

### Washington State sues DOE over TRU waste shipments

Gov. Gary Locke, Attorney General Christine Gregoire and Washington State Department of Ecology director Tom Fitzsimmons announced last week that the state has taken legal action to stop the U.S. Department of Energy from shipping additional quantities of radioactive waste to the Hanford Site. In its statement to the media, the state said the suit results from the Department of Energy's failure to develop a plan for the eventual removal of the waste from the state.

The attorney general filed the suit March 4 in U.S. District Court in Spokane on behalf of the Department of Ecology, saying the Department of Energy had failed to meet a commitment by a March 1 deadline to provide assurances that transuranic waste — both the TRU waste currently at Hanford and future shipments to the site — would ultimately be disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

"The Department of Energy's blatant disregard of our previous agreement is indefensible," said Locke. "On behalf of the people of Washington, we will do whatever it takes to ensure that a timeline is developed for Hanford, a cleanup plan is put in place and the Department of Energy follows through on it."

The suit requests a federal court to enjoin DOE from shipping additional quantities of TRU waste to Hanford. It also asked the court to declare that shipments of such waste are a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws and regulations.

The state was poised to sue over the TRU waste issue in December, but put legal action on hold after DOE pledged to negotiate with the state to develop milestones for digging up the waste, putting it in safe storage and readying it for shipment to New Mexico. Based on those assurances, the state did not file a lawsuit to block DOE from shipping drums of TRU waste to Hanford from energy facilities in Ohio and California before March 1.

"We received assurances that the federal government would prepare to ship approximately 78,000 barrels of radioactive waste out of Hanford if we let another 170 barrels in," Gregoire said. "But the Department of Energy has not lived up to its end of the bargain, and now they have left us with no choice but to file suit."

Approximately 40 drums of TRU waste have arrived at Hanford since December. One shipment is currently en route, and the next is scheduled to be shipped on March 18. Negotiations on a schedule for certifying the TRU waste fell apart in late February.

Some TRU waste contains highly radioactive materials that are long-lived. Mixed TRU waste is radioactive and contains additional hazardous substances that are regulated by federal law.

The 1989 Tri-Party Agreement between the Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Washington established a timetable for cleaning up much of the dangerous waste at Hanford, but TRU waste was not part of that agreement. The agreement reached in December called for incorporating the new TRU waste milestones into the Tri-Party Agreement. ■

# The Department of Energy responds

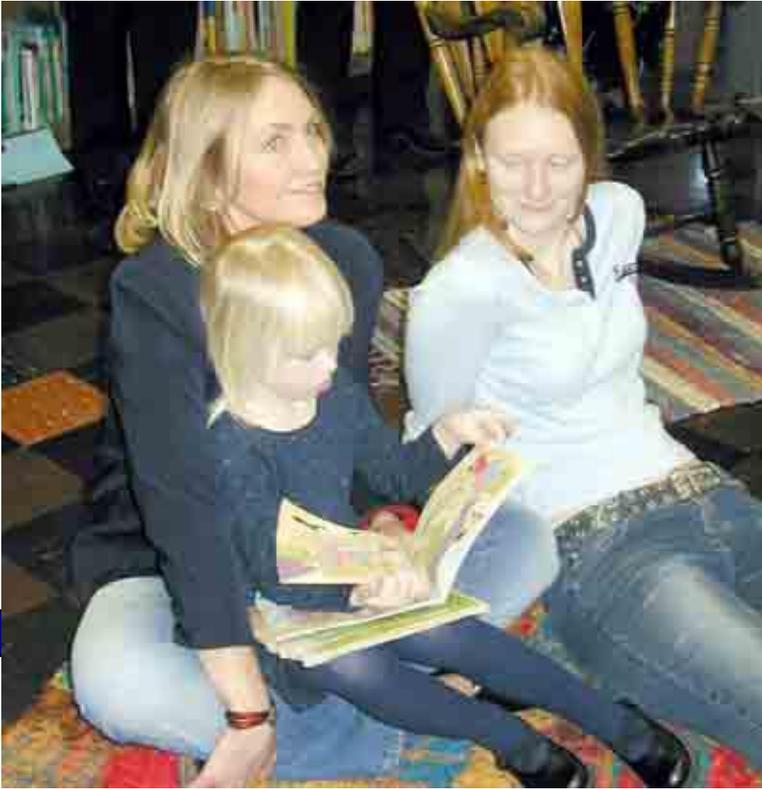
Jessie Roberson, DOE assistant secretary for Environmental Management, commented on Washington State's legal action:

“As we entered our negotiations with the state, we made it clear that the we could not agree to expand the state's regulatory authority. We cannot agree to turn over regulatory authority to the State of Washington, or any other state, by agreeing to legally enforceable commitments regarding the disposition of transuranic waste.

“In the course of our negotiations with the state, DOE offered aggressive and enforceable commitments to retrieve large quantities of buried waste, to determine whether this buried waste and other quantities of waste are mixed waste, and to treat Hanford's anticipated inventory of mixed low-level waste. We also offered target milestones for the certification of transuranic waste so that it can be sent to DOE's disposal facility in New Mexico. However, the state pressed to gain regulatory authority of transuranic waste, which we cannot agree to by law.

“We are extremely disappointed and believe it is very unfortunate that the state has decided to go to court in an attempt to halt the work of the Department of Energy to clean up the legacy of the Cold War. Efforts spent in court would be better spent making progress on the cleanup of the Hanford Site.” ■

## Picture Pages



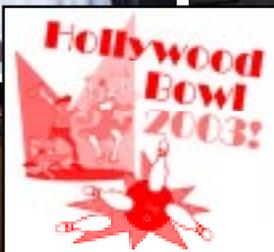
**BOOKS FOR BABIES:** Four-year-old Hailey Helland looks at a book with her mother Kristy Helland at a Books for Babies celebration March 4 at the Reading Foundation office in Kennewick. The program, supported by a \$10,000 annual donation from Fluor Hanford, provides new babies with their first books in area hospitals. Hailey was the first newborn to receive a Books for Babies package at Kadlec Medical Center, and this year she presented a book to another baby. Hailey's older sister Amber looks on.

**SLOW DOWN!** Speed-limit signs of 5 miles per hour were recently posted by Garlick Enterprises at the entrances to parking lots around the Stevens Center buildings. The posting of the 5 mph speed limit was prompted by a car-pedestrian accident in the parking lot of 2425 Stevens Center. Garlick Enterprises owns and manages the properties within the Stevens Center complex. Fluor Hanford, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the Department of Energy Office of River Protection, COGEMA and Bechtel are among the organizations having offices in Stevens Center.



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# Picture Pages



**BOWLING FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT** — These people participated in the Hollywood-themed Bowling Classic Feb. 27-March 1 to raise funds for Junior Achievement:

- ① Three of the five members of Team Battelle's "Raiders of the Lost Alley" — Lisa Smyser, left, Kim Sullivan and Rex Smyser — celebrate winning a "Celebrity Team Award" for outstanding fund-raising (not pictured are Pat and John Schuette).
- ② Rich Reisinger, left, presents second-place prizes for original costumes and superior fund-raising to CH2M HILL Hanford Group bowlers and Charlie Chaplin lookalikes Nancy Walker, Sherry Vigue, Linda Benoit, Marnelle Sheriff and Michelle Turnbow.
- ③ Master of Ceremonies John Umbarger has a word with Judy Connell of Fluor Hanford before the start of competition.
- ④ The Fluor Hanford ES&H "Smurfs" are seen receiving a best-costume prize from Karen "Vanna" Welsh of Fluor Hanford. The Smurf team members are (left to right) Dale Dyekman, Teresa M. Smith, Traci Snyder, Amy Wilburn and Diane Call.



*Picture Pages continued on page 6.*



## Deobald is Security Ed winner

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**Congratulations to Natalie Deobald of Protection Technology Hanford, the winner of the Feb. 24 Security Ed Challenge. Deobald won a fleece security blanket for correctly answering that information concerning quantities of Special Nuclear Material at Hanford has a high potential of being classified as Secret Restricted Data.**

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Security Ed would like to remind all personnel that a desktop reference of potentially classified subjects is available on the PHMC SAS Intranet site at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/sas/index.cfm?PageNum=102>.



**Sundaram**

## **Community Science and Technology Seminar to feature vitrification**

Recognizing the versatility and durability of glass, scientists have adapted it to “vitrify” or permanently immobilize radioactive wastes at the Hanford Site and elsewhere for safe permanent disposal.

Vitrification is the topic of the next Community Science and Technology Seminar Series event, Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. in the Columbia Basin College Theater. S. K. Sundaram, a materials scientist at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will present an overview of vitrification — its history, the science behind it and the innovative technologies that have been developed. The seminar, sponsored by PNNL and CBC, is free and open to the public.

Vitrification is a proven method of waste disposal that combines waste materials with glass-forming chemicals to form molten glass that then solidifies, immobilizing the waste. The final waste form resembles obsidian and is a non-leaching, durable material that effectively traps the waste inside. Sundaram will elaborate on the vitrification process, which includes pretreatment, formulation and melting, and the importance of each step in ensuring the waste is immobilized in an acceptable waste form that meets all the requirements for safe disposal.

Vitrification has been selected as the prime technology to immobilize and safely dispose of the radioactive waste generated by weapons production and nuclear research at several sites around the country for as long as 50 years. At Hanford, the waste has been stored in single- and double-shell tanks. The underground steel tanks designed to hold this waste material and prevent it from contaminating the surrounding environment were never intended to be a long-term solution. Some of the tanks have leaked.

“As scientists, we have a responsibility to find solutions to the ‘legacy’ waste problem confronting present and future generations,” Sundaram said. “Vitrification is an ideal technology for immobilizing the wastes at Hanford and elsewhere. It is adaptable to changes in the composition of the waste while still offering the desired waste-form properties.”

PNNL has been involved in vitrification research and development for more than 30 years. A good share of the laboratory’s work in vitrification has focused on developing formulations that produce effective and durable waste glass and optimize the vitrification process. Because of its expertise, PNNL is providing ongoing research and engineering support to Bechtel National as it moves ahead with construction of the vitrification plant to immobilize the radioactive waste stored in the tanks at Hanford.

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## **Community Science and Technology Seminar to feature vitrification, cont.**

Sundaram joined PNNL in 1994 and is currently involved in three major areas of research. In the area of millimeter/submillimeter wave technology, he has made significant contributions by developing advanced techniques for non-contact measurement of materials properties and process parameters in adverse environments. He is currently working on integrated infrared photonic materials and devices. He is also generating international interest in the emerging area of ultrafast (femtosecond/attosecond) materials science and engineering. Sundaram has a doctorate from the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He is also a visiting scientist with Plasma Science Fusion Center at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a visiting scholar with the Department of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University.

The Community Science and Technology Seminar Series is supported by the Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology and by the local chapter of Sigma Xi, the international honor society of scientific and engineering research. ■

## LMIT Rolls out Windows and Office XP on the HLAN

Computers and the network have become essential to the Hanford cleanup mission. As with any other key tools, computers and the network must be upgraded from time to time to maintain dependability.

The Hanford Site has used the Microsoft Windows 98 operating system for the past five years, beyond its typical life cycle. Microsoft introduced Windows XP several years ago, and announced that Windows 98 will not be supported after 2003. This means that, if problems arise, Microsoft will not answer questions or provide needed “fixes” to the software. For example, security updates will no longer be created for the product, which increases the site’s risk for problems resulting from viruses on these machines.



This year, Lockheed Martin Information Technology will migrate the site’s computer systems to the Windows XP operating system and Office XP desktop suite as the new personal computer standard on the Hanford Local Area Network. This adjustment will help maintain compatibility with currently manufactured hardware and software, improve security and increase stability of the HLAN.



### First step — application testing

More than 400 different computer application programs operate on the HLAN. These programs need to function in the XP environment. LMIT is already working with many of the application owners to validate compatibility and resolve problems. All known application programs, any tests performed on each program and current results are posted in the “App Testing” section of the XP Web site at <http://www.rl.gov/xp>.

LMIT is aware of two essential application programs with known XP problems — ACES (Access Control/Entry System) and SWITS (Solid Waste Information and Tracking System). SWITS and ACES users have been notified not to install XP until these problems are resolved. LMIT needs to know of similar problems. If you are an application program owner, please contact LMIT to begin testing your program for XP compatibility.

LMIT is providing test facilities and posting test results for any non-LMIT-developed applications as well. System owners may schedule the facility by sending an e-mail message to ^Windows XP Project.

### Second step — deployment

Deployment of Windows and Office XP began in December 2002 for a selected subset of individuals. At the same time, testing of application programs began in earnest. Last month, LMIT installed XP on its own PCs to further check out the installation process. This month, general installation will begin for selected groups and individuals.

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## LMIT Rolls out Windows and Office XP on the HLAN, cont.

First, LMIT will schedule department-level group deployments with XP points of contact for companies. Second, XP installation will be available for individual users who have a need to install the operating system before the rest of their group members. These individuals will need to make arrangements through their organizational point of contact, listed below.

### An easier transition

Installing the new XP operating system is not simple. The Hanford Site has not made a progression from Windows 98 to Windows 2000, so XP installation is not merely an upgrade, but a new installation. This new installation requires that you temporarily remove and store all of your data and program files and then reinstall

*Continued on page 10.*

## XP Points of Contact

### Company/Organization

### XP Point of Contact

### Contact Information

• <b>CH2M HILL</b>	Tom Moore, Jr.	^CH2M XP Migration
• <b>COGEMA</b>	Ralph Elwell	376-2878
• <b>Department of Energy</b>	Cindy Hemsworth	372-1425
• <b>Fluor Federal Services</b>	Derek Kolar	373-6271
<b>• Fluor Hanford</b>		
Analytical Services	Bob Kerns	373-7138
Business Systems	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
Communications	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
Engineering Labs	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
Environment, Safety and Health	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
Fast Flux Test Facility	Bob Beach	376-5839
Nuclear Material Stabilization	Steve Roakes	373-0793
Mission Assurance	Paul Jacobsen	372-8453
River Corridor	Ron Kwis	373-4613
Site Operations	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
Spent Nuclear Fuel	Carol Clark	373-9183
Strategic Planning & Integration	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
Waste Management	Steve Sanborn	376-5943
Workforce Services	Roy Brogdon	372-1018
• <b>LMIT</b>	Mike Koons	376-4546
• <b>NUMATEC</b>	Tom Moore, Jr.	^CH2M XP Migration
• <b>Protection Technology Hanford</b>	Willie Bernard	373-2942

## LMIT Rolls out Windows and Office XP on the HLAN, cont. 2

them. LMIT understands the complexity of this major update and is committed to working with all Hanford Site customers to reduce impacts. LMIT plans to conduct testing in a focused and orderly manner, to facilitate and assist with XP installation on each PC and to promptly respond to any problems you may experience.

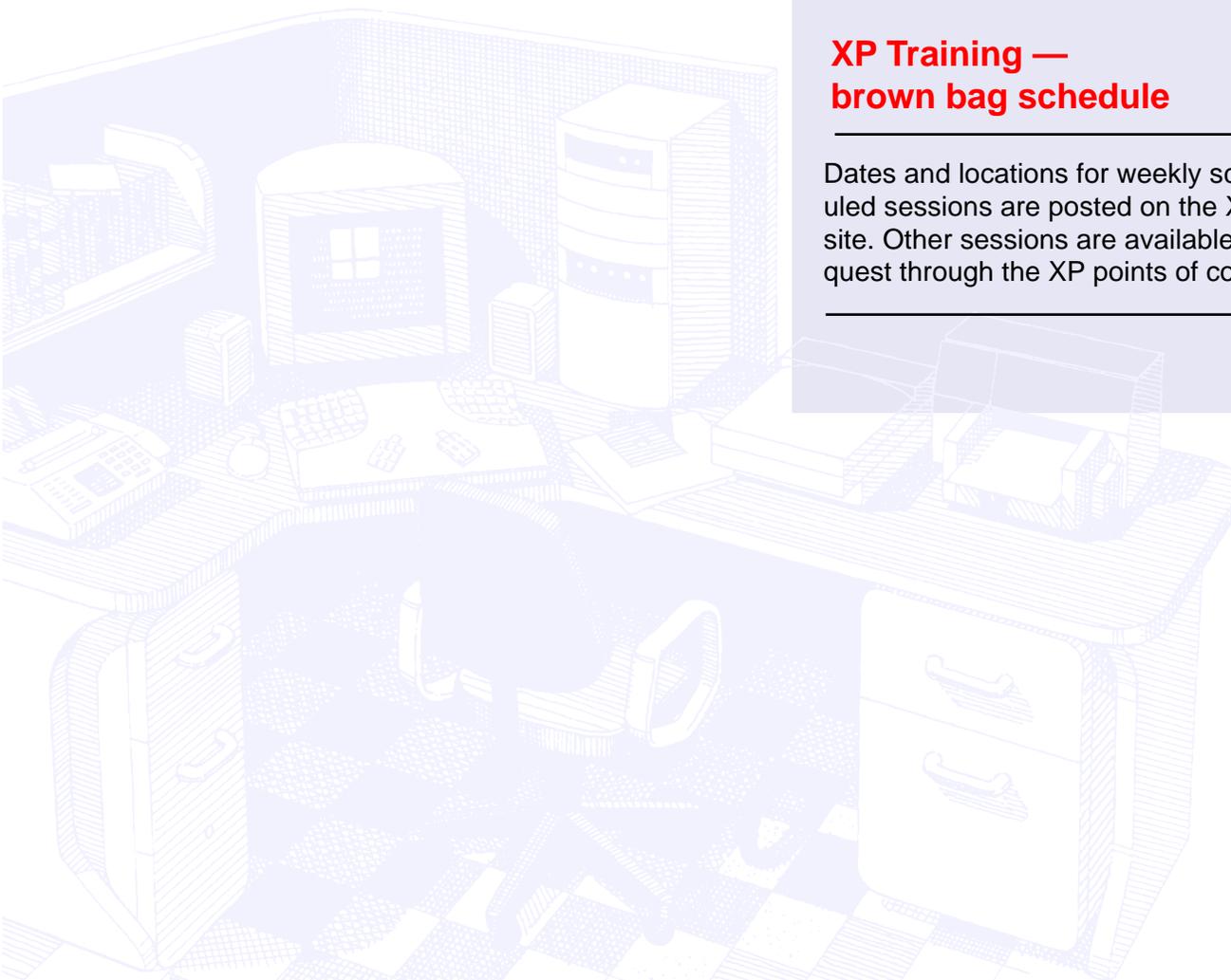
Before you install XP, LMIT recommends that you clean out and organize old data files on your hard drive. This step will significantly reduce the time needed to install XP and put you back to work quickly. For more information, visit the XP Web site at <http://www.ri.gov/xp> or send an e-mail message to the project team at ^Windows XP Project. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the XP Project manager, Jon Rowley, at 376-7834. ■

### Schedule for Windows and Office XP rollout and training 2003

Jan.-Sept.	Application testing
Feb.-March	LMIT installation
March-May	Early-adopter installation
March-August	Group deployment

### XP Training — brown bag schedule

Dates and locations for weekly scheduled sessions are posted on the XP Web site. Other sessions are available on request through the XP points of contact.



# The Fast Flux Test Facility — and the work goes on

Karin Nickola, *Fluor Hanford*

As this article is prepared for publication, the Fast Flux Test Facility's path toward deactivation has become clearer. Federal Judge Edward Shea ruled on Feb. 25 for the U.S. Department of Energy, finding that Benton County had not shown that DOE failed to follow National Environmental Policy Act regulations in deciding to deactivate the FFTF. The judge also extended the stay on certain deactivation activities for 30 days from the date of his written decision (*Hanford Reach*, March 3), to allow Benton County time to file an appeal if the county so desires.

In the midst of the legal turmoil, FFTF staff members continue to calmly accomplish work essential to future general plant operations. Off-loading spent-fuel assemblies is one such major task. During the process, spent FFTF fuel assemblies are removed, washed, dried, placed in dry storage casks and transported to interim-storage areas — eventually destined for permanent storage at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.



**Dan Pitts works on the solid waste cask chain hoist assembly in FFTF's Maintenance and Storage Facility.**

## The process

Fluor Hanford workers at FFTF must off-load about 250 mixed-oxide (uranium and plutonium oxide) spent-fuel assemblies encased in stainless steel. These assemblies are housed in the plant's Reactor Containment Area and Fuel Storage Facility. Although time-consuming and intricate, the off-loading process is actually fairly simple to understand.

First, operators of the bottom loading transfer cask use a computer-controlled grapple drive system to pluck a spent-fuel assembly out of either the Reactor Containment Area or the Fuel Storage Facility. This is a closely monitored process, because the assemblies are surrounded by liquid sodium that is 400 degrees Fahrenheit and highly reactive in air. An elaborate series of seals ensures the work is performed in an inert argon atmosphere.

Once inside the heavily shielded stainless-steel bottom loading transfer cask, the spent-fuel assembly is transported to the Core Component Transfer Station, where it is lowered through a port in the floor into a "pot" inside an argon-filled chamber. Again, this environment prevents any sodium residue that may reside on the assembly's exterior from reacting with air.

After the bottom loading transfer cask is moved away, the immense orange-colored Closed Loop Ex-Vessel Machine, commonly called CLEM, moves over the Core Component Transfer Station. CLEM reaches through the port in the floor, grapples the lip of the pot, draws the spent-fuel assembly up and seals it inside. Once all is secure, CLEM transports and lowers the pot into the Interim Examination and Maintenance Cell where the spent-fuel assembly is either washed immediately or waits in storage to be washed.

Washing and drying a spent-fuel assembly takes about a day. After it has been washed, the assembly is loaded into an Interim Examination and Maintenance Cell core component container. This container holds, in

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## The Fast Flux Test Facility — and the work goes on, cont.

a circular pattern, seven washed spent-fuel assemblies. A nozzle cutter is used to trim 15 inches off the length of the center assembly so the container's lid can be securely fastened. The trimmed pieces are collected in Interim Examination and Maintenance Cell waste bins and eventually taken to a Hanford low-level burial ground.

When a core component container is full, it is drawn up inside a solid waste cask by a computer-operated grapple drive system. After the solid waste cask is sealed, it is transported by rail to the FFTF Reactor Service Building.

In the Reactor Service Building, the solid waste cask is finally able to lower its container into an interim storage cask at the Cask Loading Station. Here, a one-ton steel plug is inserted into the top of the interim storage cask, bolted into place and leak-tested.

When operators are satisfied that all is safe and secure, the 114,000-pound interim storage cask is drawn up and placed on a custom-built cask transporter to be taken to one of the Hanford Site's interim-storage locations.



**Greg Bergquist stands before a mock-up in FFTF's Maintenance and Storage Facility.**

### Of people and progress

To date, about a third of the FFTF spent-fuel assemblies have been washed, dried and placed in interim storage — that's about 18 interim storage casks filled, out of an eventual 57. Halted in 1997 because of mechanical problems with the solid waste cask — as well as a need for FFTF mission evaluations — the process is just now being prepared for restart. With retrofitting and readiness assessments finally nearing completion, FFTF workers hope to resume spent-fuel off-loading activities in late April. Of course, that wouldn't be possible without the exemplary teamwork that exists at all levels of the FFTF workforce.

Dan Pitts, originally from Oakland, Calif., now calls the Tri-Cities home. A millwright and member of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, Pitts has been with FFTF for 24 years. His main job responsibility is erecting machinery.

At FFTF, Pitts has worked on everything from cooling-tower pumps to building layouts. His current workscope is associated with solid waste casks — making sure the chain hoist assembly is working properly, for example. An avid fisherman who enjoys both freshwater and deep-sea fishing, Pitts speaks highly of his co-workers and the facility itself.

"I like the guys I work with — they're very professional," Pitts said. "And FFTF is like a brand new facility — a showplace — compared to the outer areas. We're very proud of the plant, and that means we keep everything in top shape."

Greg Bergquist first came to FFTF from the Plutonium Finishing Plant in 1998 after working at PFP for

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## The Fast Flux Test Facility — and the work goes on, cont. 2

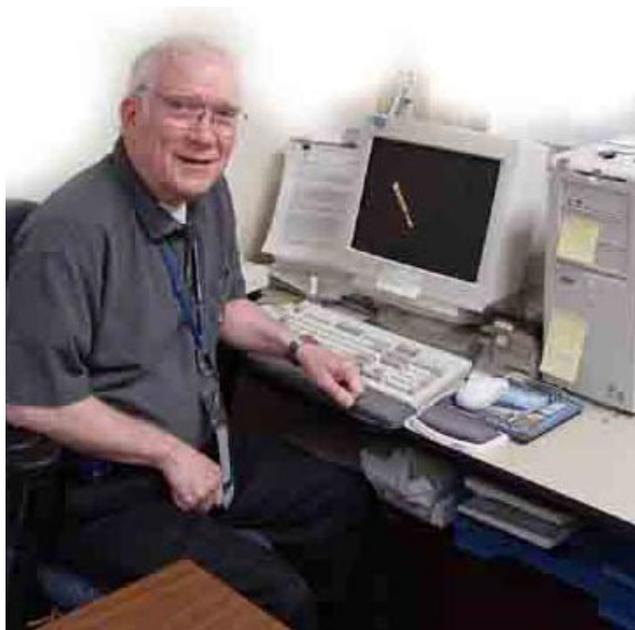
11 years. He's been with FFTF for five years performing mechanical systems engineering. His group has design authority for FFTF water systems.

Bergquist supervises fieldwork for the spent-fuel off-loading process. It involves replacing the ion-exchange resin beds and other corrective maintenance. In layman's terms, this means he ensures that the water for washing the spent-fuel assemblies can be recycled efficiently and safely.

"The people at FFTF are extremely dedicated and have strong moral character," Bergquist said. "I like that. It's a wonderful environment in which to work." He likens FFTF to a second family with common goals and interests. When he's not working, he is often found golfing with some of his "second family" members.

Bob Beach came to FFTF, supposedly for a two-month stint, six years ago! A member of the business-management group, Beach and his team members are working hard on readiness assessments for off-loading spent-fuel assemblies, which they hope to complete by April 28. On Feb. 26, the team completed and presented to management a CLEM readiness assessment. A sodium removal system readiness assessment is scheduled to begin this month, and solid waste cask and interim storage cask readiness assessments are due to begin late in the month or in early April.

Besides his work goals, Beach has some serious personal goals. One of them is to stay fit as "an older person." He accomplishes this by walking about 5 miles a day. About half of that is at work, where he uses a pedometer to count his steps — usually from 4,000 to 5,000 a day. He meets his daily goal each evening by continuing to walk at the mall or along the river.



With utmost respect for his dedicated co-workers, Beach said he's "looking forward to resuming fuel off-load."

### In the lead

Either directly or indirectly, everyone at FFTF has a hand in the enormous task of off-loading spent FFTF fuel assemblies. Training, operations, engineering, maintenance, safety, procedures, business-management and upper-

**Bob Beach's group prepares readiness reviews to make sure contractors are prepared to safely perform hazardous activities.**



**Pat Schweiger is project manager for the FFTF Fuel Off-Load Project.**

*Continued on page 14.*

## The Fast Flux Test Facility — and the work goes on, cont. 3

management employees are all vital to the success of this mission. Perhaps nowhere is the load felt heavier, however, than with the project lead.

Pat Schweiger came to FFTF in 1982, direct from Washington State University armed with a mechanical engineering degree. He worked first in operations, progressing through qualifications to become a chief operator, then an assistant shift manager. In 1989 he received his Professional Engineering License in mechanical engineering.

By 2000, Schweiger had moved from shift operations manager to deputy operations manager. And finally, late last year, he became project manager for the FFTF Fuel Off-Load Project.

“The Fuel Off-Load Project is an enormous task, requiring lots of coordination among many people,” Schweiger said. “The dedication, knowledge and just plain hard work these folks bring with them every day are essential to the success of the project. I am honored to work with such an outstanding team.”

### Meeting the challenge

Although it's only one facility at one DOE site in one of the 50 states, the Fast Flux Test Facility is a special place with special people who continue to exhibit excellence in their work. Through their individual talents and perspectives, the workers at FFTF have managed to have a positive influence on the Hanford mission in the midst of a very uncertain and trying situation.

And so the work goes on, one day at a time. ■

# Stick to the basic guidelines for good nutrition

Hanford Environmental Health Foundation Health Education Services staff

With so much health advice going around these days, it's sometimes hard to figure out which foods to choose for a proper diet. The U.S. government provides some basic guidelines that can help. People can maintain a healthy diet on a regular basis by following these tips for good eating:

- To get all the vitamins, minerals and other nutrients necessary for good health, be sure to eat a variety of different foods. Meals should be well-balanced, including fruits and vegetables, whole grains, breads and cereals, and a variety of protein sources such as poultry, fish, lean meats, beans and peas.
- Healthy eating works best when a person maintains a healthy weight. If a weight-loss diet is necessary, choose a moderate plan that aims to improve eating habits.
- When selecting foods, stay away from items that are high in fat and avoid saturated fats, butter, lard, hydrogenated shortenings and tropical oils.
- Be creative when seasoning foods, and use herbs or other flavorings instead of salt. Avoid salty snack foods and processed food products that are high in sodium.
- Make sure that daily meals include plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. These foods provide energy, contribute to overall health and help prevent disease.
- Avoid too much sugar. When a sweet is desired, choose whole fruit, carrot sticks, yogurt or low-fat breads and crackers instead of sugary snacks.
- When drinking alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.
- Basic dietary guidelines are always useful, no matter what new health fad is being discussed on TV or in the newspapers. The best approach to good nutrition is to use common sense, shop wisely and keep dietary guidelines in mind when preparing meals. ■

# 'Eat to Live' presentations scheduled

March is National Nutrition Month and Fluor Hanford Safety and Hanford Environmental Health Foundation Health Education Services are teaming to present "Eat To Live," a 30-minute nutrition presentation, at a number of work locations this month. Attendance at one of these presentations will meet the March safety meeting attendance requirement for Fluor Hanford employees. For further information, call Carol Powe of Fluor Hanford Safety at 376-8886, or Judi Staley of HEHF Health Education Services at 372-0097. Fluor Hanford work groups that cannot attend the scheduled presentations may call HEHF Health Education Services at 373-3729 to schedule a more convenient time.

<b>Eat to Live presentation schedule</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>300 Area</b> , 324, room 278	Tuesday, March 11	10:30-11:30 a.m.
<b>Federal Building</b> , room 142	Tuesday, March 18	8:30-9:30 a.m.
<b>2420 Stevens Center</b> , room 153	Tuesday, March 18	11 a.m.-12 p.m.
<b>200E Area</b> , 2751, room A111	Wednesday, March 19	8:30-9:30 a.m.
<b>200W Area</b> , MO-278, room A113	Wednesday, March 19	11 a.m.-12 p.m.
<b>100K Area</b> , MO-293, 100K	Thursday, March 20	11 a.m.-12 p.m.
<b>400 Area</b> , 4706, room 207	Wednesday, March 26	10:30-11:30 a.m.

# Earth Day Community Cleanup

## Day planning begins

Regional communities are gearing up for the observance of Earth Day in April. Earth Month will be commemorated with activities, workshops, educational programs and a Community Cleanup Day on April 19.

The Fluor Community Involvement Team and Team Battelle are adopting cleanup projects for April 19. If you would like to join these teams in their cleanup efforts call Calvin Dudney of Fluor Hanford at 373-6267 or Sandra Cannon of Battelle at (509) 529-1535. You may also call the contacts of individual projects to participate in the cleanup.



Among the activities planned for April 19 is a workday for trail maintenance and upkeep at the Chamna Preserve, sponsored by the Tapteal Greenway Association. Contact Ginger Wireman at 946-9692 or 736-3008 for more information.

The Benton Franklin Volunteer Center is scheduling senior and disabled citizen yard cleanup projects. Call the Volunteer Center at 582-0631 to adopt a yard.

The Atomic Ducks Dive Club needs certified divers to help clean the trash out of the Columbia River on April 19. Non-divers are also needed for shore support. Call Carol Porter at 373-7402 during the day and 943-5019 in the evening.

Groups are encouraged to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway litter cleanup on or around April 20. Call Tim Arntzen at 545-3405 to schedule your group.

Throughout April, cell phones and accessories that are no longer needed can be donated to the National Donate-a-Phone Program. They are repaired and provided to domestic violence victims. Phone-collection containers will be placed at the Richland Public Library and Mid-Columbia Public Library branches. For more information, log onto [www.donateaphone.com](http://www.donateaphone.com).

Visit [http://www.tcfn.org/earth day/](http://www.tcfn.org/earth%20day/) to see the schedule of activities planned for April. At this site, you may also download forms to register a community cleanup project or sign up to participate in a cleanup project. ■

# The Learning Resource Center has new videos

The HAMMER Learning Resource Center has the following new videos available for checkout:

- **Environmental Awareness: Recipe for a Cleaner World (E00144R)** — This program unravels the mystery and complexity of the Environmental Protection Agency's rulings and teaches employees how to better protect the environment (20 minutes).
- **Laboratory Safety: The Finer Points (L00100R)** — This video discusses safety and health while working in a laboratory (17 minutes).
- **Safety Meetings: Give 'em What They Want (S00276R)** — This video shows managers, supervisors and team leaders how to conduct the best safety meetings (17 minutes).
- **Safety Attitudes: Food for Thought (S00277R)** — This trainer's tool kit will teach your employees about the basics of proactive safety and will explain the importance of taking responsibility for safety on the job (15 minutes).
- **Safety Coach: The 7 C's of Safety (S00278R)** — Featuring Florida State head football coach Bobby Bowden, this training video is packed with information showing supervisors and employers how to actively support a safe workplace (19 minutes).

The Learning Resource Center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and alternating Fridays from 7 a.m. to noon; and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., (closed 12 to 1 p.m.). Call 373-3443 or send e-mail to ^HAMMER Learning Resource Ctr to check out resources. ■

# 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.

### Commute is tough on cars

John Faulkner (“Getting in the Groove,” *Hanford Reach*, March 3) is right; it is bad enough that we have to drive our automobiles a minimum of 40 miles each way to work. Now we have to endure the cost of unnecessary suspension work to our automobiles. Shocks, struts, wheel bearings and tires are just a few of the automobile parts that will wear out before the end of their expected life span.

As Faulkner mentioned in his letter, why are the grooves there in the first place? Did someone run into the guard shack or just miss it? Who came up with this idea? I would also like to know, when the parts on my automobile wear out prematurely, will it be possible to get the Department of Energy to help pay the bill for the cost of repairs that could range from \$200 to \$1,500? If you don’t believe me, call your local automotive repair shop and ask for a quote to have front struts put on your automobile.

Has anyone ever looked into the possibility of saving the workers on the Hanford Site a little money? We come to work every day and put miles and wear and tear on our automobiles, which would not be totally necessary for us to do if there were an economical way to share a ride with someone else.

Vanpools are nice, but do not accommodate, or are not cost-effective for, an estimated half of the people on the Hanford Site. We have a very nice bus lot that was built shortly before the buses stopped running. Maybe the Ben Franklin Transit would be interested in providing some sort of shuttle service from our bus lot to the various areas on the Hanford Site. They use a system similar to this for schools; why not for us? I would sure pay a fee every month for the use of this service.

When the day comes when there is a car that lasts forever, this will not be a problem. Until then, please do not make the long drive to work any worse on our automobiles than it already is.

**A. Howard Keck**  
*Fluor Hanford*



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

### Spelling session offered by Skills Lab on March 20

A Spelling Seminar will be presented Thursday, March 20, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Administration Building of the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. There is no charge for this service, but the class is filling fast, so reserve space immediately by calling Kathy Dechter at 376-3250. In the class, you’ll review “the Terrible Ten” — the 10 most commonly misspelled words — and learn key rules for spelling over 4,000 words correctly. You’ll clarify commonly confused words and learn memory tips and strategies. Columbia Basin College faculty from the Skills Enhancement Lab will present the session.

### 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*

*Classes continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## CLASSES continued

*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.

### **PNNL offers speech and presentation workshop**

The workshop, "Say what? How to Deliver Effective Speeches and Presentations," will be offered by the Scientific and Technical Information Department at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on March 20-21, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. in the Columbia River Room of ETB. Pam Novak, Cheryl Spears, Mary Frances Lembo and Michaela Mann are the instructors. If you want to equip yourself with the skills to simultaneously be in command of yourself, in touch with your audience, on top of your material and in sync with your visual and verbal aids, you are invited to attend. Register early; class size is limited to 20 participants. The cost is \$425. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at [cory.rhoads@pnl.gov](mailto:cory.rhoads@pnl.gov) or at 376-7157. For more information, contact Mary Wagner at [mary.wagner@pnl.gov](mailto:mary.wagner@pnl.gov) or at 372-4259, or visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov>.

### **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](mailto:matt@asme.org). For more information, visit [http://www.asme.org/sections/cb/B31\\_3course.html](http://www.asme.org/sections/cb/B31_3course.html). ♦

## CALENDAR



### **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](http://www.3-cities.com/~gates/AQP_ASQscholarship.html).

### **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](http://www.nma1.org/chapters/rsvp_form.htm) or by calling Lisa Hart at 376-3484.

### **WSU Tri-Cities hosts career information day**

Washington State University Tri-Cities will hold a career information day from 2 to 6 p.m. on March 13 at the Consolidated Information Center on the WSU campus in Richland. Employers and college students — undergraduate and graduate — alumni and the

*Calendar continued on next page.*

# Regular Features



## CALENDAR continued

public are invited to participate. Undergraduate and graduate degrees available locally in the Tri-Cities include programs from the College of Business and Economics, College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Nursing and College of Science. For more information, contact Marjorie Seipt at 372-7351 or mseipt@tricity.wsu.edu.

### **Environmental Quarterly Forum set for March 13**

Bechtel Hanford is sponsoring the Environmental Quarterly Forum on March 13, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Federal Building Auditorium. Beth Bilson, DOE-RL assistant manager for River Corridor, will present DOE's strategy for establishing Risk-Based End States. Steve Wisness, DOE-RL Closure Division director, will discuss the challenges associated with transfer of land from the DOE. Mike Schlender, DOE-RL deputy manager, will provide an update on the Constraints and Challenges to Cleanup (C3T) activities. Brian Dixon, Fluor Hanford Centralized Consolidated Recycle Center manager, will discuss the capabilities of the Centralized Consolidated Recycle Center. All interested parties are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Donna Yasek at 372-9331.

### **How to Find Information on the Internet**

The Hanford Technical Library staff will show you how to tunnel through the mountains of information, and discover Internet sites that are useful for your day-to-day work at a demonstration on March 13, 12-1 p.m., in room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities. Contact Karen Buxton at 372-7451 or at karen.buxton@pnl.gov for more information.

### **Dance to raise funds to mentor students**

The Richland Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is sponsoring an Oldies But Goodies Dance on March 22 from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Richland Knights of Columbus Hall, 2500 Chester Rd. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Proceeds from this

event will support educational and tutorial programs to prepare middle school students for high school and college. For more information call Bertrand Griffin II at 373-4327 or Russell Flye at 372-1941.

### **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.

### **City University holds open house March 27**

City University will hold an open house on Thursday, March 27, 5-7 p.m. The open house is an opportunity for current and prospective students to meet with department representatives and faculty, and to learn about the various services available at City University. The address is 303 Bradley Blvd., Suite 202, Richland. The City University campus is located at the north end of the golf course at Comstock and George Washington Way. Call 943-9887 for more information.

### **Conference for office professionals scheduled**

Registration is open now through April 8 for the 17th Annual Hanford Office Professionals Training and Development Conference, April 15-16 at the Royal Hotel (formally the Tower Inn) on George Washington Way in Richland. The two-day conference has identical programs each day to allow flexibility in scheduling companies and participants. "Learning Curve for a Lifetime" is the conference theme. JoAnne Nai-che of nai-che & associates, inc., will provide the morning motivation; Scott Lerch of Microsoft will discuss smart living in the digital decade; Kathy Dechter will punch up your punctuation; and Barry Weaver of the U.S. Department of Energy will "Lighten up" the afternoon. The conference can accommodate up to 200 participants each day. Limited seating is available for each company, so register early. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.hanford.gov/misc\\_info/professional/index.html](http://www.hanford.gov/misc_info/professional/index.html). The conference is hosted by Fluor Federal Services and Eberline Services Hanford, Inc. ♦

# Regular Features

## VANPOOLS



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>.

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### BENTON CITY

Rider wanted for 8x9s vanpool from Benton City to 200W. Contact **Charlotte Burruss** by e-mail or at 373-4046. 3/10

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### KENNEWICK

Riders needed for Van No. 146. The van starts at Chuck E. Cheese, stops at the Federal Building and goes to 2750, 2719-EA, WESF, MO-434, and 2704-HV. Call **Barb** at 373-2006 or **Bobbie** at 372-0031. 3/10

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### PASCO

Van No. 213 out of Pasco needs riders. Leaves Desert Ice, across from the Broadmoor Mall off of Road 100, at 6:10 a.m. Drops off at 2750-E and at 2704-HV (and any place along the way). Backup drivers welcome, but not necessary. Evening pickup in reverse order. Van arrives back at Desert Ice at approximately 5:20 p.m. E-mail **Doug Bailey** at [douglas\\_m\\_bailey@rl.gov](mailto:douglas_m_bailey@rl.gov). 3/10

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### RICHLAND

Van No. 117 has spacious seating for 200W Area 8x9 riders. The van travels from the parking north of Densow's Drugstore at 1019 Wright in Richland at 6 a.m., and returns about 5 p.m. Stops at locations around the old Powerhouse and West Tank Farms. E-mail or call **Gary Bush** at 372-2531. 3/10

Vanpool No. 114 has an opening for a rider to PFP. The van leaves the 1200 block of Birch Avenue in Richland at approximately 6:10 a.m., picks up along Wright Avenue. The final pickup is at Desert Rock Fellowship on Jadwin Avenue. Interested Individuals may contact **John Faulkner** at 373-2286 or **Gary Anderson** at 373-1304. 3/10 ♦