

Local business gets D Reactor contract

Bechtel Hanford has awarded a \$2.36 million contract to Federal Engineers and Constructors of Richland to install a new roof on D Reactor. Work will begin this month and is to be completed by September 2004.

D Reactor is one of three surplus plutonium-production reactors at the Hanford Site being placed in interim safe storage, or "cocooned." Cocoon-ing involves demolishing the reactor building down to the five-foot-thick shield walls surrounding the reactor core, then sealing all openings and installing a new roof.

The reactors can remain in this state safely for up to 75 years. The Department of Energy and its regulators will then determine the best way to safely dispose of the highly radioactive reactor cores while the radioactivity in the cores decays to relatively manageable levels. Installing the new roof is the final stage of cocooning.

Hanford has nine reactors once used to produce plutonium. C Reactor was cocooned in 1998; DR Reactor, in 2002. F Reactor is to be completed this year; D Reactor, in 2004. Work on H, KE, KW and N reactors is scheduled beyond 2004. The historic B Reactor is not scheduled, pending a decision on whether to cocoon it or leave as an interpretive facility.

Over the past two years, Bechtel has awarded Federal Engineers and Constructors more than \$9 million in work. Included in the total are a \$4.8 million contract with Bechtel Hanford to remediate two Hanford waste burial grounds and a contract with Bechtel National, worth more than \$2 million, to design and build a simulator facility. Bechtel Hanford manages the Environmental Restoration Project for DOE's Richland Operations Office, and Bechtel National manages the Waste Treatment Plant Project for DOE's Office of River Protection.

The two Bechtel entities have awarded more than \$306 million in contracts to local and regional businesses in the past nine years. Bechtel National expects to award about \$2.5 billion in procurements and subcontracts on the Waste Treatment Plant Project, with a goal of awarding more than \$1 billion to small businesses. ■



Work begins this month to design the new roof for D Reactor (foreground). Cinderblock will be removed from the building, leaving only the five-foot-thick cement walls surrounding the reactor core. All openings in the building will be sealed and a 75-year roof will be installed. When completed in fiscal year 2004, the cocooned reactor will look nearly identical to DR Reactor, visible in the background.

HPTs, NCOs transferring to Fluor Hanford

CH2M HILL Hanford Group transferred 23 health physics technicians and seven nuclear chemical operators to Fluor Hanford on June 9.

In discussions among Fluor Hanford, the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and CH2M HILL, several resource issues were identified. It was determined that Fluor needed to increase its number of HPTs and NCOs to support current fieldwork, especially on the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. CH2M HILL anticipated a reduction on tank-farms projects, primarily because of completed work and improved coordination.

Four more nuclear chemical operators will transferred in the future, and the status of two others will be determined later.

CH2M HILL's Environment, Safety, Health and Quality organization will continue to provide appropriate levels of HPT support to the other tank-farm projects to ensure the safety of the workforce.

A CH2M HILL spokesman called the move "a positive example of the two contractors and the union working together to lessen the impact of potential reductions in force." ■

Pollution board extends ‘stay’ over hazardous waste order

The Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board has extended the “stay” over the disputed section of the hazardous waste order that the State of Washington Department of Ecology issued to the U.S. Department of Energy on April 30.

The section in dispute states, in part, “DOE shall immediately stop creating a backlog of untreated mixed waste.” The extension of the stay allows DOE to continue all cleanup operations. It is effective until July 7. ■

New Hanford database tool receiving rave reviews

Karin Nickola, *Fluor Hanford*

Accessing information from a database called the Hanford Environmental Information System, or HEIS, has just become infinitely easier for Hanford Site and off-site users, thanks to a new tool developed for the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office.

"I am so happy to see this new product," said Dib Goswami, site-wide groundwater/vadose zone specialist for the Nuclear Waste Program at the Washington State Department of Ecology. "It is so user-friendly and so easy to access. And it fills a gap that has existed far too long. We regulators will be using this tool frequently in the future."

Expanding capabilities

Fluor Hanford's Groundwater Protection Program manages Hanford environmental databases, ensuring that site-wide users have easy access to a wealth of technical information about the site. The databases include the following:

- The Hanford Environmental Information System (HEIS)
- The Hanford Well Information System (HWIS)
- The Hanford Geographic Information System (HGIS)
- The Waste Information Data System (WIDS).

The program also supports project-specific databases within the Groundwater Protection Program, including databases for pump-and-treat operations and "in-situ" redox manipulation.

HEIS contains chemical and radiological monitoring data dating back to about 1950. There are more than 600 chemicals in the HEIS database, for a total of approximately 2.5 million records from more than 1,700 wells for monitoring water quality.

In the past, site access to some of the most commonly used information in the database required a fairly sophisticated knowledge of system operations, while off-site access was very difficult. So last year the Department of Energy set out to improve things.

To do that, DOE entered into a small-business contract with a firm specializing in processing and presenting large amounts of environmental data in a Web-based format. Design work for the new HEIS instrument was completed and ready in December 2002. Several security and logistical hurdles were cleared early in 2003, allowing the tool to be launched on the Hanford Internet.



A new monitoring well is drilled near the Columbia River.



The new HEIS database tool provides an efficient means of viewing chemical data in four ways — "all wells," "well series," "groundwater operable units" and "RCRA TSD sites."

Continued on page 5.

New Hanford database tool receiving rave reviews, cont.

The new technology

Perhaps of greatest significance, the new HEIS database technology presents users with centralized data in an accurate “real-time” fashion that doesn’t require time-consuming extracting and plotting. Specific features include the following:

- Nine categories from which to select data — GenChem, Physical, Metals, Organics, Pesticides, Radionuclides, Semi-volatiles, Volatiles, and Well Plot Summary
- Chemical data tables for the entire site, as well as specific sub-sites
- A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hyperlink to chemical properties and regulation descriptions
- Links from well names to chemical plots and well details
- Concise displays for well locations, rainfall, water levels, geology, well-construction details and plots of all chemicals monitored at the wells
- Historical groundwater plots with corresponding construction and location details.



In FY 2002, more than 650 Hanford monitoring wells were sampled at least once.

Doug Hildebrand, DOE-RL environmental scientist and project lead for the new HEIS database access tool, is excited about the new capability. “It affords Internet users a quick way to sort or discern contaminants in particular areas,” Hildebrand said. “With this tool, you don’t have to be an SQL [Structured Query Language] scriptwriter to query a database. You just point and click.”

Access, future plans

Users may access and explore the new database tool through the Groundwater Protection Program Web site at <http://www.hanford.gov/cp/gpp/>. From the sidebar selections, choose “Modeling and Site-wide Assessments.” The sub-category is “Hanford Database Integration.” The “Groundwater Chemical Data Summary Tables” link is found at the bottom of the page.

Several organizations have already taken advantage of training sessions. People who attended a Groundwater Protection Program open meeting on June 2 were briefed on the capabilities of the new tool. The Washington State Department of Ecology took part in a training session on May 28.

According to John Morse, DOE-RL’s program manager for Groundwater Protection Program, several system upgrades are already planned for the near future.

“In the next several months, we hope to add a ‘dynamic links’ capability in which users will be able to narrow the data search by year, chemical type and location,” Morse said. “We also plan on developing a geographic information system for selecting and presenting data.” ■

PNNL explores future safe use of hydrogen fuel

Darcy Short, *Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*

Hydrogen is envisioned as a primary energy resource of the future, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is helping to safely usher it into the 21st century. Named as the lead for the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Hydrogen Safety program, PNNL will carry out and coordinate the research necessary to develop safety codes, standards and guidelines for using hydrogen.

In January 2003, President George W. Bush proposed in his State of the Union address that \$1.2 billion be allocated for hydrogen research and development. A highly regarded resource, hydrogen, if produced by renewable resources, produces no pollutants. If used in a fuel cell, the only exhaust from a pure hydrogen input stream is water vapor.

Besides the obvious environmental benefits, there could ultimately be economic and national-security benefits too. Widespread commercialization of hydrogen-powered vehicles, coupled with renewable production, would reduce the United States' dependence on imported fuel resources.

Like any fuel, hydrogen is combustible and therefore potentially dangerous. "There is a public-perception problem with its relative safety, however, originating as far back as the Hindenburg accident in 1937," said Bruce Kinzey, a senior research engineer managing the project. He was referring to the explosion of the luxurious airship floated by 7 million cubic feet of hydrogen. Thirty-six people died in the incident.

"Although highly flammable, hydrogen is no more dangerous than other fuel sources such as gasoline and propane, and safer in some respects," Kinzey said.

Industries and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have used hydrogen relatively safely for decades. PNNL is working to make sure that, as it becomes more readily available for general use by the public, hydrogen continues this safety record and that these results are widely communicated.

Because hydrogen's application as a widespread energy carrier is relatively new, it faces several challenges not confronted in previous uses to date. "Obviously, NASA and industrial personnel have been highly trained and have proper equipment for handling hydrogen safely. But now we're talking about putting this into the hands of the general public," Kinzey said. "For example, a lot of people like to work on their cars themselves. We need to make sure that we build safe components and systems that, when maintained by relatively untrained personnel, won't compromise safety. Currently there are a lot of challenges to accomplishing that."

Fortunately, the transition to a hydrogen economy is not expected for a number of years — perhaps even decades. In the meantime, there are more immediate needs facing the safety program — many related to ongoing research and development of various hydrogen-related technologies. Safety is important here, too.

One of the first tasks for the PNNL team will be to establish a safety guidelines document that will become a part of all future DOE procurements involving hydrogen. The document will encompass all aspects of the envisioned hydrogen economy including production, distribution, storage and use. All future projects supported by DOE funding will be required to follow these guidelines as a condition of the funding contract.

A second task in this effort is to establish a Hydrogen Safety Panel whose purpose is to help guide the DOE safety program by identifying the research, development and data needed to support hydrogen safety. The panel will also provide annual reviews of all ongoing DOE hydrogen projects to ensure that safety is maintained.

"It is of paramount importance that there be no accidents involving hydrogen fuel," Kinzey said. "No new Hindenburgs!" ■

Make Your Move

For exercise injuries, have some R.I.C.E.



When spelled in lowercase letters, “rice” is a healthy complex carbohydrate. However, R.I.C.E., which stands for rest, ice, compression and elevation, is an easy way to remember the actions to take in treating those sprains, strains, muscle pulls and bruises that sometimes happen during exercise, no matter how careful we are.

The purpose of R.I.C.E. is to reduce swelling caused by blood flow and fluid accumulation in the injured area. Here are the actions the acronym reminds you to take.

Rest

- As soon as you experience pain, immediately stop your activity.
- Immobilize the injured area as much as possible over the next few days to allow it to heal quicker.

Ice

- Applying cold compresses to soft-tissue injuries reduces bleeding or swelling.
- Wrap ice or compresses in an absorbent towel or cloth to avoid frostbite.
- Apply for ice 10 minutes, then remove for 10 minutes.
- Maintain this regimen for 24 hours, or until pain and swelling subside.

Compression

- Compression, or pressure, helps reduce swelling and painful blood flow to the area.
- Apply pressure by wrapping the injury with an elastic bandage or by taping.
- Pressure bandages should be tight, but not so tight as to cut off blood flow completely.
- Loosen bandages or tape if your toes or fingers begin to feel numb or look discolored.
- Always use a cold compress along with compression.

Elevation

- Keep the injured area above heart level as much as possible to reduce internal bleeding and the pooling of blood in the area.
- Elevation also reduces pain and throbbing.

For exercise injuries, have some R.I.C.E. — QUIZ

Can you remember R.I.C.E. well enough to use it when you need it? Take the following quiz.

This quiz is worth five points for "Make Your Move" participants. Complete the quiz and mail it to: Judi Staley, HEHF Health Education Services, H1-04

Make Your Move QUIZ

1. R.I.C.E. stands for: _____

2. The purpose of R.I.C.E. is to: _____

3. The materials you need for R.I.C.E. are: _____

4. R.I.C.E. is used for injuries such as: _____

Submitted By _____

Hanford ID Number _____ Mailstop _____



Hanford workers take lunchtime to improve fitness

This is another in the series of articles that will accompany the Make Your Move program and feature Hanford workers who are physically active.

Tucked in an otherwise quiet corner of T Plant, 12-18 Hanford workers spend some of their lunchtime building their strength, improving their flexibility and engaging in aerobic exercise.

These are the members of “Olds Gym,” so dubbed by Jim Dudley, a nuclear waste process operator at T Plant, who works out at lunch, lifting weights, cycling on the stationary bicycle and boxing a few rounds with the heavy bag. Why “Olds?” Well, the members reflect the demographics of the Hanford workforce and range from 37 to over 60 years of age.

The weights and exercise equipment in the room belong to the workers themselves. Dudley and his co-workers bring equipment from home or pool their personal resources to purchase equipment. Their employers and managers only provide the space for the gym — and that tends to move around in the plant. This informal exercise space has been in existence for 28 years, and through that lifetime has been housed in six different locations in T Plant.

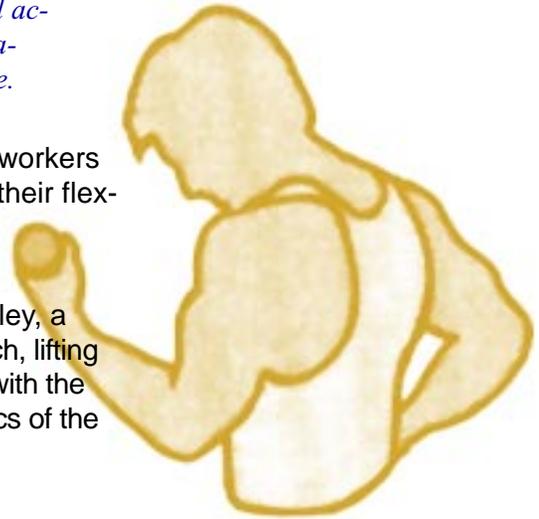
Dudley calls the current location, “Eden, because there is HVAC here.” Other locations have been in non-heated or non-air-conditioned spaces.

In addition to the well-known health benefits of exercise, these workouts help Dudley on the job. “I work on verification sampling and a lot of this work is done by hand — moving objects around — so I need to stay in shape to do the work safely and prevent injuries.”

Others agree, “There are no back problems among us here,” said Don White, a nuclear waste process operator.

Those who come here are serious about their workout, about losing weight, building stamina and strength and working out safely. There are no amenities — no music during or lattes after the exercise.

Some of those who work out are dressed in T-shirts and gym shorts; others come in comfortable work clothes. Some workers are quiet, focusing on getting the most of the 10- to 20-minute workout. Other workers pair or triple up to spot each other, count reps or joke and good-naturedly challenge one another to work a little harder.



Continued on page 10.

Hanford workers take lunchtime to improve fitness, cont.

"I look forward to this part of the day," said Doug Mallory, a radiological control technician from CH2M HILL Hanford Group. "We encourage one another and drive each other to improve."

The camaraderie helps pave the way to greater strength and a sense of personal accomplishment.

Jim Mecure, an electrician at T Plant, began working on strength training three years ago. He started bench-pressing 150 pounds and gradually worked his way up to 275 pounds. "I am not worried about lifting on the job, I know my limits and can work safely."

Ray Dohanuik, a Fluor Hanford instrument technician and another participant in the lunchtime workouts, is a member of the World Association of Bench and Dead Lifters. Outside of work, he has competed throughout the Pacific Northwest. Dohanuik's record for bench pressing is 519 pounds in the 47-53 age category and the 220-pound weight class. Dohanuik says that he and the others participating in the workouts practice lifting safety on the job and in the gym. "The combination of the aerobic exercise and strength training helps prevent injuries and helps you lose weight." ■

Initiative would thwart DOE plans for waste shipments

Watchdog groups, including Heart of America Northwest and the Government Accountability Project, filed an initiative a week ago to halt shipments of nuclear waste to Hanford. At least 197,000 valid signatures are required by the end of the year to qualify the measure for the November 2004 ballot.

The initiative would block new state permits for facilities to store waste from other states. Current plans of the Department of Energy call for various wastes from other sites to be packaged at Hanford and shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico for permanent disposal.

Opponents of the initiative say it would face costly legal challenges and could, if it were eventually enacted, establish the right of other states such as New Mexico and Nevada to refuse Hanford waste. The *Tri-City Herald* wrote in a June 10 editorial, "Managing Hanford cleanup by popular vote isn't just an absurd idea, it's dangerous."

State Senator Pat Hale, a Fluor Hanford employee, said state laws are already adequate for regulating Hanford waste without the new rules contained in the initiative. "The state has clear regulatory authority over the site," she said. "I think the initiative is totally unnecessary." ■

Three supplemental treatment methods in the running

The evaluation of methods for treating selected tank waste is gaining momentum with additional equipment and process testing both inside and outside the laboratory.

Tank cleanup contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group and its contractor teams are testing three methods of treating selected low-activity tank waste to supplement the Waste Treatment Plant, which is being constructed by Bechtel National. The potential methods would accelerate Hanford cleanup by reducing the amount of waste to be glassified in the new facility.

In September, CH2M HILL will make a recommendation to the Department of Energy Office of River Protection on the use of one, more than one or none of the three methods being considered. An evaluation of the methods will allow ORP to decide on the best way to move forward on building and operating supplemental treatment facilities to treat all of Hanford's tank waste by 2028.

Treatment methods

Three treatment methods are being considered:

- **Containerized cast stone:** This method involves mixing waste with ash, blast furnace-slag, Portland cement and chemical binders to form a material that is comparable in density and permeability to marble. The material would be cast in large steel containers suitable for land disposal. Cast stone is significantly denser and less porous than previous grout treatment methods considered at Hanford. A Fluor Federal Services contractor team is casting stone samples at the 222-S Laboratory using *real* tank waste. Fluor personnel at the Center for Laboratory Science on the Columbia Basin College campus are conducting leachability testing this year on samples cast with *simulated* waste. This summer, the Fluor team will also provide pre-conceptual engineering for a full-scale production system.
- **Steam reforming:** The steam reforming process uses heat and chemicals to immobilize waste in pebble-sized, insoluble ceramic crystals. The final waste form would have leachability characteristics comparable to glass. The commercial nuclear industry currently uses this process to treat radioactive waste.
- **Bulk vitrification:** This method uses electrodes inserted into a mixture of Hanford's sandy soil and low-activity tank waste to form glass inside a large steel container. Electrical power is applied and the mixture is converted to glass. After an off-gas hood is removed, the container — which is about the same size as a large sport utility vehicle — is suitable for burial in a disposal facility. Personnel from the contractor team of AMEC Earth and Environmental conducted lab-scale test melts with real and simulated tank waste earlier this spring at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Radiochemical Processing Facility. Earlier this month, the AMEC contractor team produced the first batch of bulk-vitrification glass in an actual disposal container at a facility near HAMMER. ■



With bulk vitrification, waste is glassified in a container suitable for final disposal.

Open house will feature treatment methods

To give the community a closer look at the supplemental treatment methods under evaluation, CH2M HILL is sponsoring an open house on Friday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Richland Community Center Activity Room.

Hanford employees and their families are welcome to look at the various samples of the proposed treatment methods and talk with representatives of CH2M HILL and the contractor teams conducting the treatment testing.

Hot tips for a cool summer

This Saturday, June 21, marks the official beginning of summer. We have already experienced some hot days, and you know there are more to come.

Here are some quick tips to help you get through the summer heat and avoid heat stress.

- Always keep a supply of cool water handy and *use it*.
- Wear and reapply sun-shade products often if you are outdoors.
- Don't stand for long periods of time without flexing your leg muscles often (keeps blood from pooling in your lower legs and causing you to faint).
- Check the heat index each day (humidity of 75 percent or more decreases the body's ability to lose heat by sweating).
- Avoid strenuous exercise during mid-day (10 a.m.-4 p.m.).
- Avoid using alcohol because it dehydrates your body.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing so your skin can cool itself through evaporation.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat if you plan to be in the direct sun for very long.
- Maintain good indoor ventilation by using a fan or air conditioning.

Good luck in the sun and enjoy the summer!

Picture Pages



RETURNING TROOPS THANKFUL FOR CARE PACKAGES: In April, Jody Briones helped prepare 100 care packages from employees of Fluor Hanford's Central Plateau Remediation Project and the Project Operations Center for American forces serving in the Middle East. When a recipient of the packages, Jeremy Asmus, arrived home from Iraq recently, he commented, "We all appreciated the packages. The guys were standing in line to get them and they shared everything. The items you sent were perfect and everything was used. Thank you very much for your concern, prayers and support." About half the packages went to Asmus and half were sent to naval reservists on a 1950s-era cargo ship. Doug Wertz reported his friends in the Naval Reserve also enjoyed their gifts and were also heading home.

Exhibition game, afterparty to raise funds for Willingham bone-marrow transplant

Streetball All-Starz (AKA And1) will play an exhibition game against a team of local players on June 21 at the Tri-Cities Coliseum in Kennewick to raise money for David Willingham's bone-marrow transplant. Willingham is the son of Bechtel employee Crystal Willingham-Welch. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the game is at 7. Tickets are on sale now for \$11-\$41 at the Coliseum box office or at www.ticketwest.com. For groups of 10 or more there is a \$3-per ticket discount. The official Streetball All-Starz Afterparty will be held 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at the Tri-Cities Coliseum Founders Club. Meet the players, dance and mingle for a suggested \$15 donation at the door. VIP passes are available for \$10 more.

A volunteer marrow drive will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on the same day in the Coliseum parking lot. If you're interested in becoming a potential marrow donor, contact Laura Oiland at the Inland Northwest Blood Center at (800) 423-0151 for more information, or go to www.marrows.org. ■

60 Hanford
1943-2003
Years

**The Hanford Site
celebrates 60 years
of protecting America**



WORKIN' ON THE HANFORD RAILROAD: Railroad engineer Robert Renn throttles up a steam locomotive in this picture taken at Hanford in June 1944. Renn, who was originally from Malden, Wash., worked for the Milwaukee Railroad for 34 years before coming to work at the war-time Hanford Engineer Works. The photo is from the archives of the East Benton County Historical Museum, 205 Keewaydin Drive in Kennewick.

Security Ed Challenge

What do you do when you hear the fire alarm?



Using an intercom or pulling the building fire alarm are effective ways of immediately evacuating all personnel from facilities during emergencies, including evacuations resulting from a bomb threat.

Take the Security Ed Challenge: If your building does not have an intercom and you hear the facility fire alarm and you begin evacuating, what two habits should you and all personnel get into?

- A. Take vehicle keys with you in case you are directed to leave the area.
- B. Shut off your office lights.
- C. As you evacuate, look around for suspicious items and report your observations or concerns to emergency personnel.
- D. Call CTS at 376-1234.

If your building does not have an intercom, the fire alarm might be a way to quickly evacuate the facility for emergencies other than a fire.

Do you know the answers to this challenge? Send an e-mail message to C. E. (Chet) Braswell listing the two habits you should get into when responding to a building fire alarm (indicate "Ed's Fire Alarm Habits" in the subject line) or clip this article, circle the correct answers, add your name and HID number and send your response to Security Education at L4-09. 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.

Security Ed would like to remind all personnel to take steps to ensure they protect their security badges from theft or misuse. If you are interested in learning more about security badges, visit the Personnel Security section of the PHMC Safeguards and Security Web page at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas>.

Submitted By _____ Hanford ID No. _____

Mailstop _____

Congratulations to Diane Avant of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, Debbie Malek of Fluor Hanford and James O'Connor of the DOE Office of River Protection, the winners of the June 2 Security Badge Protection Challenge. They all received portable travel alarms for taking the Security Ed Challenge. The correct answer to the challenge was "B. Ensure the DOE security badge is not used outside of DOE for other-than-government purposes."

If you have any challenges you would like Security Ed to consider, e-mail them to Security Ed at ^Security Ed or send them by plant mail to Security Ed at L4-09.

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.

Flagger struck by vehicle

This letter is a follow-up to my letter “Be attentive to and respectful of flaggers” (*Hanford Reach*, June 9).

On Friday, June 6, at approximately 7:30 a.m. at the intersection of Stevens Drive and Horn Rapids Road, my wife, a flagger on the Stevens Drive improvements project, was struck by a vehicle. The driver ignored the traffic cones, signs, my wife’s STOP sign and her verbal order to stop. The four-wheel-drive truck struck her sign, knocking it into her side and chest area, spinning her around. As he passed her he yelled “F___ you” and continued west on Horn Rapids Road.

The event was reported to Richland Police and he was cited for vehicular assault. My wife was examined at Kennewick General Hospital on Friday and returned to work, June 9.

Ron Bricker
Fluor Hanford

Editors’ note: The construction on Stevens Drive has caused delays and detours for Hanford commuters. If you have an opinion or comment on the inconvenience, take it to the appropriate level of authority within city government. The flaggers and road workers are doing their jobs. Slow down and obey their directions to help you navigate around the construction zones, and everyone can get to work and go home safely at the end of the day.

Heavy Metal Daze at PFP

Once again, the Plutonium Finishing Plant will be sponsoring the Heavy Metal Daze car show on June 18. All makes and models are welcome. Our motto is “If you’re proud of it, show it!” As in years past, we will use this venue to raise money for good causes. This year we are donating all proceeds to Columbia Basin Domestic Violence Services.

Unfortunately, society has a dark side — spousal abuse. Although both sexes can suffer abuse, it’s the wife or girl-

friend who escapes, many times with children, in the middle of the night with nothing. Among other things, Columbia Basin Domestic Violence Services provides these individuals with the items we take for granted — toothpaste, toothbrushes, clean clothes and a blanket and, for the children, bottles of formula, diapers, and a small toy to cling to while they endure a frightening time in their lives.

Hanford workers have always been generous with time and money for those who really need help. Of the many things that are accomplished at Hanford, our ability to make someone’s troubles a little easier to bear is the one that makes us all walk a little taller.

I hope to see you there.

Don Sorenson
Fluor Hanford

Editors’ note: In addition to the car show, Heavy Metal Days will feature a barbecue. The event will take place in the PFP south parking lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Awards will be given to vehicles in the following categories: motorcycle, hot rod, truck, import, bone stock, work in progress and best of show. For more information, call Shawn Wilson at 373-3435, Don Sorenson at 373-5935, Bill Allen at 373-2286 or Henry Ownby at 373-1761.

Thank you

I recently experienced every person’s worst nightmare — the loss of a parent. After fighting courageously, my mother lost her battle to Alzheimer’s disease. To my brothers and sisters of Local 984A, my working family at MO-267, and to CH2M HILL Hanford Group, I would like to thank you for your support and caring. The plants and flowers I received will be a constant reminder of better times and great memories.

A very special thanks to Martin and Nancy for your wonderful living memorial to my mother.

Again, thank you!

Ronald Spicer
CH2M HILL Hanford Group

Life is not so easy

Let’s be clear about the concerns brought up in the letter, “Life easy for Sheriff’s Department” (*Hanford Reach*, June 9). Everyone is a stranger to a law-enforcement officer making a traffic stop. The required badge worn around a worker’s neck tells an officer nothing valuable

Letters continued on next page.

Regular Features



LETTERS continued

about the person the officer is stopping. There is every chance an officer may have a weapon pulled on him or her and may be dealing with alcohol- or drug-related problems. All law-enforcement officers everywhere face the same dangers.

Just because an item is prohibited, or there is a law against it, does not ensure everyone will adhere to the rule, or follow the law. Speeding is also prohibited on the Hanford Site, yet it continues to be a very real problem. If a driver is speeding, he or she should expect to be pulled over and issued a citation by an officer.

The Department of Energy contracts with the Benton County Sheriff's Office to patrol the Hanford Site. State Highway 24, referred to as a "road rally," is patrolled by the Washington State Patrol.

Take your ticket like a grownup and slow down. Then life will be good for workers and law-enforcement officers on the Hanford Site.

We owe law-enforcement officers our respect and gratitude for keeping the Hanford Site a safe place to both drive and work.

Lori Adkins

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Frustrated with traffic, too

Over the past couple of years, I too have been frustrated with the "Hanford road rally" ("Life easy for Sheriff's Department," *Hanford Reach*, June 9), and have drafted letters for publication in the *Reach*. But that activity has been of little service other than to provide a means to vent frustrations. Conditions seem to have remained the same.

I would, however, caution against believing that life is so good for the Sheriff's Department at Hanford. The mere fact that alcohol and weapons are prohibited on site does not mean that there are none here. The Hanford Patrol does an outstanding job of enforcing these regulations, but we would be foolish to believe that there is 100 percent compliance.

Additionally, I would recommend contacting the appropriate county with regard to issues on State Highway 24, as the highway does not run only in Benton County between here and Yakima.

I would not like to be a deputy handing out citations at Hanford, as it seems that many Hanford workers think they have divine rights not granted to the populace, due to

them simply because they work at Hanford. I have pushed the envelope by speeding on site and have been a recipient of a ticket from Benton County, but the ticket was deserved and life has continued.

Tom Kimmel

Fluor Hanford

Patrol cars make a good deterrent

The June 9 letter from Noel Hinojosa makes me think of the many times I've seen the Benton County Sheriff's speed-check radar trailer set up on Beloit Ave., where the speed limit goes from 55 to 35 miles per hour coming into the 200 West Area from the Rattlesnake Barricade.

Funny, there is never a patrol car there to use its information. I wonder if it takes pictures? I know I've seen the speeds 47, 43, 52 mph displayed in red, which is not much of a deterrent. Why not put it and a couple of patrol cars on State Highways 240 or 24? They may make a better deterrent.

Tom Kiley

Fluor Hanford

C L A S S E S



PROTRAIN offers software training

Primavera Project Planning (\$425 per day)

- P-3 602 — June 23
- P-3 603 — June 24
- P-3 604 — June 25

Crystal Reports 8 (\$249 per day or \$448 for both days)

- Introduction — June 23
- Advanced — June 24
- **Upgrading to Windows XP** — June 27 (\$249)
- **Upgrading to Office XP** — June 26 (\$169)

For more information, contact Sarah at 375-0414 or at sarah@protrainsys.com. Group discounts are available.

Effective Presentations offered on June 23

"Effective Presentations" is an eight-hour course that is ideal for anyone wanting to improve their communication skills including trainers, managers, team leaders and committee members. This course will be

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Regular Features



CLASSES continued

presented on June 23 by Joe Estey at the Hanford Training Center. The cost is \$180 per person. To register, contact Joan Howard at 946-2102 or at jhoward@energxfanford.com or Lynn Collins at 946-9654 or at lcollins@energxfanford.com.

“Constructing the Technical Document” June 25-26

“Constructing the Technical Document: Essential Strategies and Skills” will be offered June 25-26, in the Columbia River Room of the ETB on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus. This class will help you achieve benefits associated with effectively sharing research or products; learn to address and affect readers, advance careers or fine-tune technical writing skills; and apply the fundamentals of an audience analysis. You will also gain an understanding of document management: the need for teaming and attention to planning, writing, editing, publication design and marketing. Register early; space is limited. For more information, visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov> or contact Mary Wagner at 372-4259 or at mary.wagner@pnl.gov. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at 376-7157 or at cory.rhoads@pnl.gov.

Refresher course for the electrical PE exam

A refresher course for the electrical P.E. exam begins July 14 at Washington State University Tri-Cities. The course meets weekly on Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m. through Sept. 29. The refresher course will prepare engineers for the next Washington State Electrical Professional Engineers exam in October. Enrollment is limited. Books for the course will be available at The Bookie on the WSU Tri-Cities campus. For more information, contact Karen Davis at 372-7293 or at kldavis@tricity.wsu.edu.

Classes offered in punctuation, grammar, spelling

The Skills Enhancement Lab will hold half-day classes on punctuation, grammar, business writing and spelling. All the classes will be held 7:30-11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center Administration Building. There is no charge for any of the following classes, but they

fill quickly, so reserve a seat now by calling Kathy Dechter at 376-3250:

- **Painless Punctuation** — Tuesday, July 15. Participants will learn to cure comma-itis; use colons and semi-colons properly; handle exhausted apostrophes; tackle the lowly hyphen; review fragments, comma splices, and run-ons; and review must-know key rules.
- **Successful Business and Tech Writing** — Thursday, July 17. This light-hearted workshop teaches the essentials of successful business and technical writing through relevant exercises. Learn effective ways to structure a document for impact, pinpoint audiences, identify purposes, organize information efficiently and clearly, eliminate gobbledegook, format documents for more impact, and edit your own and others' work. In short, you'll learn to produce clear, readable documents. Suggested prerequisite: Painless Punctuation.
- **Goof-Proofing your Grammar** — Tuesday, July 22. Participants will learn to recognize and deal with the most frequent grammatical goofs: pronoun problems; mangled modifiers; easily confused, misused and abused words; proper use of who/whom, lie/lay, bring/take, who/which/that; pronoun-antecedent agreement; subject-verb agreement; parallel phrasing; and must-know key rules.
- **Successful Spelling** — Thursday, July 24. If you sometimes have trouble deciding how to spell a word, even with a spell-checker, this practical session is for you. The workshop will review common spelling demons and help you to learn to spell them correctly. You'll master the Terrible Ten — the ten most often misspelled words — as well as clarify commonly confused words. You'll also learn crucial key rules for spelling over 4,000 words correctly. Best of all, you'll get memory tricks to help you remember what you learn.

Personal Protection Safety Measures July 29-30

The Northwest Public Power Association is presenting “Personal Protection Safety Measures,” a two-day class at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center July 29-30. This course will cover

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CLASSES continued

the physiology of electrical shock and treatment; the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's mandated electrical requirements; the role and use of NFPA 70E; and over 600-volt applications. Register before June 27 and pay \$1,095. The cost is \$1,145 for registrations received after June 27. To register, contact Wendy Carlson at (360) 254-0109 or visit www.nwppa.org. ♦



CALENDAR

Event showcases Greenwood Faire and Cool Desert Nights

You are invited to John Dam Plaza (across from the Federal Building in Richland) on Tuesday, June 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., to enjoy the music of Romagossa Blu' and a special presentation by Ye Merrie Greenwood Renaissance Dancers. This is the first of the Super Summer Series, which will be showcasing summer activities in Richland. On this day, Cool Desert Nights, Ye Merrie Greenwood Renaissance Faire, the Arts and Entertainment District and several Richland businesses will be featured. The Super Summer Series events are open to the public and free of charge. The series is presented by the Richland Chamber of Commerce and the City of Richland. For more information, contact The Daniels Group, LLC, at 943-5109.

Library staff members demonstrate electronic resources

The Hanford Technical Library staff will conduct demonstrations on two days to assist you in using the library's electronic resources.

"Library Resources" will be presented on Wednesday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the

Okanogan Room of the ETB on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus. Staff members will show you how to use the library's electronic services to find the information you need when you need it — all from your desktop. For more information, contact Yung Harbison at 372-7453 or at yung.harbison@pnl.gov.

On June 19, in classroom 28 of the Administration Building at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center, the library staff will assist you in learning to use the Hanford Technical Library resources on the following topics:

- Environment, Safety and Health Topics — 1-1:50 p.m., learn how to find ES&H information on the Internet.
- Legal Resources — 2-2:50 p.m., learn database search tips and the best Web sites for federal and state legal information governing environment, safety, and health.
- Environment, Safety, and Health Resources — 3-4 p.m., learn how to use databases, full-text journals and other sources to find information on occupational health, toxicology, environmental cleanup and hazardous materials to create a safer workplace.

Conference on plutonium will be held in Albuquerque July 6-10

The Science 2003 Conference — The Plutonium Futures — will be held July 6-10 in Albuquerque, N.M. The third in a series, this conference will provide an international forum for presenting and discussing current research on physical and chemical properties and environmental interactions of plutonium and other actinide elements. Register before June 5 and save \$100. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.lanl.gov/pu2003>.

Civil Air Patrol holds informational meet June 24

The Tri-Cities Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol will hold an informational meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on June 24 for youth ages 12 to 18 who are interested in joining the cadet program.



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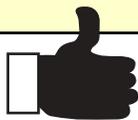
CALENDAR continued

The meeting will be held in the Squadron Building at the Richland Municipal Airport. The Civil Air Patrol is the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program builds responsible citizens for America through a positive approach to aerospace, leadership and life skills. Youth who join the cadet program will learn military drill, wear a uniform, earn rank, perform community service and can learn to fly. For more information, call 735-7437 (in the evenings).

CREHST offers summer camps for fifth-through-eighth-graders

The Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology will hold summer camps during the week of July 28-Aug. 1 for students entering fifth and sixth grades, and during the week of Aug. 4-8 for students entering seventh and eighth grades. The theme for the summer camps will be the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery and will include scientific activities, creative crafts and artistic projects surrounding the following topics: ancestry of dogs, study of raptors, mapping and exploration skills, the nature of sound and Native American culture. The camp fee is \$40 for CREHST member families and \$55 for non-member families. For more information and to register, call CREHST at 943-9000. Participation is limited to 20 students per session. The camp will be held in Richland's Howard Amon Park near the museum. ♦

B R A V O



Two PNNL scientists appointed Health Physics Society Fellows

The Health Physics Society will recognize Pacific Northwest National Laboratory senior scientists Darrell Fisher and Paul Stansbury as Fellows of the Society at an annual meeting in July in San Diego, Calif. Fisher and Stansbury are being honored for their significant administrative, educational and scientific contributions to the profession of health physics.



Fisher

tection, radiation biology



Stansbury

The Health Physics Society is an international professional scientific organization dedicated to promoting the practice of radiation safety. The society is active in all aspects of radiation protection, including information dissemination, standards development, education, preparation of position papers and promotion of scientific conferences and committees.

Fisher joined PNNL in 1978. He is a medical physicist with experience in nuclear science, environmental science, radiological protection and radiochemistry. He leads the laboratory's Radioisotopes Program, a national technology resource supporting innovative radioisotope applications in science, medicine and industry. Fisher also holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Washington and at Washington State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Utah in 1975, and his master's degree and doctorate in nuclear engineering sciences from the University of Florida in 1976 and 1978, respectively.

Stansbury joined PNNL in 1990 and specializes in the assessment and reduction of radiation risks in the workplace and environment, locally and around the world. He is certified by the American Board of Health Physics as a health physicist, and teaches a course on behalf of the Columbia Chapter of the Health Physics Society for those preparing for the certification exam. He has an adjunct appointment at Washington State University and instructs a course in radiological science. He earned degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology, including a bachelor's degree in physics in 1970, a master's degree in physics in 1971 and a doctorate in nuclear engineering in 1978. ♦

Regular Features



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.

KENNEWICK

Looking for rider from Kennewick to 200W. Picks up at Albertson's on Edison and Clearwater and at the Richland airport. Stops at 222-S, 272-WA and WRAP. Call **Abe Garza** at 373-2898. 6/16

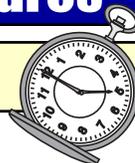
Van No. 141 has immediate openings for riders, 8x9 shift, to 200W, one stop at 277-W. Leaves from Fred Meyer in Kennewick, and stops at the Hanford Training Center in Richland. Please contact **Terry** at 373-5566 or **Tom** at 373-2477. 6/9

RICHLAND

Vanpool No. 216, needs one or two riders, 8x9s, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., door-to-door delivery in Richland. Van starts on the south end of Jadwin, winds its way up Thayer and Williams, over to George Washington Way and out to 2750-E and to 2704-HV (if new rider is a backup driver). Call **Michelle Calvert** at 376-5400. 6/16

Spacious seating is still available for several 8x9 riders to 200W aboard Van No. 117. Roundtrip from parking lot adjacent to 1019 Wright in Richland. The cost is less than that of a daily commute for one person in his or her own personal vehicle. Call or send an e-mail message to **Gary Bush** at 372-2531. 6/16

Vanpool to 200E needs several riders, 8x9s. Rate as low as \$35 per month. Leaves former Hanford bus lot (across from 2440 Stevens) at 6:25 a.m. and drops off at 2750-E. Contact **Dave Hedengren** at 373-5094. 6/9 ♦



RETIREMENTS

Burden retirement party set for July 11

After 23 years of faithful service at Hanford, Sandy Burden will be retiring. Join us in celebrating her retirement on July 11 at 2 p.m. in Leslie Groves Park in Richland. A barbecue lunch and cake will be served. The cost is \$10 per person for food and contribution to a gift. RSVP by calling Laurie Ann Robinson at 372-0914 by June 27. ♦