

REACH

A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees



222-S Lab replaces a heap o' HEPA filters

Owen Berglund, FH

The 222-S Analytical Laboratory recently completed the removal and replacement of 96 high-efficiency particulate air filters, commonly called HEPA filters. They're the final filtration system for air that has passed from radiologically contaminated areas through filtered fume hoods before the air is released to the environment.

Why was this a big deal?

This work was originally scheduled to be performed over a 20-weekend period that would have encompassed 50 workdays. Through the use of enhanced work planning — including the use of numerous mockups and walkdowns — this job was completed in only eight actual workdays around the July 4 holiday, the following weekend and one additional weekend.

The biggest time-saver was performing the majority of the work without respiratory protection. The 222-S Laboratory is a Category 3 nuclear facility, and there were lots of concerns regarding the particulates in the filters.

So how did we do the job "off mask"? The initial entry was made with respiratory protection in order to obtain radiological and chemical survey data while performing some other cleanup activities.

Analysis of the data showed that the use of respiratory gear would not provide any additional protection and would increase the amount of time the workers would need to be in the area. This analysis, coupled with the fact that ventilation in the building would provide adequate protection for the workers, led to the decision not to use masks.



Workers replace HEPA filters in tight quarters at the 222-S Analytical Laboratory. In planning and completing the filter replacement, workers followed Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System principles by gathering information, identifying the hazards and applying sufficient controls.

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222-S Lab replaces a heap o' HEPA filters, cont.

"The needs of worker comfort in the high-heat environment, as well as keeping facility downtime to a minimum, drove us to look for better and faster ways to get the job done," said Brad Brannan, 222-S Radiological Control manager for Duratek Federal Services of Hanford. "As a result, the facility was down for exactly one day — July 5 — a day wedged between a holiday and a Friday off."

"This was a prime example of following Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System principles," said lead radiological control technician Jim Crockett of Fluor Hanford. "We gathered data, identified the hazards and applied sufficient controls."

Many workers said the teaming effort on this job played a major role in its success. As head of Fluor Hanford Analytical Services' ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) program for radiological work safety, my own impression was one of workers supporting workers.

In an effort to ensure efficiency, there were several walkdowns performed with the workers assigned to the job. Keith Shoemaker, Fluor Hanford field work supervisor, said, "Between all the walkdowns and the five or six mockups we performed, we were very confident going into this job."

Workers were instrumental in ensuring that the appropriate administrative and engineered controls were in place. Other items that helped to make this project successful were:

- increasing the size of the work area to allow for ease of movement
- building and cooling a portable enclosure to provide workers with a better area to prepare for work
- using a chip collector to collect the waste before it went to the HEPA vacuum.

Facility Manager Don Hart of Duratek Federal Services applauded everyone involved. "The workers performed above and beyond expectation," he said. "All should be congratulated for their roles in completing this enormous project without a hitch." ♦

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Fifth report released on groundwater project

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and its Environmental Restoration Contractor, Bechtel Hanford, have released their fifth semiannual report to Congress on Hanford's Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project.

The report provides an overview of the Integration Project's progress from October 2000 through this past March to protect the Columbia River from radiological and chemical constituents in Hanford's groundwater and the area above it called the vadose zone.

Two feature articles are included in the report. One article describes projects aimed at fostering partnerships in science and technology. The other details progress in assembling the inventory estimates for 10 Hanford Site radiological and chemical constituents and will be used for the initial System Assessment capability.

The Integration Project was initiated in 1997 to provide a coordinated site-wide focus on the migration of radioactive and chemical constituents toward the Columbia River. Various experts and stakeholders are involved in the project, bringing a vast range of expertise, opinions and concerns to bear on the issue. Independent review of the project's work is provided by a committee of the National Academy of Sciences and an eight-member panel of nationally recognized experts from academia and private industry.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden requested a semiannual report about the Integration Project's progress to help him and other members of Congress stay abreast of the effort. Although directed to Congress, the report also provides an update for DOE decision-makers, Hanford stakeholders, regulators, tribal nations and the State of Oregon.

The report can be found on the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project's Internet site at www.bhi-erc.com/projects/vadose/docs/sareport.htm. Printed copies may be obtained by contacting Karen Strickland of BHI at 372-9236. ♦

Picture Pages

WHERE'S DINNER? Dave Penfield of DynCorp Tri-Cities Services snapped this photo of a coyote pup snooping around a construction site for the new Hanford 200 East Area water line. The little guy appeared to be searching for food or water, according to Penfield, and was so focused he barely noticed the camera a few feet away.



HITTING A LONG ONE FOR VPP: David Tubbs and others on the Waste Management Project got a swing of the golf club for each of the five Voluntary Protection Program tenets they could describe. The lunchtime long-drive competition at the Effluent Treatment Facility encouraged everyone to study and know the tenets. The Waste Management Project is seeking Star status in the Department of Energy VPP safety program.

Hanford a tourist attraction?

Review site history, technology by bus or by mouse

Saturday road tours popular

Deborah Dunn, FH

After the dust settles back to the road at the old Hanford townsite next Sept. 15, more than 400 visitors will have participated in Hanford's 2001 Saturday road tours.

Ten of the four-hour tours will have taken place this year, starting April 21. The most popular of Hanford's five tours, the Saturday outings, are general-interest public tours that loop around the site to provide perspective on Hanford's missions from World War II to current cleanup progress.

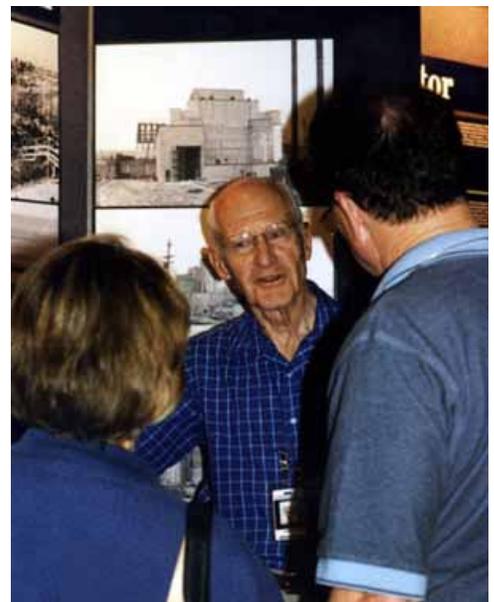
Eight of this year's tours include a visit to B Reactor, the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor. The air-conditioned bus has 45 seats available on a first-come, first-served basis to U.S. citizens who register at least three days ahead. Seasoned Hanford retirees serve as tour guides.

Steve Buckingham has been leading road tours since his 1986 retirement, after 39 years of fulfilling Hanford assignments. The assignments took him from the control labs to process chemistry, process engineering and development.

"Hanford has been my life for more than 50 years," Buckingham said. "I like it. I like the work we did and the people we worked with."

Buckingham said he frequently meets former co-workers on the tours. Tour audiences represent a mixture of age groups, but always include a few Hanford retirees. Out-of-towners account for about half of each busload.

He said the tours tend to be positive and the audiences appreciative. Visitors frequently comment that they didn't realize the full scope of Hanford's wartime mission or the complexity of the current cleanup activities.



Roger Rohrbacher provides insight about early Hanford history.

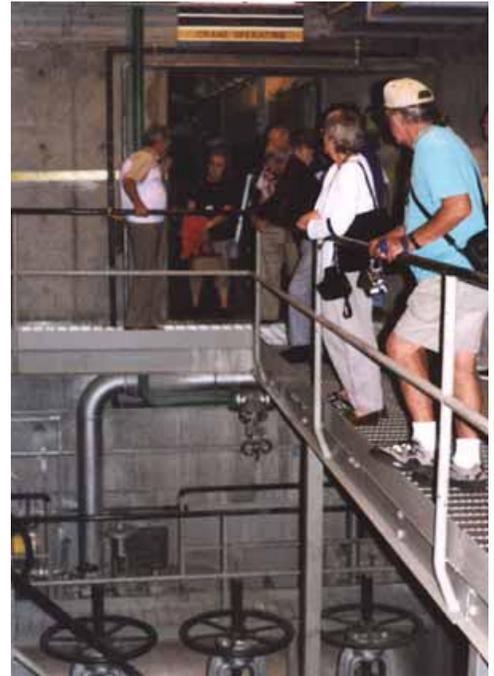
Continued on page 6.

Saturday road tours popular, cont.

"I think the more people who come to see the site, the more it will be demystified," Buckingham said. "We get a number of fan letters. If you have an interest, it's something you shouldn't miss."

As the bus rumbled between the Federal Building and the 300 Area in late June, Buckingham talked about wartime Hanford, Richland's population surge and what it was like to live in the town newly sprung from the desert.

The first stop that day was at B Reactor, courtesy of Bechtel Hanford. The reactor stop featured tour guides who had worked there and displays of early photos and tools. The bus continued to the 200 Area, where historic facilities and several cleanup projects were viewed. Finally, the bus wended its way to the old Hanford townsite where a grid of streets from the construction camp is still faintly visible in the grass. After a roadside peep at the Columbia River, the busload of tour members headed back to town, lunch and everyday life.



A tour group visits the historic B Reactor.

Continued on page 7.

Buckingham anecdotes, Hanford trivia

- In the early years, entire Richland neighborhoods consisted of identically built houses with bare yards and the same kind of paint. One night-shift worker invariably ambled into the wrong house after work. His wife finally put a pot of geraniums on the step to guide him.
- During winter, workers got onto the bus in the dark and came home in the dark. "Sometimes I had to look in my lunch pail to tell if I was coming or going," Buckingham said.
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory has one of the 10 largest computers in the world.
- Rattlesnake Mountain, at 3,600 feet of altitude, is the highest mountain in the United States without trees.
- Energy Northwest supplies 10 percent of the Bonneville Power Administration's electricity.
- Canada and Russia supply medical isotopes to the United States.
- B Reactor was built in 14 months.
- The local soil contains minerals called zeolites that exchange ions, thus retarding the migration of contamination.
- At the peak of Hanford construction, the camp near the Hanford townsite had 55,000 people, making it the largest trailer park in the world.
- The second four-lane highway in eastern Washington was built between the construction camp and the work sites.
- Schools operated in three shifts to accommodate all the children and parental work schedules.
- No workers died from exposure to radiation. There was a serious accident due to a glovebox chemical explosion that caused gross contamination of a worker by americium. Kadlec Hospital removed 85 percent of the radiation and the worker lived into his 80s.
- People who worked here for a long time are on a registry and receive health information.

Saturday road tours popular, cont.

Ray Wonacott had driven in from Ellensburg to take the tour. "I've worked at about every place at Hanford, including the Federal Building," he said. Wonacott worked at other DOE sites, including Oak Ridge and many of America's nuclear energy plants.

Wonacott said the B Reactor control room seemed quaint compared to modern nuclear power plants that are 10 times bigger. He said he enjoyed learning about the upcoming vitrification plant and was impressed with the organization and thoroughness evident at the cleanup projects.

"I'd take the tour again," he concluded.

For more information about the Saturday road tour program, visit <http://www.hanford.gov/tours/index.cfm> . ♦

'Tour' the Hanford Site from the comfort of your home

Connie Eckard, FH

There's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the Department of Energy complex.

Now, if a person wants to take a tour of the Hanford Site, all the individual needs is access to the Internet. The "tour bus" leaves any time the individual wants it to go.

DOE and its Hanford Site contractors offer several tours of the site, the most popular of which is the Saturday road tour conducted by Fluor Hanford. But now people can enjoy a virtual tour any day of the week, and they can take the tour from wherever in the world they might be.

"The Hanford Tours Web page is online at www.hanford.gov," said Guy Schein of the DOE Richland Operations Office of Intergovernmental, Public and Institutional Affairs. "Just select the 'bus' icon on the Web page and you're on your way."

The virtual tour is designed for those who don't have time to personally explore the vast expanse of the site. The tour has more than an hour of material, including 23 different "stops" with 19 of the stops having at least one video. (See page 6.)

Each stop along the virtual tour offers current information on Hanford cleanup progress, some Hanford history and short video clips of significant locations. The tour includes areas of interest such as the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the old Hanford and White Bluffs townsites, 100 Area reactor sites, the 200 East and West Areas, and the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center.



White Bluffs Motor Company operated by Fred Gilhuly

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'Tour' the Hanford Site from the comfort of your home, cont.

Why this tour?

The idea of developing a virtual tour of the Hanford Site evolved with Schein last year. "A tour of Hanford is really essential to reporters covering Hanford," he said. "For many, the virtual tour offers the first opportunity to see things at Hanford first-hand. Also, for those who are planning to visit Hanford, the virtual tour allows them to focus their visits."

Mary Goldie, also with the Office of Intergovernmental, Public and Institutional Affairs, acknowledged that there also was a financial reason Schein was able to push the program and get it done.

"We did the virtual tour because dollars are tight and there are a lot of people who don't have an opportunity to visit the site because of where they live," said Goldie. "We also hope this tour stimulates a curiosity in the local community to encourage people to take the time to physically visit the Hanford Site to see what we do. Our employees are proud of their work and like to show it to others."



Rattlesnake Mountain

Schein worked with the video people at Lockheed Martin Services, including Web project lead Cindy Moody-Brock, to get the right video clips to support the tour segments. Moody-Brock said video specialists Rochelle Olson and Nick Murphy of the LMSI Video Production Center were a great help providing footage "so people can see more than a plain-Jane photo."

The Web site is popular with everyone from techies to eighth-graders who have an assignment to complete, according to Moody-Brock. "We get questions about Hanford from high school and college students who want to know history or they want photos or video or want to know what a cell looks like," she said. "Our intent is for this Web site to cover several of these areas."

Easy to use

Moody-Brock said it took about a month to get the site up on the World Wide Web. Goldie and Schein felt lucky to have Tina Scott of LMSI designing the site because Scott had worked with them before and knew where to access photos. "The hardest part, though, is the content," said Moody-Brock.

Most of the content came from the tour scripts used for years in conducting tours. Goldie, with the help of her contractor counterparts, updates the



the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center

The virtual tour, cont.

4. The historic production and chemical research functions are described in the 300 Area segment along with current economic development. There is a 30-second video on the 300 Area and a 40-second audio on the area's Treated Effluent Disposal Facility.
5. The 400 Area segment focuses on the background and 10-year operation of the Fast Flux Test Facility. The 51-second video also acknowledges the DOE decision being considered for FFTF's future.
6. The Energy Northwest segment describes the state's only operating commercial power plant.
7. The advanced scientific Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory is designed for measuring gravity waves at extremely tiny levels. The segment leaves no wonder why people refer to the facility simply as LIGO.
8. An historical overview of the Hanford townsite area includes a 2:16 video. Nothing of the town remains except the shell of the Hanford High School, which was built in 1916.
9. The former production reactors in the 100 Area are found on six of the virtual tour options. Again, the reactor segments are in the sequence in which they would be seen on a Saturday road tour. The F Reactor is the first on the tour and is described on a 36-second video. This and each of the other reactor segments includes a 46-second video on the nine 100 Area reactors.
10. The segment and the 49-second video on the White Bluffs townsite raises a question about the still-standing bank building. Whatever happened to the loot from the robbery of the White Bluffs bank? And there's no mention that White Bluffs had sidewalks, but Hanford did not.
11. H Reactor was part of Hanford's first Cold War expansion. Shut down in 1965, the reactor is scheduled for safe storage in 2005. There is a 49-second video on H Reactor and the 46-second video on the nine 100 Area reactors.
12. The DR Reactor was built as a replacement for D Reactor, which scientists thought was going to fail. The D Reactor's problems were fixed and the two reactors operated side-by-side for more than a decade. A 1:12 video on the two reactors accompanies the 46-second video on the nine 100 Area reactors.
13. N Reactor had dual purposes in producing both plutonium for defense and steam for generating electricity. A 1:09 video includes the 1963 dedication by President Kennedy and is accompanied by the 46-second video on the nine 100 Area reactors.
14. The K East and K West reactors are the location of current removal of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel.
- 15B. B Reactor was the first reactor built on the Hanford Site, and also the first full-size reactor in the world. The reactor is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A 46-second video on B Reactor accompanies the 46-second video on the nine 100 Area reactors.

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The virtual tour, cont.

- 15C.** The original size of C Reactor was reduced by 81 percent when it was placed in “safe storage” condition to shield the reactor core for 75 years. A 1:18 video on safe storage accompanies the 46-second video on the nine 100 Area reactors.
- 16.** Gable Mountain is a basalt outcropping adjacent to the state’s second four-lane highway, which was built to move workers to and from the Hanford construction camp in the 1940s.
- 17.** The 200 Area is where fuel irradiated in the old production reactors was chemically processed to separate and recover plutonium for use in nuclear weapons. The virtual tour segment on the 200 West Area includes 11 separate videos. The videos provide glimpses of the central plateau (1:09), Cross-Site Transfer Line (0:33), Plutonium Finishing Plant (1:04), Hanford tank farms (1:25), SY Tank Farm (0:25), Tank SY-101 (0:54), T Plant (1:08), the Waste Receiving and Processing facility (1:20), the first transuranic waste shipment (6:21), the Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility (0:26) and U Plant (0:47).
- 18.** The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility is receiving 3,000 tons a day of contaminated soils and materials being excavated from sites along the Columbia River. The segment on ERDF includes a one-minute video.
- 19.** The virtual tour of the 200 East Area includes eight videos. The videos include B Plant (1:02), the Effluent Treatment Facility (0:41), the Plutonium Uranium Extraction facility (1:08), the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (0:47) and the 242-A Evaporator (0:55). There also are repeats of the central plateau (1:09), Cross-Site Transfer Line (0:33) and Hanford tank farms (1:25) videos from the 200 West segment.
- 20.** US Ecology operates a commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal site on 100 acres of the Hanford Site that is leased to the State of Washington and subleased to the company. Waste is received from hospitals, research facilities and industries in the Pacific Northwest.
- 21.** Rattlesnake Mountain is 3,600 feet high and has two observatories at the top, where the wind has been recorded at 150 miles an hour. It is no wonder there are no trees up there. The 1:18 video features arid lands and shub steppe.
- 22.** The 80-acre Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center serves as a training complex for workers and emergency responders for many federal, state, county and city agencies. The 1:01 video describes offers “training as real as it gets.”

Any of these 23 segments offers a quick look at what is to be found at the Hanford Site. Together, they provide a succinct overview. ♦

PNNL scientists to test strobe lights for impact on fish

A study began in June to test an underwater strobe light system scientists hope will deter resident fish species from entering the turbines at Grand Coulee Dam. Researchers from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation are conducting the work.

Entrainment, or fish entering power turbines, at Grand Coulee Dam has a tremendous effect on resident fish populations in Lake Roosevelt, behind the dam. Prior research determined that entrainment at Grand Coulee Dam is significant and that 85 percent of the entrainment occurs at the third power plant, constructed during the 1970s as a power-peaking facility.

An estimated 402,000 fish per year are entrained through the turbines at Grand Coulee Dam. Many die, and those that don't die cannot get back to the lake. Entrainment reduction is being attempted.

The system to be tested consists of a number of distinct components. The Bureau of Reclamation's Denver office loaned the project three powerful strobe lights manufactured by Flash Technology Corp. The lights will be suspended below a barge in front of the dam's third powerhouse. Attached to the light array is an array of multi/split-beam hydroacoustic transducers that track fish movement so scientists at PNNL can observe how fish react to the strobe lights.

Finally, a number of hatchery-reared kokanee salmon and rainbow trout will have sonic tags surgically implanted. These tags will be tracked by sensors near the forebay area and will allow the scientists to better understand how fish react to the lights. The use of strobe lights is thought to deter fish from entering the turbines, but this is the first in-depth study to thoroughly test the system.

"We'll be running the study 24 hours a day, seven days a week for about six weeks," said Bob Johnson of PNNL's Environmental Technology Division, the fisheries biologist leading the field tests. "Other studies have tested the equipment for short periods of time.

"Scientists at PNNL have studied strobe light impacts on fish behavior previously and also used hydroacoustics to track fish behavior near surface bypass collectors at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River and at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River," Johnson added. "This project is a natural next step to combine this expertise to address a regional issue."



Strobe lights are being used to try to redirect kokanee salmon and rainbow trout away from Grand Coulee Dam's third powerhouse turbines, where they become trapped. PNNL scientists are combining split-beam sonar and other technologies to track fish to determine if the lights are effective.

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PNNL scientists to test strobe lights for impact on fish, cont.

The project aims to keep kokanee salmon and rainbow trout away from the turbines, keeping them in Lake Roosevelt where they will be accessible to subsistence and recreational fishermen. This is important for restoring resident fish populations for recreation in the area. The Bonneville Power Administration is funding the research with more than \$1 million, while the U.S. Geological Survey, Spokane Tribe, Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Fish and Wildlife all will play integral roles in the strobe light study.

“This is an important study for the tribe, and the entire region,” said Richard LeCaire, the project manager for the Chief Joseph Kokanee Enhancement Project. “The Colville Tribe is committed to enhancing resident fish populations, but also understands the importance of hydropower to the region. This project is an important first step in testing what could be an extremely effective tool for enhancing resident fish stocks without affecting power generation — at Grand Coulee and at other dams as well. We are pleased to be teaming with PNNL scientists in solving this complex technical problem.”

LMSI reaches 90-percent participation in Bond drive

Ninety percent of Lockheed Martin Services employees participated in the company's U.S. Savings Bond campaign this year. The outstanding participation rate could mean investors have shied away from the stock market, but it's also the result of LMSI's exciting four-week drive that sparked interest in the benefits of U.S. Savings Bonds.

LMSI Savings Bond campaign coordinator Lisa Hockaday and 20 team leads rallied the LMSI troops from June 18 through July 13, communicating to employees that Savings Bonds are a simple, safe and secure means of saving. "Our goal was to ensure every employee had the opportunity to purchase Savings Bonds in an informative yet fun way," said Hockaday. "Our key to reaching 90 percent was the team leads' enthusiasm."



Steve Burger, Jon Rowley and Ted Holmes grill hot dogs with patriotic flare at the Savings Bond rally.

Flags flew, balloons floated and Neil Diamond's "America" played in the background as LMSI employees enjoyed a free lunch at the Savings Bond rally. The rally kicked off a prize giveaway spree that lasted during the entire drive. New and current Payroll Savings Plan participants were eligible to win one of ten \$50 gift certificates, a \$100 Costco gift certificate, a TV/VCR and the grand prize — a Palm Pilot Vx.

The biggest seller this year was the Series I Bond, attractive for "rainy-day" money with its current rate of 5.92 percent. "Enrolling in Savings Bonds for me is like creating a painless slush fund," said LMSI employee Don Stewart, who's been buying Bonds for more than 20 years. "I was surprised at how such a small amount deducted weekly accumulated. I cashed in some of my Bonds recently and took my wife on a surprise trip to Las Vegas!"

Lockheed Martin Corporation has a history of high participation. For the past seven years, the U.S. Department of the Treasury awarded LMSI's parent company the Golden Eagle Award, which ranks the corporation second in the nation. Last year, 86,000 Lockheed Martin employees purchased 1.3 million Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan.

"I am proud to be a member of a team like LMSI," said Vice President and General Manager Darrell Graddy. "Our employees continue to set the standard for involvement and support of worthy efforts. Our support of the recent U.S. Savings Bonds drive was outstanding! It is just one more reason why the federal government realizes Lockheed Martin not only represents quality products and services but also has the great employees." ♦



Good attendance at LMSI's Savings Bond rally helped boost participation in the Payroll Savings Plan to 90 percent.

Collaborative effort between Hanford and WSU examines security awareness among site employees

A unique partnership of the U.S. Department of Energy, Fluor Hanford and Washington State University Tri-Cities recently produced a research study on security awareness at Hanford. The study, undertaken by students of the WSU Tri-Cities School of Business, culminated in a two-hour presentation in which students presented their recommendations to a group of senior DOE-RL, FH and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory managers.

“We will be looking to see how this material can be applied to our existing security awareness programs to help us enhance employee involvement with security” said Denny Sieracki, team leader for DOE-RL Personnel Security. “We will soon implement those ideas which have the most benefit to the overall program,” Sieracki continued.

WSU Professor Pam Henderson, who guided the study, said the joint DOE-RL and WSU study was “a win-win, for DOE, the university and especially the students who participated.”

“DOE-RL is always interested in new ways to improve security awareness, but before going too far, we needed an independent marketing assessment or baseline,” said Chet Braswell, Security Education and Awareness Program administrator for Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford, DOE’s primary site-security contractor. “The students worked very hard on this project. I estimate they spent over 800 hours on this assignment.”

One suggestion made by the WSU group is to partner more with safety. “There are benefits to be gained from safety’s established worker involvement levels by linking the ideas of safety and security together,” said a team member. There are also benefits to be gained by increasing manager involvement with security. Management was rated most important in improving security awareness.

The WSU team members who worked on this study are Kevin Higginson, Beth Klinski, Alison Marcum, Sophia Orozco, Kristin Sawyer and Dennis Walters. ♦

Tank Farms raises new crop of operations engineers

Becky Curtis, CHG

Six CH2M HILL Hanford Group employees recently completed an eight-week course, the first step in becoming tank-farm operations engineers. They are Evelyn Brooks, Glenda Davis, Benjie McGee, Patrick McGuire, John Senger and Jack Thurman.

The operations engineering course covers facility-specific operations, procedures, the authorization basis and work control. A subject-matter expert or guest lecturer often accompanies the instructor. The course is usually given only once per year.

“It was a lot of work, but I learned something new every day,” McGee said.

Now that their classroom education is complete, the course graduates will be mentored by shift managers to complete their job qualification process. Each will be assigned to an area such as Tank Farms Operations, construction projects or work control.

During this field training period, the prospective operations engineers will need to obtain as many as 800 signatures verifying their qualification on tank-farm systems and processes. Finally, they must pass an oral examination given by a board of four or five senior tank-farm-qualified operating engineers.

“The operations engineering class is the basic building block for tank-farm operations,” said Dale Allen, CHG senior vice president of Operations. “Over the next few months we will be training additional operations engineers as we continue to improve our conduct of operations.”

Fully certified operations engineers are eligible to become shift managers. They may be assigned to work in central command and control, facilities, projects, waste transfers or any number of other areas within the tank farms.

Candidates for the program are identified by management when CHG has a need for operations engineers. About 60 employees from all backgrounds and all levels of tank-farm knowledge have graduated from the operations engineering program so far. Newly hired nuclear engineers with U.S. Navy or commercial nuclear backgrounds are also scheduled to complete the training program.

“We look for people with initiative — people who can identify problems and find solutions,” said Dan Niebuhr, first-line supervisor for Single-Shell-Tank Facility Operations. “The operations engineering program is tough, but when you complete it, you are qualified to do the job.”

“I’m always impressed with the students that are selected to participate in this program,” said trainer Dennis Kubie. “And I’m even more impressed with the transformation that occurs as they progress towards and finally pass their oral boards. They’re a cut above.” ♦

Hanford Technical Library catalog now available on the Web

Hanford Technical Library staff members rolled out the new external Web-based catalog last week. Users will no longer have to install the catalog on their computers. They can access the catalog at <http://libcat.pnl.gov> through their Web browser and begin using it.

One of the features of the new catalog is the ability of all computer platforms, including Windows, MAC and UNIX, to access the data. The interface is available to the public, so library users can now take advantage of the library services from their homes or when on travel.



Information specialist Jan Erickson explains some of the features: “We have opened up the library to the users, allowing them to manage their own library activities. When staff members have library materials checked out that need to be renewed, they can access the system and renew the materials online in an instant. Users also will be able to make requests, put materials on hold and view their personal listing to see what they have checked out and what they have requested.”

If you want to use some of these special features, you will need to identify yourself using your Hanford Identification Number and a personal identification number, or PIN. Call 372-7440 and a Library Circulation Services staff member will issue you a PIN.

If you are ready to try the new library catalog, access it at <http://libcat.pnl.gov> and experiment with its capabilities. If you would like to see the system demonstrated before you begin, a training class on the new catalog will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on July 26 in room 101R of the Consolidated Information Center at the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus. Erickson will provide a demonstration of the system and answer questions that you may have.

When you enter the Web page for the new catalog, you will notice that the catalog does not have a name. Melissa McBurney, assistant director for Electronic

Services, explains: “When we purchased the catalog, the name could be customized for each library. We wanted to have some fun and get our users involved so we decided to set up a contest to name the catalog.”

You can read about the contest on the library Web page at <http://library.pnl.gov/NewCatalogContest.htm>. Send in as many names as you can think of by Aug. 10. On that date a committee at the library will choose the official catalog name from the entries and mail a \$25 gift certificate to the winner. ♦

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.

Importance of B

I offer the following facts in response to the statement made by Jubal Helm that B Reactor has "little...real historical significance" ("Not to B," Letters, July 9).

First, the 105-B Reactor began operations on Sept. 26, 1944, as the world's first full-scale, plutonium production reactor. It was the first to attain full power and, hence, represents the beginning of the nuclear age.

Second, plutonium produced in the B Reactor was used in the first nuclear explosion on July 16, 1945, at Alamogordo, New Mex. and thus represents the beginning of the era of nuclear weaponry, which has had a profound effect on geopolitical history.

Third, B Reactor also produced the plutonium used in the Fat Boy bomb exploded over Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945, and is, therefore, representative of the culmination of the Manhattan Project.

Finally, tritium produced in the B Reactor was used in the first hydrogen bomb tested at the Pacific Proving Grounds on Oct. 31, 1952.

These facts demonstrate the notability of Hanford's B Reactor and distinguish it from all other reactors operated by the Department of Energy.

The 105-B Reactor building and its contents are relatively intact. Instruments in the control room, most of them hydraulically operated, have been unchanged from the early 1950s.

No significant changes have been made in the building since deactivation in 1968. Structurally, the building is sound but has been largely unoccupied for 30 years and so is in need of repair.

Hanford's B Reactor was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The Department of Energy Headquarters is promoting the 105-B Reactor for listing as a National Historic Landmark

because of its significant contribution to the broad national patterns of United States history.

The 105-B Reactor was the world's first full-scale, plutonium production reactor. It was instrumental in fulfilling the objectives of the Manhattan Project, winning a war and establishing world peace. It is a resource that provided great benefits to the American people, but one that remains inaccessible to them.

Thomas Marceau

Bechtel Hanford, Inc.



CALENDAR

SARC volunteer advocate training begins July 31

The Sexual Assault Response Center will hold its summer volunteer advocate training beginning on July 31. The training consists of 35 hours of instruction divided into six sessions (four evenings and one full weekend). If you have been looking for the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life or give something back to the community, here is your chance. This 35-hour training course is designed to give volunteers the tools they need to work with sexual assault victims and their families. You can volunteer from home if you have access to a phone in the evening for two 12-hour shifts a month. For more information, send an e-mail message to Michele Hiner at crispro@cbvcp.com or Lisa Moore at educ@cbvcp.com, or call the Sexual Assault Response Center at 374-5391.

NMA talent night scheduled for Aug. 16

Join the Hanford Chapter of the National Management Association as it hosts a family talent night, Aug. 16, in the Battelle Auditorium. The evening begins with a 15-minute business meeting announcing July and August's Super Heroes at 6:30 p.m. All past and present Hanford NMA members are invited to attend. If you would like to share your talents or help with the program, contact Terry Winward at 373-4002 by Aug. 7.

Donate blood on July 25

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive July 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2420 Stevens Center, room 153. ♦

Regular Features



NEWSBRIEFS

PTB transfer approved for Murphy and Evenson

Tina Murphy, an industrial hygiene technician with DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, and Colleen Evenson, a Fluor Hanford secretary assigned to the Waste Management Project's Waste Receiving and Processing facility, have been approved to receive personal time bank transferred hours. Murphy's mother will need help during her recovery from emergency heart surgery. Evenson's mother has a medical condition that requires her daughter to assist with her care. Any Fluor Project Hanford team employees who wish to transfer PTB hours to Murphy or Evenson can do so by completing a PTB/Vacation Transfer Request form (Site Form A-6002-807). The completed form should be sent to Cherie H. Smith at H8-69 for PTB hours transferred to Murphy, or to Judy Hoogendoorn, Fluor Hanford Human Resources, at G1-31 for PTB hours transferred to Evenson. Time must be transferred in one-hour increments.

Lueck wins 'Security Pays' drawing

Kristi Lueck, a chemical engineer for Fluor Hanford in the 200 East Area, is the latest grand prize-winner of the "Security Pays in Many Ways" campaign. Kent McDonald of Fluor Hanford nominated Lueck for her security awareness and administrative challenge. For her extra effort, Lueck received a thank-you award and was entered in the random drawing for a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond. Lueck won the Savings Bond.

If you know someone on the Fluor Project Hanford team or the River Protection Project who is providing "extra" support to site security, nominate him or her for an award. It is very easy to do; just send an e-mail to ^Security Education PHMC or mail your nomination to Security Education at mailstop L4-09. Include your name and a brief description of the extra support given.

All accepted nominees receive a special award from Safeguards and Security and are then eligible for the grand prize, a \$200 Savings Bond. For more information on the Security Pays program call Security Education at 376-1820 or visit the Web site at <http://www.rl.gov/sas/pg1v3.htm>. ♦



SHOEMOBILE

300 Area

along fence east of Wisconsin Street

July 24

2-5 p.m.

BC Sales



VANPOOLS

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

Day & Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible for ensuring riders are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her badge, Patrol must be informed at the barricades. For more information, look on the Hanford Web in the Projects and Activities section, Safeguards and Security at <http://www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm>.

KENNEWICK

Attention FFTF employees: Are you tired of high gas prices? Want to sleep or read on the way to work? If there is enough interest, I'm considering starting a Ben Franklin vanpool from west Kennewick to FFTF. If anyone is interested give **Steve** a call at 372-0382. 7/23

We have an opening for one rider. Leaves from Kennewick Park with a stop at the Federal Building. Delivers to 222-S, MO-278, MO-279 and MO-280. If you are interested, call **Barb Robinson** at 373-7434. We keep ridership low to ensure a comfortable ride. 7/16

Riders needed in 8x9 vanpool. Leaves Albertson's at Edison and Clearwater with a stop at Columbia Basin Racquet Club. Stops at PFP and West Tank Farms. Contact **Abe Garza** at 373-2898. 7/16

RICHLAND

Vanpool No. 116, 8x9, to 200E has an opening. Picks up at Joe's Chevron at Jadwin and McMurray. Drops off at 2750, MO-286, 2701-HV and 2704-HV. Call **Nester Wise** at 376-6373 or 376-7266. 7/16

Vanpool No.115 from north Richland to 200E, 8x9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. has one opening. Picks up at points north of Van Giesen and drops off at 2750-E and 2704-HV. Contact **Bruce Johns** at 373-3429. 7/23

WEST RICHLAND

Vanpool No. 120 to 200E needs two 8x9 riders. Leaves Flat Top Park at 6:10 a.m. Drops off at 2750-E, WESF and 2727. Contact **Marion** at 372-0383. 7/23

Vanpool to 200E and 2704-HV, 8x9s, has an opening. Contact **Duane Shults** at 373-4244 or **John Wells** at 373-3733 for more information. 7/16 ♦

Regular Features



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

SEND YOUR TICKET REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE LISTED TICKET SELLER — It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day.

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME — If you have an event or travel/trip destination that you would like HERO to consider, or a mini-trip (under four days) that you would like to host, send an e-mail message to your area representative with specifics. Although HERO cannot guarantee your suggestion will be offered, all reasonable suggestions will be considered.

HRA — Questions about HRA should be directed to Denise Prior at 376-2258.

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

AREA REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED — Area representatives are needed for the 600/400, 200E Area and Yakima. If you are interested, if your company is part of the Fluor Project Hanford team and if you have your manager's approval, e-mail Jackie Roderick and Phyllis Roha.

TOWER OF POWER CONCERT — Thursday evening, July 26, outdoors at the Red Lion Hotel. Gold tickets are \$32 each, silver tickets are \$23 and bronze tickets are \$18. Send checks made payable to "Quality Events" to Linda Meigs (H3-12) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

NIGHT AT THE OASIS (WATERWORKS) — Friday, Aug. 10, from 7 to 10 p.m., \$6 per person, children age 3 and under are free (must have plastic pants over diapers). Hot dogs, chips, pop and a cookie are included. Ticket sales end Aug. 8. No tickets will be sold at the park for this event. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Nancie Simon (S7-64), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Marvene McChesney (T4-61), Linda Meigs (H3-12), Jackie Roderick (S3-97) or Denise Prior (L6-81).

SILVERWOOD THEME PARK — Check out HERO's Intranet Web site for a complete schedule of days and times. Adult tickets are \$18.50 (normally \$25.30), youth (ages 3-7) and senior (65 and over) tickets are \$10 (normally \$16.87). Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Tricia Poland (T5-04), Nancie Simon (S7-64) or Chris Kagele (S7-60). Personal checks in excess of \$250 will not be accepted. Send a cashier's check or money order for payments in excess of \$250. No cash, please!

DUST DEVIL SPECIAL OFFER — There is still time to purchase single-season tickets for \$190-\$266 (all 38 home games) or half-season club seats for \$266 (19 games). Call 544-8789 and mention you are a HERO employee.

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS — Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are \$4.50 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are \$5 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are \$5 each with no restrictions. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks made payable to "HERO" to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). For Yakima Mercy tickets, send checks to Flu Garza (T4-01) or Nancy Zeuge (X3-74).

PENDLETON ROUND UP — Saturday, Sept. 15, at 1:15 p.m. 100 tickets available at \$13 each. Tricia Poland (T5-04) has tickets.

UPCOMING TRIPS

- **Portland Shopping Spree** — Sept. 28-30. Hurry, hurry, time is running out. The trip cost is \$170 ppdo for two nights' lodging at the DoubleTree Inn at Lloyd's Center and round-trip bus. \$25 non-refundable deposit is required at signup. Final payment is due Aug. 24. We will leave Friday morning and return Sunday afternoon. Sunday brunch will be available at the hotel for \$11.99. At press time, the hotel is adding a \$3-per-room, per-night charge (plus taxes) in response to the energy crisis. This charge is temporary and may not be in effect at the time of our trip. E-mail Marvene McChesney (T4-61) for information and deposits. Check the HERO Web site for more details on shopping.

Regular Features



- **Puerto Vallarta, Mexico** — Nov. 6-13, \$825 ppdo, \$765 triple, \$712 quad and \$1,126 single. \$150 pp deposit required to reserve your spot. Major credit cards are accepted but 3 percent is added to the charge. Trip includes eight days and seven nights accommodations at the five-star Villa del Palmar Hotel on the beach in a studio unit; round-trip transfers from the airport to the hotel; all air, hotel and departure taxes. The Villa Del Palmar offers a swimming pool, restaurants and bars, tennis court, fitness center, grocery store and 100 yards of white sandy beach. Space is limited now, so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your spot. E-mail Sheila Kirk (T4-05).
- **Cruise to Victoria and Vancouver** — Leave Seattle Friday, Oct. 12 on the new ship Radiance of the Sea for a two-night getaway. On Saturday, Oct. 13, the ship arrives in Victoria. See the city, or stay aboard and relax. In the evening, take in the captain's cocktail party, a special dinner and a show. On Sunday, Oct. 14, arrive in Vancouver and depart the ship. Enjoy the day in Vancouver. Return to Seattle via Amtrak. The train departs at 6 p.m. and arrives in Seattle at 10 p.m. with a stop in Edmonds. Cost is \$268.60 for outside cabins and \$368.60 for balcony cabins. Taxes and port charges are included. Every cabin will receive a \$25 shipboard credit. Triple and quad rooms are available — call for prices. The non-refundable cost for the Amtrak ticket is \$22 per person and is not included in the above price. \$100 per person is due at booking. Final payment is due Aug. 13. Check the Web site for more details. Call Candy Jensen at (206) 363-9905 (leave a message) or Magnolia Travel at (206) 283-1565. ♦