

Guests, employees celebrate T Plant's 60th anniversary

More than 150 employees and guests celebrated the 60-year anniversary of the groundbreaking for T Plant on June 26 with speeches, music and lunch on the lawn in front of the plant. Michele Gerber, Fluor Hanford senior communications specialist and Hanford historian, delivered the keynote address. Guests included the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, director of Waste Management, George Sanders; DOE facility representatives Dale Splett and Tom Davies; Fluor Hanford Executive Vice President Tom Harper; and John Perkins of the Fluor Hanford Waste Management Project.

David Levinskas, project support manager at T Plant, introduced Gerber and reminded the audience that T Plant, which formed the backdrop for the celebration, was in existence before most of the audience was born. "The plant is the oldest and longest operating nuclear facility in the world, and it continues to serve Hanford Site today as it stands ready to receive the shipments of sludge from the K Basins."

Gerber recalled that at the time of the groundbreaking, June 26, 1943, the popular dance was the jitterbug, Betty Grable was a popular pinup girl, and on a more sobering note, many of the major battles of World War II had not yet been fought.

At that time at Hanford, more than 51,000 workers were housed on site, just east of T Plant. Running water was scarce and there was limited electrical service to the area. Yet 10 months after the groundbreaking, the roof of T Plant was in place. Five months later, the operations workers took over the facility from the construction workers, and the chemical-processing work began. On Dec. 26, 1944, the first chemical-processing production run using irradiated uranium from B Reactor occurred. In February 1945, the first plutonium product was sent from Hanford to Los Alamos.

In just over two years after construction began on this facility, the plutonium product from T Plant was used in the world's first atomic explosion in July 1945 and in the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in August 1945.



Photo courtesy of Dan Conners, Fluor Hanford

On June 26 Hanford marked the 60th anniversary of the groundbreaking for T Plant. Throughout its life, the facility has served the country with its chemical processing, decontamination and waste-handling missions.

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Guests, employees celebrate T Plant's 60th anniversary, cont.

Gerber related the story of a late Prosser resident who had been a Japanese prisoner of war working in the Kokura Arsenal as a slave laborer. The man heard the drone of a bomber's engines as it flew above, concealed by a thick cloud cover on Aug. 9, 1945. The next day, the POWs were free to leave the arsenal as the guards had fled. The man made his way to meet American troops and learned that the bomber he heard fly over Kokura had not been able to hit its target, the arsenal, but went on instead to its secondary target, the city of Nagasaki.

T Plant continued its chemical- processing mission until 1956, when its mission became decontamination. Waste-handling operations were added to the decontamination mission in 1990.

"T Plant is a significant part of American history. It behooves us to know it better than anyone else, be prepared to speak about it and view it with balance. I believe that we should be very honored to be associated with such a great gray lady," concluded Gerber.



Photo courtesy of Dan Conners, Fluor Hanford

One of the caterers prepares lunch for attendees of T Plant's 60th anniversary celebration.

The full text of Gerber's address is being posted on the Hanford Intranet site and can be found by going to the T Plant Web site at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/TPLANT/>, clicking on "Priorities, Plans and Schedules" and then "What's New."

To learn more about T Plant's history, visit the *Hanford Reach* Web page at <http://www.hanford.gov/reach/> to access the Sept. 16, 2002, story by Michele Gerber, "T Plant begins drying and removing Shippingport Reactor spent nuclear fuel," which is also the source document for the June 23 story, "T Plant at 60 years — where Hanford's past, present and future meet." ■

Picture Pages



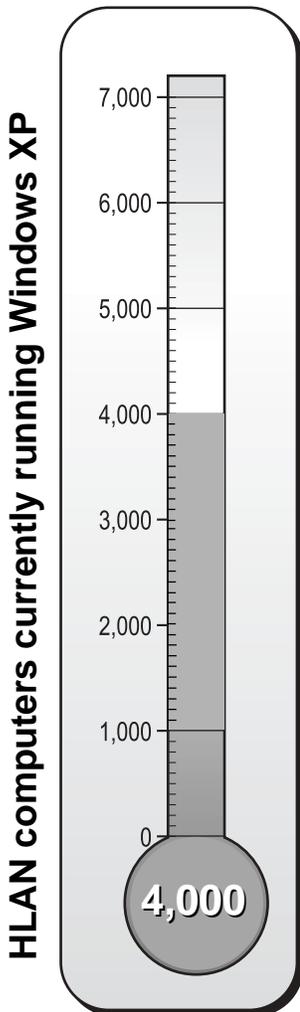
FFTF FUEL SAFELY OFFLOADED: Workers place an interim storage cask on a pad at the Fast Flux Test Facility, managed by Fluor Hanford. Twenty casks, each containing seven washed spent-fuel assemblies, now rest on the pad. Within the past two months, FFTF employees have safely added two interim storage casks to the 18 that were placed during an earlier campaign, and two more casks are to be placed on the pad this month. During a noon break on June 26, FFTF acting project director Bruce Klos and his staff celebrated the reinstatement of the fuel-offloading process with a short all-hands meeting and ice cream served by facility managers (Top right). In the photo at bottom right, Klos presents the ALARA Person of the Quarter Award to Doug Bruinekool. For FFTF employees performing the work, the operative word is **SITE**, Fluor's approach to work — **S**afety, **I**ntegrity, **T**eamwork, **E**xcellence.

Hanford XP Migration Project update

Windows XP offers new features to users

Windows XP, currently being deployed to the Hanford Local Area Network, is the newest operating system from Microsoft. Windows XP offers more features, better security and higher reliability than the Windows 95/98 operating systems. Here are some of these new features and how they can work for you:

- Adaptive User Environment — Windows XP adapts to the way an individual user works. With a redesigned Start menu, the most frequently used applications are shown first. When you open multiple files in the same application, (such as multiple e-mail messages in Microsoft Outlook) the open windows will be consolidated under a single task bar button.
- Improved Power Management — By intelligently monitoring your portable computer's processor, Windows XP can reduce the amount of power it is using. The operating system will provide more accurate data on the amount of power left; this will prevent the system from shutting down prematurely. Also, by allowing for the system to wake up as the battery nears a drained state, the computer can be put into hibernation, and save work in progress. Power management can now be set for each computer, or for each user on a computer.
- System Restore — This feature enables users and administrators to restore a computer to a previous state without losing data. System Restore automatically creates easily identifiable restore points, which allow you to restore the system to a previous time.
- Remote Assistance — Remote Assistance enables a Windows XP user to share control of his or her computer with someone on a network or the Internet. An administrator or friend can view the user's screen, and control the pointer and keyboard to help solve a technical problem.



Roxio Easy CD Creator

Five years ago, when the Hanford Site first started delivering desktop computers with Windows 98 and rewritable compact-disc capability, Roxio software was added to enable the CD "burner." This changed with Windows XP. Because Windows XP provides CD-burning software already bundled within the operating system, there appeared to be no reason to continue to bundle the Roxio software.

Unfortunately, the Windows XP burning software does not include "direct" CD-RW capability. Since the new XP-compatible Roxio software supports this method of operation, it has been adopted by some users. This version is now available through Electronic Software Acquisition for about \$15. All normal Electronic Software Acquisition procedures will apply.

Further information on costs and procedures is available at the ESA Web site, <http://www.rl.gov/esa/>.

XP Project Home Page
 XP Application Testing Matrix
 XP Project Mailbox

<http://www.rl.gov/xp>
<http://www.rl.gov/xp/apptesting.asp>
 ^Windows XP Project

Pretreatment vessels, rings make Columbia River trek

The Bechtel National-led Waste Treatment Plant Project received the first equipment to arrive by barge last month at the Port of Benton's newly expanded barge slip in Richland.

The equipment includes two 60-ton stainless-steel vessels that will be placed in the Waste Treatment Plant's Pretreatment Building and used to collect tank waste from various drainage systems. Other equipment includes supporting beams that will be used in the foundation of the facility.

"These pieces of plant equipment are the first of several we will receive during the life of the project," said Bechtel National Senior Vice President Jim Henschel, project director for the WTP. "The successful and safe delivery of these vessels and rings was the culmination of extensive efforts and coordination between the Port of Benton, Lampson International and our Procurement, Subcontracts and Construction teams, along with their support staffs."

A Tidewater Barge Line transport carried the vessels and rings from Portland-based vendor, Northwest Copper, to Richland on a four-day, 250-mile journey up the Columbia River.

At the slip, a 200-foot-high boom lift crane from Kennewick-based Lampson International lifted the vessels onto three large flatbed trucks bound that evening for the WTP Project construction site in Hanford's 200 East Area.

"We chose to transport the vessels on the Columbia River due to overhead obstructions on the highways and to eliminate significant impacts to traffic," said Bill Swygert, WTP Project traffic and logistics coordinator. "The vessels and rings were transported to the job site during the evening to further minimize traffic congestion. It was a great team effort."

The WTP's Janet Long ensured all the documentation was in place, and Bill Landers, Mark Parrish and Enrique Carbajal Perez handled the procurement and delivery details.

At the construction site, skilled boilermakers performed the rigging, and the next morning a team of operating engineers safely lifted the mammoth vessels and rings from the trucks and gently placed them into their temporary staging locations.



A Lampson International flagger directs a 60-ton Waste Treatment Plant vessel as it's lifted from a barge onto a flatbed truck headed to the WTP construction site in 200 East. The vessel is one of two received — the first of many large pieces of WTP equipment that will arrive by barge at the Port of Benton.

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Pretreatment vessels, rings make Columbia River trek, cont.

The rings are being installed immediately in the Pretreatment facility's foundation, and the vessels are scheduled for installation in September.

“It was a smooth operation,” said Mike Stewart, WTP Project construction site lead rigging engineer. “This vessel move was, and all future transports will be, successful only through the cooperative efforts of all the supporting groups including Engineering, Procurement, our vendors, Traffic, Security, and Construction.” ■

Use common sense to avoid insect, spider bites

With the summer weather, insects and spiders have become more prevalent, and outdoor activities make us more vulnerable to bites and stings.

You can often see spiders spinning their webs and crawling from place to place. However, there are situations in which spiders and their webs are not as visible, and in these cases, you need to be especially careful. Depending on the type of spider, a bite can be serious.

Preventing bites by spiders and insects calls for simple, common-sense measures. When working in enclosed areas such as crawl spaces, ensure that you are wearing protective clothing, including long sleeves tucked into gloves, long pants tucked into boots, and coveralls or a jacket with a hood. Rubber bands over pant legs and sleeves will minimize the possibility of a spider's running up a sleeve or pant leg in a confined situation.

It's also wise to wear gloves when you work outdoors in potential habitats such as rock gardens. Don't put your bare hands in places where you don't have clear visibility, as spiders and insects could be hiding there.

When indoors, you should shake all clothing thoroughly after it has been hanging or lying in a spider- or insect-inhabited building. Gloves, shoes and boots should also be checked before you wear them, and exercise caution when moving boxes or other objects that have been undisturbed for some time.

These precautions apply at home and in your garage as well as at work. You may also invest in spider traps available at many home-improvement stores.

To avoid injury when working outdoors, take the following measures:

- Wear protective clothing to limit exposed skin. For example, wear long pants when hiking or mowing the grass, gloves while gardening and shoes or sandals.
- Wear white or light-colored clothing; dark and yellow clothing and flowery designs are more likely to attract insects.
- Use unscented deodorant and rinse off perspiration after vigorous exercise. Insects are attracted to the scent of deodorants and perspiration. Avoid any strong-smelling perfume, cologne, hair preparations or lotions, as insects may be attracted by the smell. Use insect repellants.
- Cover food and drinks at outdoor events as much as possible. The smell of food is a strong attraction for insects. Don't forget to cover garbage as well.

For further information, or if you have any questions, contact Eric Staiert at 376-2354. If you have an insect problem in your workplace, call 376-PEST. ■

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.

Recognition due

Debra Wright was not mentioned in the June 30 *Hanford Reach* article "WSCF meets challenges of faster cleanup."

Wright has been putting the packages together for several years, and should be recognized for the work she has done on the project.

Larry Lockard
Fluor Hanford



NEWSBRIEFS

PTB transfer approved for Foreman

Nancy Foreman, a nuclear chemical operator in the Waste Feed Operations organization with CH2M HILL Hanford Group, has been approved to receive personal time bank-transferred hours. Foreman's brother George Dana, a Fluor Federal Services employee, needs her assistance with his rehabilitation and recovery after surgery. CH2M HILL employees who would like to transfer PTB hours to Foreman can do so by completing a PTB/Vacation Transfer Request form (A-6002-807) and sending it to Carolyn Howard in CH2M HILL Labor Relations/Human Resources, R2-57. Time should be transferred in one-hour increments. ♦



CALENDAR

Academy of Hazardous Materials Managers meet

The Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Hazardous Materials Managers' meeting on July 8 in the Gallery Room of the Richland Library will feature a presentation by Dave Bartus, Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, titled "Re-

solving Environmental Issues Using Regulatory Pathways." Networking begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information contact Andrea Prignano at 376-1057.

Library staff offers demonstration on the Internet

The Hanford Technical Library staff will help you search the Internet quickly and efficiently, review the similarities and differences among popular search engines, and learn where to go when the search engines are not providing what you want. This demonstration is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, noon to 1 p.m. in room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center at Washington State University Tri-Cities. For more information, contact Mary Frances Lembo at 372-7441 or at mf.lembo@pnl.gov.

'Evening for the Angels' to benefit Chaplaincy

Tickets are on sale now for an evening of music under the stars July 11 at 8 p.m. in the courtyard of the Richland Red Lion. Proceeds from this eighth annual event, known as "Evening for the Angels," help support the hospice and counseling programs of the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy, a United Way agency. Featured will be Chicago artists, tenor Erich Buchholz and soprano Kathryn Kamp, who will perform a wide selection of Broadway hits, traditional spirituals and opera arias. Chocolates, regional wines, champagne and non-alcoholic beverages will be served throughout the evening. Bechtel and Washington Group are helping to sponsor this event. Tickets are \$40 if purchased in advance, and \$50 if purchased at the door. To make your reservation, call the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy at 783-7416.

Radiochemistry Conference in New Mexico

Two tours of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant will be offered to attendees of the Radiochemistry Conference in Carlsbad, N.M. The conference will be held July 13-16. The conference will include presentations on nuclear repository sciences, the

Calendar continued on next page.



Regular Features

CALENDAR continued

National Border Program, the environment, renewable energy, decommissioning and decontamination, and waste management. Featured speakers will include prominent members of the public and private sectors. The tours of WIPP, our nation's first deep-geologic repository for safe, permanent disposal of radioactive waste in a 225-million-year-old salt formation, will be conducted on July 14 and July 17. Visit http://www.radiochemistry.org/wipp_tour to take an online tour and follow the links to sign up for the actual tour in July or to register for the conference. The tour fee is \$50 and is separate from the conference fees.

Stratos' CEO gives talk on tech business growth

The Three Rivers Venture Group will sponsor the talk, "Commercializing High-Tech Products" by Allan Stephan, president and CEO of Stratos Product Development Group on Tuesday, July 15 at 7:15 a.m., at the Richland Community Center, Activity Room, 500 Amon Park Drive. The presentation is free and open to entrepreneurs and others involved with tech business growth, but pre-registration is requested. Stratos, a Seattle-based technology commercialization firm, brings tech products to market through investments, design, engineering, and business strategy. Stephan has incubated companies in markets including life science, medical devices, health care and computing, and has provided funding, facilities and engineering support and leadership in each venture. Stratos' Web site is located at <http://www.stratos.com>. Register to attend the talk by contacting Gracie Downard at 375-2803 or at gracie.downard@pnl.gov.

CH2M HILL hosts water-safety seminar

Summer is well under way, and many of us love to hit the water to cool off. As part of an ongoing safety awareness campaign, the CH2M HILL South Accident Prevention Council will sponsor a water

safety seminar on July 17 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at 2440 Stevens Center, rooms 1305 A and B. Mark Allen of Columbia Basin Dive and Rescue will give a presentation and show a video. The last half hour will be set aside for viewing equipment set up in the parking lot. All Hanford employees are invited. Remember to wear your security badges; 2440 Stevens Center is a badged facility.

CREHST offers summer camps for 5-8-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.

Duratek sponsors golf tournament for United Way

The United Way scramble golf tournament sponsored by Duratek is scheduled for Sept. 11 at Canyon Lakes Golf Course in Kennewick. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m. All proceeds go to the United Way. For more information, visit www.duratekinc.com, and click on "Latest News," or contact Angie Gagnon at 376-0804. ♦

Features continued on next page.

Regular Features



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.

Skills Lab offers classes in July

The Skills Lab will offer the following half-day sessions from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center Administration Building:

- **Painless Punctuation** — Tuesday, July 15.
- **Successful Business and Technical Writing** — Thursday, July 17. Suggested prerequisite: Painless Punctuation.
- **Goof-Proofing Your Grammar** — Tuesday, July 22.
- **Successful Spelling** — Thursday, July 24.

There is no charge for any of these sessions, but seats are filling rapidly, so reserve space now by calling Kathy Dechter at 376-3250.

Personal Protection Safety Measures offered

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 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. The cost is \$1,145. To register, contact Wendy Carlson at (360) 254-0109 or visit www.nwppa.org.

Instruction on revised DOE 435.1 offered

The Resource Training Institute will present “DOE 435.1 Radioactive Waste Management Training,” sponsored by CH2M HILL Hanford Group, on Aug. 11-13 at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The course provides detailed instruction on the requirements of the revised DOE O 435.1, manual, and implementation guide; outlines key changes; introduces compliance strategies; and provides opportunities for participants to apply the key requirements through student exercises. The course includes a final comprehensive exam. The cost is \$725. Participants will receive 2.4 continuing education units for completion of this course. For more information and to register, visit the Web site at <http://www.rtii.org>. ♦

Regular Features



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.

KENNEWICK

Vanpool No.196 to 200E is looking for a driver/backup driver for an existing route that starts at South Vancouver and 36th and picks up riders along Clearwater, W Hood, Edison and Canal and Highway 240. On most days duties include starting the van and picking up passengers and the primary driver. On some days you will be driving to 200E. Backup drivers are compensated with a reduction in the fare. Ben Franklin Transit driver training and approval is required. Call **John Townley** at 372-0223 or 735-2727. 6/30

RICHLAND

Vanpool, 8x9s, 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift, needs riders from Kennewick or Richland to 200E and 200W. Picks up at Richland Wye Park 'n Ride and at the Richland airport. E-mail or call **Don E. Slater** at 373-4663. 7/7

A carpool from the Meadow Springs/Badger Canyon area goes to 200E, 8x9s, shared driving. For details, contact **Vic** at 373-1321. 6/30

Vanpool Express to 2750-E needs several riders, 8x9s. Monthly rate as low as \$35 per month with maximum of 14 in the van. Leaves former Hanford bus lot (across from 2440 Stevens) at 6:25 a.m. and drops off at 2750-E only. Contact **Dave Hedengren** at 373-5094. 6/30 ♦