb. 10, ESHI employees completed their fifth year without a lost-time accident or illness.

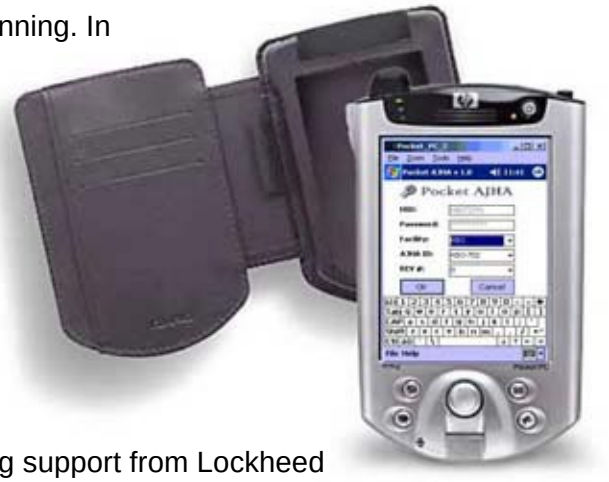
"I want to echo Chuck's appreciation of the ESHI team for their commitment to doing their jobs safely," said Bechtel Hanford President Mike Hughes. "I also want to reaffirm their value to the ER Project. ESHI employee and management commitment to safety and excellence is a key factor in the project's success."

At a staff and family event to celebrate the milestone, Levi Duberry, ESHI Safety and Health manager, and Bill Brasker, ESHI safety representative, were recognized for their continued support of safety and case management for ESHI employees. Duberry also received the 2002 Safety Manager of the Year Award for Eberline Services, the parent company of ESHI. ■

‘Pocket AJHA’ first site-wide application of a PDA

Fluor Hanford has made it possible for work planners to take an Automated Job Hazard Analysis tool into the field and capture the results of their work as they perform their walkdowns.

A job hazard analysis is an essential component of work planning. In performing the analysis, the work is defined, the conditions at the work site are evaluated, all potential hazards are identified, and the measures needed to control the hazards are determined. The most effective way to evaluate the job site is to walk through the area where the work will be performed and note any conditions that could pose a hazard.



Until now, planners had to remember the list of possible hazards and take notes as they performed their work-site walkdowns. Their decisions about each possible hazard could not be entered into the Automated Job Hazard Analysis system until they returned to a workstation. But, with programming support from Lockheed Martin Information Technology, the AJHA software has been adapted to the pocket PC, sometimes referred to as a personal data assistant or PDA.

The program that enables a user to process an AJHA record on a PDA is called “Pocket AJHA.” It’s available for installation through Software Distribution under “Hanford Site Applications.” Any AJHA user can install this feature on his or her PDA — provided it uses Microsoft Pocket PC 2002 as the operating system. The PDA must be “synchronized” with the user’s workstation to complete this installation.

There are several different brands and models of PDAs commercially available that will work. However, the Palm line of PDAs does not use Microsoft’s operating system and therefore won’t fully integrate with the Hanford Local Area Network.

Once the PDA is set up, the user simply logs onto “Pocket AJHA” while the PDA is in its cradle and synchronized, and selects the desired AJHA to take into the field. In the field the user can display the hazard questions and indicate which ones may apply to the job being planned. When the job-site walkdown is done, the user simply returns the PDA to the cradle and uploads the AJHA record to the central AJHA database.

These PDA devices offer a host of other capabilities that will help speed up the planning and administrative processes. For example, copies of procedures can be stored and retrieved in the field for review. A user can review his or her e-mail, record voice messages, electronically jot down notes or make sketches. Some PDA models are equipped with cell phones and digital cameras.

If you have questions about the Pocket AJHA application, contact Miles Jaeger, AJHA System administrator, at 372-3576, or Mark Hermanson, AJHA System analyst, at 376-2257. ■

What do you do when you are the victim of identity theft?

Byron Beck, *Day and Zimmerman Protection Technology Hanford*

Last week's Operations Security article, "Stop thief – that's MY identity you're using!" explained identity theft and how an identity thief gathers information about you. Here, we discuss how the identity thief uses that stolen information and how you can protect yourself.

Identity thieves can get your personal information by:

- stealing wallets and purses with your identification, credit and bankcards
- stealing your mail, which could contain your bank and credit-card statements, preapproved credit offers, telephone calling cards and tax information
- completing a "change of address" form to divert your mail
- rummaging through your home and business trash or recycle bins
- fraudulently obtaining your credit report
- obtaining your business or personal information at work
- stealing personal information from your home
- using personal information you share on the Internet — it's easy, quick and cheap
- requesting that you complete a personal survey
- monitoring automated teller machines
- stealing a security badge (from a car), changing the photo and using it as identification for facility access
- posing as a bank or credit-card company representative requesting information over the phone that your bank or credit-card company should already have
- buying your personal information from an "insider."

How information can be used

Once they have your personal information, identity thieves have a number of ways to use that information:

- They may call your credit-card issuer and, pretending to be you, ask to change the mailing address on your credit-card account. The imposter then runs up charges on your account. Because your bills are being sent to the new address, it may take some time before you realize there's a problem.
- The identity thieves may open a new credit- card account using your name, date of birth and Social Security number. They use the credit card, don't pay the bills, and the delinquent account is recorded on your credit report.
- They establish phone or wireless service in your name.
- They open a bank account in your name and write bad checks on that account.
- They file for bankruptcy under your name to avoid paying debts they've incurred under your name, or to avoid eviction.
- They counterfeit checks or debit cards, and drain your bank account.
- They buy cars by taking out auto loans in your name.

Protect yourself

While you probably cannot prevent identity theft entirely, you can minimize your risk. By managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with an awareness of the issue, you can help guard against identity theft.

- Before you reveal any personal identity information, find out how it will be used and whether it will be shared with others. Ask if you have a choice about the use of your information and if it can be kept confidential.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if your bills don't arrive on time. A missing credit-card bill could mean an identity thief has taken over your credit-card account and changed your billing address.

Continued on page 17.

What do you do when you are the victim of identity theft, cont.

• Guard your mail from theft. Deposit outgoing mail in post-office collection boxes or at your local post office. Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after it has been delivered. If you're planning to be away from home, ask a trusted person to pick up your mail or call the U.S. Postal Service to request they hold your mail until you return.

• Put passwords on your credit-card, bank and phone accounts.

• Minimize the identification information and the number of credit cards you carry.

• Do not give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or on the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you're dealing. Identity thieves may pose as anyone seeking personal information.

• Shred all receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, bank checks, expired credit cards, credit offers and statements that you are discarding.

• Be cautious about where you leave personal information at work or at home.

• Give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary. Ask to use other types of identifiers when possible.

• If you place financial information on your personal computer, consider having all of the sensitive data stored on removable media such as a floppy disk or CD and not on your hard drive. Then, when you decide to sell your computer or send it in for servicing, unauthorized persons cannot gain access to your data.

• Thank the store clerks who ask for your identification; they are helping to protect you and your account.

What can you do?

Sometimes an identity thief can strike even if you've been very careful about keeping your personal information private. If you suspect that your personal information has been hijacked and misappropriated to commit fraud or theft, take action immediately, and keep a record of your conversations and correspondence.

Contact the police department and the Federal Trade Commission. Contact the Social Security Administration at (800) 269-0271 if you suspect your SSN is being fraudulently used. Through the toll-free Identity Theft Hotline at (877) 438-4338, the FTC collects complaints about identity theft from consumers who have been victimized. Although the FTC does not have the authority to bring criminal cases, it can help victims of identity theft by providing information to assist them in resolving the financial and other problems that can result from this crime. The FTC also refers victim complaints to other appropriate government agencies and private organizations for further action.

You can minimize your risk by managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with heightened sensitivity. If you would like to learn more, we encourage you to use the Internet at home or at your local library. Just use your favorite Internet search engine and type in "identity theft."

Here are some Web sites that may be useful:

• Federal Bureau of Investigation at **http://www.fbi.gov/**

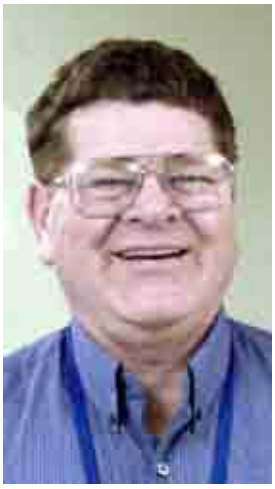
• Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at **http://www.fdic.gov**

• Federal Trade Commission at **http://www. ftc.gov**

• United States Postal Inspection Service at **http://www.usps.gov/**

• United States Secret Service at **http://www.treas.gov/usss/**.

This list does not constitute an endorsement or approval of content by Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford. ■



Brehm

Brehm retiring after almost 36 years at Hanford

Bill Brehm is retiring after providing nearly 36 years of engineering and leadership expertise in liquid metal technology, materials engineering and applications and corrosion technology for the Hanford Site. Much of Brehm's work supported the design, construction and operation of the Fast Flux Test Facility.

During his career, Brehm also developed analytical models for transport of radioactive species in sodium-cooled nuclear reactors and was involved in lithium technology and materials selection for the Fusion Materials Irradiation Test Facility. He also was involved with conducting corrosion tests on candidate container materials for the Basalt Waste Isolation Project, supported mitigation of hydrogen releases and waste retrieval from high-level radioactive waste tanks at Hanford, and led the safe disposition of the Nuclear Energy Program sodium legacy facilities and systems located in the 100, 200 and 300 Areas of the Hanford Site.

A dinner and "roast" to celebrate Brehm's retirement will take place Thursday, March 27, at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. A no-host social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the buffet dinner is at 6:30. The cost of the dinner is $25. Contact Cheri McGee at 373-9710 no later than March 25 to make reservations for the dinner or to donate to the retirement gift. ■

Stapp

Stapp named Fellow by the Society for Applied Anthropology

Darby Stapp, senior scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, was recently appointed a Fellow of the Society for Applied Anthropology. This award recognizes the contributions Stapp has made to apply social sciences to contemporary problems.

The Society for Applied Anthropology aspires to promote the integration of anthropological perspectives and methods in solving human problems throughout the world, and to advocate for fair and just public policy, based on sound research.

Stapp has more than 25 years of experience in anthropology and archaeology and has worked at Hanford since 1988. He currently supports the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Cultural and Historic Resources Program, which helps ensure the protection of historic and archaeological sites and Native American traditional-use areas.

One of Stapp's early Hanford projects was conducting an assessment of the Hanford Environmental Restoration Project in 1992 to identify opportunities for improving the efficiency of the Hanford cleanup. The results from thirty-five interviews of field technicians, regulators and senior managers helped shape the Environmental Restoration Contract issued in 1994.

Stapp works regularly with Native American tribes to facilitate their involvement in Hanford activities, including development and construction of the Cultural Resources Test Bed at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center.

In addition to Stapp's numerous articles for anthropological publications, and contribution to many reports and books concerning the effects of the Manhattan Project and Hanford facilities on cultural resources, he writes a cultural-resources column for the *Tri-City Herald*. ■

‘Hollywood Bowl’ raises funds for Junior Achievement

Bowlers and enthusiastic fun lovers congregated at Fiesta Bowl in Richland on February 27 and 28, and March 1 to participate in the seventh annual Junior Achievement Bowling Classic and Silent Auction. Over 280 teams, each having five members, bowled and participated in contests and silent auctions. This year’s theme was “Hollywood Bowl” and a number of participants got into the spirit by coming in costume.

Funds raised by the event benefit Junior Achievement, the world’s largest and fastest growing nonprofit school and business partnership. JA seeks to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business and economics to improve the quality of their lives. JA also has programs to teach the value of completing high school.

Community and Hanford contractor teams participated in the weekend bowling event. Among the Hanford contractors, Fluor Hanford fielded 39 teams and CH2M HILL Hanford Group fielded 20 teams. Other Hanford employers that sent teams to the event were Bechtel, Battelle, Lockheed Martin Information Technology, COGEMA, Duratek, Hanford Environmental Health Services, Fluor Federal Services and the Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office. The fund-raising target amount for each team was $500.

Participants raising more than $2,000 in pledges were entered into drawings for vacations in Hawaii and Mexico. Other prizes for various levels of fund-raising included dining gift certificates and COSTCO Wholesale gift certificates. ■

Take the Security Ed Challenge

Can you recognize the signs of possible terrorist threats?

Which of the following are considered potential precursors to possible terrorist threats and are reportable to Security*?

A. Surveillance, sketching, photographing or videotaping our property and building entrances

B. Intellectual property

C. Unexplained loss of security badges, uniforms, or other "identity theft" items

D. Requests for current information on security operations.

Do you know the answers? Circle the answers that are possible signs of terrorist threats and then clip this article, add your name and HID number, and send it to Chet Braswell at L4-09, or send him an e-mail message and in the subject line include "Ed's Terrorist Threat Precursors" and your answers. Prizes will be awarded to randomly drawn correct entries. The names of prizewinners and the correct answer will appear in a future *Hanford Reach* article.

***Dial 911 to report an emergency, 373-3800 to report security concerns, or contact your security representative for assistance.**

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory single point of contact is 375-2400.

Source: Hanford General Employee Training and security awareness staff briefings.

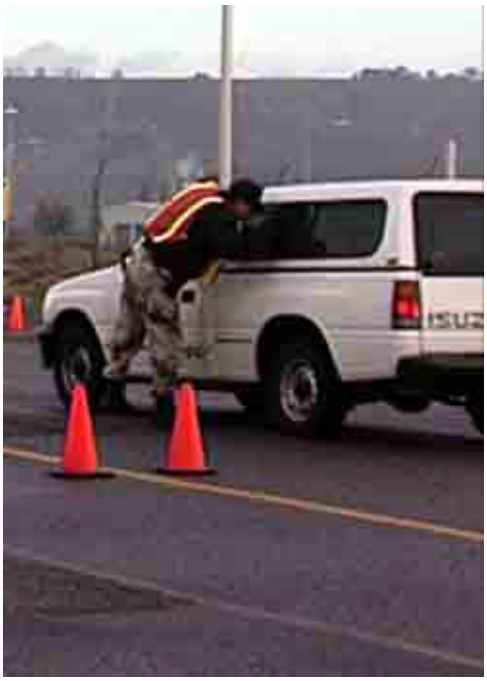
Submitted By _____Hanford ID No. _____

Mailstop _____

Congratulation to Karen Bates of Fluor Federal Services, the winner of the Feb. 18 Security Ed Challenge. Bates won a fleece security blanket for correctly answering that unsecured facilities can be a safety hazard, reduce the effectiveness of Security, and are on the increase during times of complacency.

Security Ed would like to remind all personnel that they can reduce the number of unsecured facilities by taking a moment to ensure that air pressure or a faulty lock mechanism does not prevent a door from securing as they exit a locked facility. If you discover that a lock will not secure, contact the building administrator or Hanford Patrol at 373-3800. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory personnel can call their single point of contact at 375-2500.

Being prepared for a badge and vehicle search will help speed processing



Do you have an idea on how to speed things up or a suggestion for Security? If so, send an e-mail message to ^Security Ed.

A number of you have sent Security Ed suggestions that can help speed things up while waiting to be processed through the barricades. The following tips will assist Hanford Patrol officers who check badges and vehicles at the barricades:

- Turn off headlights and go to running lights while waiting for your badge and vehicle search. Dimming headlights is the number-one suggestion from co-workers. The bright headlights make it difficult for Patrol personnel to readily view the interior of the vehicle and cause eye fatigue for Patrol officers and others waiting in line. If you decide to use your running lights, remember to switch your lights back on after inspection. Some newer cars have auto matic lights that turn on when it's dark. Some of these can be overridden by using your running lights and some cannot.
- Turn on your interior lights.
- Remove your badge from its plastic holder, necklace or clothing before inspection. Hanford Patrol officers are required to physically touch the badge and verify that it is valid. Removing the badge from the holder before inspecting greatly speeds up the process.
- Clean out your vehicle. Clutter in a vehicle increases the time it takes to inspect.
- If you have a toolbox or rear hatch or door, ensure that it is unlocked for ease of inspection.
- If you have tinted windows, consider rolling them down.
- Consider driving a vehicle that does not contain hidden compartments or areas not easily inspected visually .
- Wait your turn during lane merges.

Regular Features

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.

Thanks to everyone

Our family would like to express our thanks for all the support, prayers, personal time bank hours and money donations during this time.

Our daughter Starla is doing great, and is reacting positively to her chemo treatments. She still has a ways to go, but we wanted to take a moment to say thank you all so very much.

Ted Robledo
CH2M HILL Hanford Group

Shana Robledo
Fluor Hanford

Getting in the groove

If the grooved pavement at the barricades is for the purpose of irritating the Hanford employees or to aid in developing a few more rattles and squeaks in the automobiles that pass over them several times a week, then they have surely served their purpose.

If they are for safety reasons such as awakening an individual to prevent him running into the guard station, then they may have accomplished their purpose. However, after some individuals were sufficiently irritated, they began to do what is natural (avoiding the bumps by going around). Then came the safety cones placed at the end of the grooves to prevent what comes natural.

So, let me get this straight — if the grooves are to awaken the driver and the driver is awake enough to make an end run around the grooves, why make him go over the grooves?

Could the answer be: by golly, we are the authority here, and you will drive over those grooves even if we have to sit in the auto with you?

John Faulkner
Fluor Hanford

CALENDAR

Certified Hazardous Materials Managers to meet

Brian Dixon, manager of Fluor Hanford's Hanford Site Operations, Environmental Field Services will be the guest speaker at the March 4 meeting of the Eastern Washington Chapter, Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers in the Gallery Room of the Richland Library. Dixon's topic is "Regulatory and Technical Changes in Hazardous Materials Management." The meeting is free and open to the public. The social and networking time begins at 6:30 p.m., and the presentation and business meeting begin at 7.

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**.

Tour the Hanford Technical Library March 6

Take a tour of the library on Thursday, March 6, 8:15-9:15 a.m., at room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center on the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus and find out what services are available to you in the library and on your desktop. For more information, contact Yung Harbison at 372-7453 or at yung.harbison@pnl.gov.

Symphony's American Rhapsody concert set

Mid-Columbia Symphony presents its "American Rhapsody" concert on Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m. at the Art Fuller Auditorium at Kennewick High School. The program features "Rhapsody in Blue"

Calendar continued on next page.

CALENDAR continued

with Tri-City piano virtuoso Bill McKay, Dvorak's "New World Symphony" and the Northwest premiere of "Overture of Diamonds" by Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker. Tickets are $27, $21 and $12 with a $4 discount for seniors. Ask about free student tickets. To purchase tickets, call the Mid-Columbia Symphony office at 943-6602, the WestCoast Hotel in Kennewick at 783-0611 or the Pasco Chamber of Commerce at 547-9755.

AQP/ASQ meets March 11 at SonShine Services

The Association for Quality and Participation and the American Society for Quality will hold their March 11 meeting at SonShine Collision Services, 6211 Okanogan in Kennewick. Owner Rob Myers will share SonShine's quality philosophy. SonShine received the Gold Award in the 2002 Mid-Columbia Small Business Awards. This award honors organizations that excel in dealing with customers and employees. Check-in and dinner start at 6 p.m., with the presentation/tour at 6:45. The cost is $8 for AQP and ASQ members and $10 for non-members. Make your reservations by March 6 by sending an e-mail message to lynn_l_gates @rl.gov or via the Web site at **http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQPQuest.htm**.

NMA Top Management Night set for Mar. 12

The Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association will host River Protection Project Top Management Night on March 12 at the Richland Red Lion Hotel. Roy Schepens, manager of the Department of Energy Office of River Protection, Edward Aromi, president and general manager of CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. and Ron Naventi, project director of Bechtel National, Inc. are the featured speakers. A mini-seminar will be held at 5 p.m., focusing on the basics of either the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator™ or the River Protection Project. Attendees may also choose to participate in the concurrent social hour. The business meeting starts at 6 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30. There is no charge for chapter members; the cost for guests is $20. Make a reservation at **www.nma1.org/chapters/rsvp_form.htm** or by calling Lisa Hart at 376-3484.

Donate blood March 25

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at 2261 Stevens Drive for a blood drive on March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment to give blood, contact Kelly Layfield at 376-6785.

Project of the Year Award Banquet set for March 11

The Columbia River Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute will host the ninth annual Project of the Year Award banquet on Tuesday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Richland Red Lion Hotel. Guest speaker Sandra Ardis, manager of Marketing at the Project Management Institute headquarters, will announce the winning project and team. The award honors project teams for superior performance and execution of projects completed in 2002. Candidate projects are the Cold Test Facility Project submitted by CH2M HILL Hanford Group; the 324 Building Spent Nuclear Fuel Transfer Project submitted by Fluor Hanford; the K Basins Fuel Transfer System Project submitted by Fluor Hanford; and the Dry Spent Fuel Storage Project submitted by Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station. To make a reservation for the banquet, contact Terri Witherspoon at 376-4925. Contact Bill Jasen at 521-0803 to make corporate table reservations. ✦

CLASSES

PROTRAIN offers the following software classes:

- **Network Security Administration** — March 17-21
- **Primavera Project Planning**
  P-3 601 — April 21-23
  P-3 602 — March 17
  P-3 603 — March 18
  P-3 604 — March 19
- **Microsoft Project 2000** — $199 per day
  Level 1 — March 12
  Level 2 — March 13
- **Microsoft Access 2000**
  Level 1 — March 17
  Level 2 — March 18
  Level 3 — March 19
- **Crystal Reports 8**
  Introduction — March 10
  Advanced — March 11

Classes continued on next page.

CLASSES continued

Office XP classes are now available. For more information call 375-0414.

HAMMER sponsors RCRA seminar

Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center will sponsor a three-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act seminar from McCoy and Associates on March 18, 19 and 20 at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. Attendees will receive McCoy's *RCRA Reference*, 2003 edition, McCoy's *RCRA Unraveled*, 2003 edition, a three-ring course-notes binder, and RCRA remediation options and case studies. Registration will be limited to the first 200 participants. Site personnel may register for the seminar with their training schedulers or through PeopleSoft. The cost is $550. Course agenda or additional information may be obtained by contacting your training scheduler or Don Brock via e-mail.

Course on ASME B31.3 Process Piping presented

The Columbia Basin Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will present the professional development course, ASME B31.3 Process Piping, March 24-27 at Washington State University Tri-Cities. The instructor is Glynn Woods, and the cost is $1,395 for ASME members and $1,545 for nonmembers. This course demonstrates how the B31.3 Code has been correctly and incorrectly applied through examples shown by the instructor. To register, contact Matt Robinson at 371-5858 or at matt@asme.org. For more information, visit **http://www.asme.org/sections/cb/B31_3course. html**. ❖

Skills Lab offers spelling seminar on March 20

Do you ocassionally wonder weather your loosing your mind when trying to spell words like "seperate" or "occurence"? (*Yes, there are some misspelled words in that first sentence. How many did you catch? See the final paragraph for correct answers.*)

If you sometimes have trouble deciding how to spell a word, even *with* a spell-checker, plan to attend the "Successful Spelling" seminar on Thursday, March 20, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the administration building at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center.

This practical session will review common spelling demons and help you to learn to spell them correctly, once and for all. You'll master the Terrible Ten — the 10 most often misspelled words — and clarify commonly confused words. You'll also learn crucial key rules for spelling more than 4,000 words correctly. Best of all, you'll get tips and memory tricks to help you remember what you learn.

There is no charge, but the class fills quickly, so you must reserve space immediately by calling Kathy Dechter at 376-3250. The staff will host an informal Skills Enhancement Lab open house in room 4 after the spelling seminar for those interested in learning more about lab services.

Columbia Basin College faculty from the Skills Enhancement Lab will present the session. The Skills Lab, a partnership of the Department of Energy, CBC and HAMMER, helps workers improve their basic reading, writing, grammar, punctuation, math and spelling skills. It is open for private tutoring at no charge Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. inside the Learning Resource Center in room 4 at HAMMER. For information or to sign up for the session, call Kathy Dechter at 376-3250.

Corrections for first sentence: six misspelled words — *occasionally, whether, you're, losing, separate, occurrence* — How many did you catch? ■

SHOEMOBILE

300 Area

along fence east of Wisconsin Street

March 3	12-4 p.m.	Sound Safety
March 3	2-5 p.m.	BC Sales

100K Area

parking lot south of MO-401

March 4	7-10 a.m.	BC Sales

200 East Area

northeast gravel parking lot of 2101-M

March 4	7 a.m.-12 p.m.	Sound Safety
March 4	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	BC Sales

200 West Area

parking lot east of MO-281

March 4	1-4 p.m.	Sound Safety
March 4	2-5 p.m.	BC Sales

H.anford E.mployee R.ecreation O.rganization

GENERAL INFO & ACTIVITIES

MAIL YOUR TICKET REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE LISTED TICKET SELLER — It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day. Do not combine the charge for tickets to two different events on the same check. If you do, it will be returned.

HRA DISCOUNTS — We are in the process of renewing discounts from 2002 and adding new ones for 2003. Log on to **http://apweb02.rl.gov/hrd/** to find the new discount updates.

HERO POLICY FOR NSF CHECKS — Associated non-sufficient fund bank fees will be passed on to check issuers. HERO will not absorb the cost.

POSITIONS ON THE HERO BOARD — The following positions on the HERO Board are vacant: 100 Area representative, Richland area representative and discount coordinator. If you would like to apply and have your manager's consent, please send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha.

TRI-CITY AMERICANS HOCKEY TICKETS — $10 for adults, $7 for students with ASB cards, children ages 3 to 12 and adults 62 and over. Send checks made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12).

SKI BLUEWOOD — Lift ticket vouchers are now on sale! The prices are $27 for adults, $23 for students (with valid ASB card), $20 for children (in first through eighth grade) and seniors (65 years and older). These prices reflect a $3 discount. Send your check payable HERO to Tricia Poland (T5-04).

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS — Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are $5 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are $5.50 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are $5 each with no restrictions. Regal and Carmike tickets are valid in Seattle and Spokane as well as the Tri-Cities. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks (no cash) made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Ginny Wallace (S7-03), Marta Cabellero (S5-14) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). Sunnyside Movie Theater is now offering tickets for two admissions for one show, for $9.50 with no show restrictions. These tickets are also good for Ellensburg and Walla Walla. For Yakima Mercy or Sunnyside tickets, send checks (no cash) to Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Jim Hopfinger (S7-39) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

YAKIMA CHRISTMAS PARTY? — Your Yakima HERO representative is looking for your input in our efforts to re-establish the Yakima Christmas Party for 2003. Contact Jim Hopfinger with your ideas and support. Send an e-mail message to Jim or phone him at 376-1499.

HERO'S FIRST ANNUAL TRAVEL NIGHT — If you are interested in any of the trips HERO is hosting this year, please come to the Richland Library after work on March 21. We'll be there from 4 to 6 p.m. with refreshments, door prizes and a short presentation on some of the trips. Trip hosts will be available to answer questions and distribute brochures. We need a headcount for this activity. If you plan to attend, send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha and let her know what trips are of interest to you.— It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day. Do not combine the charge for tickets to two different events on the same check. If you do, it will be returned.

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H.E.R.O. continued on next page.

Employee Activities H.E.R.O. continued

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS — Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are $5 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are $5.50 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are $5 each with no restrictions. Regal and Carmike tickets are valid in Seattle and Spokane as well as the Tri-Cities. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks (no cash) made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Ginny Wallace (S7-03), Marta Cabellero (S5-14) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). Sunnyside Movie Theater is now offering tickets for two admissions for one show, for $9.50 with no show restrictions. These tickets are also good for Ellensburg and Walla Walla. For Yakima Mercy or Sunnyside tickets, send checks (no cash) to Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Jim Hopfinger (S7-39) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

YAKIMA CHRISTMAS PARTY? — Your Yakima HERO representative is looking for your input in our efforts to re-establish the Yakima Christmas Party for 2003. Contact Jim Hopfinger with your ideas and support. Send an e-mail message to Jim or phone him at 376-1499.

HERO'S FIRST ANNUAL TRAVEL NIGHT — If you are interested in any of the trips HERO is hosting this year, please come to the Richland Library after work on March 21. We'll be there from 4 to 6 p.m. with refreshments, door prizes and a short presentation on some of the trips. Trip hosts will be available to answer questions and distribute brochures. We need a headcount for this activity. If you plan to attend, send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha and let her know what trips are of interest to you.

UPCOMING TRIPS

• **Canadian Rockies Train Tour** — May 9-17. The price is $2,199 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 14 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A $100 deposit is due as soon as possible, with the balance due March 10. Fly to Vancouver, British Columbia, and explore the beautiful Canadian Rockies by train. Visit Kamloops, Jasper, Ice Fields Parkway, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Visit **http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm** for more information or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail.

• **New Orleans Getaway** — May 19-23. $1,099 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and six meals during this five-day getaway to the "Jazz Capital of the World." A deposit of $160 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due March 20. Contact Linda Meigs for details.

• **French Riviera** — Oct. 6-15. The price is $2,284 pp for twin, $2,254 pp for triple and $2,584 for single. A deposit of $430 is due March 21 to hold your space, and the balance is due July 23. Credit cards are accepted. Tour the French Riviera, Italian Riviera, Monaco, St. Tropez, Cannes, Grasse and Nice. We will fly round-trip from Pasco. We only have to unpack once as we will be staying in Nice and taking day trips to all the other exciting places. There will be free time also to do your own exploring. Included are seven breakfasts and five dinners. Start saving now for an exciting adventure. E-mail Nancie Simon or call 373-2587 for more information.

• **Disney World/Disney Cruise** — Oct. 19-26. The price ranges from $1,302 to $1,852 ppdo, depending on the type of room you want. The price includes round-trip airfare from Pasco, four days in Walt Disney World with entrance into all the parks, a three-day cruise to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay (Disney's private island), taxes and transfers. Don't wait to send in a $250 per person deposit to hold your spot. Contact Jim Hopfinger for more information.

• **Reflections of Italy** — Departure date is Nov. 3. $2,782 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and 13 meals during this 10-day journey to Italy, beginning in Rome, "the Eternal City." A deposit of $430 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due Sept. 4. Contact Linda Meigs for details.

• **Switzerland** — Nov. 3-11. The price is $1,879 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 11 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A $250 deposit is due May 3 and the balance is due Sept. 4. The medieval city of Bern is our host city. Highlights of the tour include the Swiss Parliament, the famous Bear Pit, the Rose Gardens, Lake Geneva and the medieval Castle of Chillon. Enjoy breathtaking Alpine views with a ride on the Panoramic Express Train to Gstaad. Then on to Interlaken, Grindewald, Zurich, Burgdorf Castle, Lucerne and an optional tour to Germany and the mystical Black Forest. Visit **http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm** or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail for more information. ✦

Features continued on next page.

ACTIVITIES

Golf Tuesday at West Richland

A Tuesday-night golf league open to all Hanford employees, retirees, family members and guests will run from April 1 to Sept. 9 at the West Richland golf course. The costs are the one-time entry fee of $20; the weekly greens fees for nine holes at $9 and $8.50 for seniors (over age 55); and cart rental at $10. Weekly prizes are given for KP, long drive, least putts and net quota points for each flight. Contact Leroy Kelsch at 376-4375, mailstop G3-29, or Joe Quinn at 373-4428, mailstop G5-54, for entry forms and more information.

VANPOOLS

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be re-submitted 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

Vanpool No.154 has openings for two riders from southeast Kennewick to 200W. Picks up along the route beginning at 45th and Olympia, to Albertson's (Edison and Clearwater), to the 200W mobile offices MO-278, MO-279 and MO-287 and PFP. Call **Bill Leonard** at 373-1820. 2/24

RICHLAND

Van No. 216 to 200E needs two 8x9 riders. This is a door-to-door vanpool 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. 2/24

8x9 vanpool to 200E needs a rider. Rate as low as $33.50 per month. Leaves former Hanford bus lot (across from 2440 Stevens) at 6:25 a.m. and drops off at 2750-E and MO-276 (behind 2750-E). Arrives at bus lot at 5 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and at 4 p.m. on Fridays worked. Contact **Dave Hedengren** at 373-5094. 2/24

WEST RICHLAND

Are you looking for comfort to and from work? Vanpool to 200E, 8x9 schedule, is looking for riders. Leaves Flat Top Park at 6:10 a.m. with drops at 2750, WESF and 2727-E. Contact **Glenn Garman** at 372-0054 or **Curt Hedger** at 373-7935. 2/24