The HANFORD REACH

July 30, 2001

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

Simulated waste tank will speed Hanford cleanup

CH2M HILL Hanford Group has awarded a $2.4 million fixed-price contract to Los Alamos Technical Associates to design and build a test facility near Hanford's Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The facility will include a large simulated waste tank.

The Hanford Cold Test Facility will be a key player in the effort to clean up millions of gallons of highly radioactive and hazardous waste stored in Hanford's 177 underground tanks. Equipment needed to retrieve tank waste and send it to the planned Waste Treatment Plant will be developed and demonstrated at the facility.

The centerpiece of the facility is an open-top steel tank 75 feet in diameter — the same as one of the Tank Farms' million-gallon tanks. A superstructure will span the tank, with platforms 35 feet and 55 feet above the tank bottom to simulate the heights of Hanford's older single-shell tanks and newer double-shell tanks.

"This facility is needed to ensure new technologies and cleanup systems work well before they're put in the highly radioactive and hazardous environment of a Hanford tank," said Rick Raymond, CH2M HILL Hanford Group vice president of Projects. "We'll be able to train our operators on the actual equipment they'll be using in the field to do this important cleanup work."

Raymond said working out the bugs ahead of time will help the Department of Energy Office of River Protection avoid the cost and delay of fixing problems during cleanup operations. The practice sessions in the simulated tank should also help operators perform cleanup tasks more safely and efficiently in the field.

The facility will eventually be capable of staging up to 600,000 gallons of simulated waste for cleanup demonstrations. The simulated waste will include sand, clay, soluble salts and liquids containing sodium nitrate. These are similar to the three basic types of Hanford tank waste: sludge, saltcake, and supernatant liquid.

Members of the Los Alamos Technical Associates contract team include Thompson Mechanical Contractors, Mid-Columbia Engineering and Morse Construction Group.

The facility will cover nearly 10 acres near Hanford's existing HAMMER training facility. Construction is expected to begin this fall, and the facility is expected to be ready for equipment development and testing in the summer of 2002. ✦

Hanford Blood drive to be held Aug. 8

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 8 at the Federal Building. Sign-in will be in the Federal Building lobby, but the blood drawing will take place in the "bloodmobile," the Red Cross's new 40-foot bus.

According to the American Red Cross, blood donors in the Tri-Cities area represent only 3.3 percent of the population. The national average is 5 percent. How about helping the Tri-Cities improve its percentage of donors? Call (800) 787-9691 to make an appointment or just walk in.

The HANFORD REACH

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www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html

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Potential errors cloud waste classification

Fluor Hanford, Bechtel Hanford and the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office are working together to resolve questions regarding the calculation of plutonium concentrations in packaged waste from two Hanford facilities undergoing deactivation in the 200 West Area. Plutonium concentration is an important criterion for determining the waste disposal path.

At least one package now in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, or ERDF, contains a higher level of plutonium than permitted, according to Doug Sherwood of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the past two years, Fluor has provided Bechtel with non-destructive assay services for packaged waste removed from the 233-S Facility, formerly used to concentrate plutonium solutions. In May, Fluor discovered that two portable detectors used to survey these packages between May 1999 and May 2001 were incorrectly calibrated, and calculation errors were made in the data provided to Bechtel.

Fluor officials brought the issue to the attention of Bechtel, and Bechtel notified DOE and the EPA. DOE, Fluor and Bechtel are evaluating the potential impacts and are developing corrective actions based on the results of the evaluation.

Fluor is recalculating the plutonium values established for that one-year period by the two portable detectors. However, as the company's corrective action plan for the 233-S non-destructive assay work was being implemented, other issues emerged involving waste package surveys dating back five years and more. Fluor found additional measurement and calculation issues and procedure violations affecting these portable detectors.

Preliminary indications are that there have been no impacts to human health or the environment from the errors. Fluor is continuing to re-evaluate the data.

Fluor is also:

- conducting an independent review of all portable non-destructive assay procedures and results in the Plutonium Finishing Plant Analytical Laboratory
- evaluating and receiving independent validation of its overall PFP Analytical Laboratory quality assurance program to assure the completeness, accuracy and adequacy of data produced
- working with Bechtel, DOE and EPA to determine the impact of these errors on values used for packaged waste placed in the Hanford Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, or ERDF, which is managed by Bechtel and permitted by the EPA.

"To resolve any remaining questions, we are recomputing and validating the corrected numbers we previously provided to Bechtel to determine their impact on waste designation and development of any required corrective actions," said George W. Jackson, Fluor vice president for the Nuclear Material Stabilization Project. "At the same time, we are conducting a more comprehensive review of our broader non-destructive assay and waste designation systems and procedures to assure these difficulties don't exist elsewhere."

"We've made no decision on whether they need to exhume the material from the burial ground," Sherwood said. ❖

Picture Pages

SEVENTY-FIVE TONS OF SCRAP: As part of the cleanup of Hanford's river shore by the River Corridor Project, a 150,000-pound tall well railcar thunders past the 300 Area July 16 on the back of a lowboy trailer. The railcar is on its way to be recycled by Duratek in Memphis, Tenn. The specialized cars were used at Hanford to transport fuel from the reactors to the processing plants in the 200 Area. If they were not recycled they would have to be buried as mixed waste, so recycling (which leaves no mixed waste) will save the government at least $100,000 per car. In the background is the 3902A water tower, which was taken down as part of another RCP cleanup project.

BLUE RIBBON, RED HAT: At the first Battelle Volunteer Fair held July 13 on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus, West Richland event coordinator Gail Clark (left) and Team Battelle project director Diane Anderson of PNNL Strategic Planning accept the "Table Decorating" championship on behalf of their team. The fair, held in conjunction with the Battelle Staff Association Salmon Bake, highlighted 19 volunteer groups including Team Battelle projects, the Battelle Retirees and the PNNL Speakers Bureau. A drawing was held for 10 of the new Team Battelle hats.

Picture Pages

FIVE SAFE YEARS, 3 MILLION TONS: Workers at Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility unload a 19-ton truckload of low-level waste into the engineered disposal site. An excavator levels the waste to prepare for the next load. Earlier this month, the Bechtel Hanford-led Environmental Restoration Contractor team placed its 3-millionth ton of contaminated soil and debris into the ERDF for permanent disposal. The figure represents 30 percent of all such waste estimated to exist at Hanford. The milestone also coincides with five years of ERDF operation by Bechtel subcontractor Duratek without a lost-time accident.

HORSES, RIDERS AND VOLUNTEERS: Meagan McCary leads her horse Gemini as Greg Mitchell of Fluor Hanford reassures rider Corey Day during a day-long event that brought 14 horses and nearly 80 volunteers from Hanford and the Tri-Cities to assist 160 riders in the Partners 'N Pals event put on by The Arc of Tri-Cities for young people with developmental disabilities. The event in West Richland was held at Cheryl's Phoenix Connection ranch owned by Cheryl Coppinger of CH2M HILL Hanford Group. Hanford volunteers included employees and family members from CHG, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, the Fluor Community Involvement Team and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Trimming DOE Orders saves time, money for projects

Deborah Dunn, FH

DOE Directives Review participants re-enact parts of the process they used. From left: Anna Kion of Fluor Hanford scrutinizes the contract; Sue Price of FH compiles the list of the contract's 133 DOE Orders; Fluor's Sherri Johnson types up a recommendation based on review documents such as those in the stack in front of Fluor's Merle Jackson; Mike Grygiel of Fluor presents a recommendation; and Stacy Helmann and Steve Veitenheimer of the DOE Richland Operations Office consider recommendations.

Fluor Hanford and the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office are joining forces to simplify the set of 133 DOE Orders in the Fluor contract and redirect saved dollars to cleanup activities. Thirty of the orders will be eliminated from the contract and 19 others will be modified.

"This is an excellent example of the RL Integrated Management System stewards working in an 'interdependent' manner with each other and in concert with the contractors to ensure efficiency in operations by streamlining requirements," said Steve Veitenheimer, director of the RL Integrated Management System (RIMS) Project office.

"The efficiency sets the foundation to make life easier at Hanford," said Mike Grygiel of the Fluor Hanford Management Systems Project Operations Center, or POC. "It eliminates confusion and constraints and allows us to use more commercial practices. We will have fewer requirements to administer, fewer orders to keep track of and fewer conflicting requirements, and the compliance world we live in will be simplified.

"The biggest benefit will be the elimination of the work driven by the directives that have been eliminated. The procedures will change all the way down to the plant level. This has the potential for significant cost avoidance," said Grygiel.

The DOE Directives Review began with the October 2000 contract between DOE-RL and Fluor Hanford. The contract calls for closer alignment with the commercially based Fluor corporate model by analyzing DOE directives in the contract and making recommendations to eliminate or modify. About 75 project and functional area representatives formed teams to review and analyze, maintaining involvement with DOE-RL through the process.

"People in all the functional areas and projects worked hard on this and deserve the credit," Grygiel said. "RL has been a full partner from the get-go. We could not have had this level of success without their involvement.

"This was new. Such an across-the-board examination of the orders hasn't been attempted on this scale anywhere in the DOE complex."

At the end of June, DOE-RL announced full agreement with 49 of 63 recommendations, including elimination of 30 directives from the contract. The recent Contract Modification 137 formalizes elimination of the 30.

Continued on page 7.

Trimming DOE Orders saves time, money for projects, cont.

Directives were eliminated if they had no contractor requirements — those that define how DOE-RL is to interact with other federal offices, for example. Other directives dealt with types of work no longer being performed, such as design work for nuclear reactors no longer being built. In some cases, requirements are covered elsewhere or have expired or been superceded.

With the completion of the review, the Management System Realignment Project gears up. Headed by Stephen Smith of the Fluor Hanford POC, it will develop a system in which requirements are identified, traced, stored and implemented in a controlled manner through a standardized implementing document system. Its central concept is single-point implementation — implementing requirements only at the highest of the company, project or facility work levels. This will streamline the connections from contract to requirement to implementing document. Intermediate documents like polices and plans will be minimized.

Grygiel predicts the benefits of these changes will start showing by October and that the Management System Realignment Project and its single-point implementation will become a way of doing business. ❖

Fluor Hanford works toward achieving socioeconomic goals

The fiscal year 2001 third-quarter socioeconomic statistics for Fluor Hanford's Small Business Program indicate the company has made some great progress, especially in the area of Historically Underutilized Business Zone, or HUBZone, Small Business awards. The socioeconomic statistics are matched against the goals Fluor Hanford negotiated with the Department of Energy at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The goal for HUBZone Small Business awards is 2 percent, and Fluor Hanford continues to work to achieve that goal. In addition, Fluor Hanford is slightly below its goal for another category, Small Disadvantaged Small Business awards. In order for an award to count toward either of these goals, the small business must be certified by the Small Business Administration.

Fluor Hanford continues to strive to meet these goals, and the Supplier Advocacy Office works closely with buyers to provide assistance in locating small businesses that may fill the needs of a particular scope of work.

How can you help? As we all consider where to obtain the goods and services that we need to do our jobs, whether by the purchasing card (P-Card) process or the traditional procurement processes, consider and be open to using small disadvantaged businesses.

The Fluor Hanford Supplier Advocacy Office urges us to continue to push to meet these goals. Choose your suppliers carefully, keeping these goals in mind when making your selections. If you need further assistance in locating sources to help meet Fluor Hanford's socioeconomic goals, contact Cat Pearsall of the Supplier Advocacy Office at 376-4697. ❖

Duratek tourney kick-starts United Way drive

The Duratek-United Way Golf Tournament held earlier this month at Canyon Lakes Golf Course raised $22,000 to begin the 2001 United Way campaign.

A check from Duratek was presented to United Way on July 12. Joel Eacker, president of Duratek Northwest, and Ed Aromi, president and general manager of Duratek Hanford, presented the check to Mid-Columbia United Way Board Chairman Bud Knore and local United Way President Tom Halazon.

Aromi is also fundraising chairman for the 2001 campaign to be held this fall. Dave Van Leuven of Fluor Hanford and Tom Schaffer of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council are co-chairmen of the campaign's Hanford section. ✦

State rejects Hanford vit plant delay, levies penalties

The Washington State Department of Ecology has announced that a July 31 deadline to begin building the Waste Treatment Plant to vitrify Hanford tank wastes will not be eliminated. The agency intends to assess penalties against the U.S. Department of Energy beginning Aug. 1.

Tom Fitzsimmons, director of the Department of Ecology, said last Thursday that he is formally rejecting a request by DOE to eliminate a deadline to begin constructing the treatment complex that would turn Hanford waste into glass. The deadline is included in the 1989 Tri-Party Agreement, which established milestones for cleaning up the Hanford Site.

DOE submitted its request on May 2. Under dispute-resolution provisions in the TPA, July 26 was the deadline for Ecology to accept or reject the proposal.

“Your proposal [would] simply delete key commitments and replace them with vague promises that the federal government may not even agree to re-establish in the future,” Fitzsimmons said in a letter to Harry Boston, manager of the DOE Office of River Protection.

Chuck Findley, acting regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, co-signed the decision in support of the state. “We share Ecology’s continued frustration over repeated delays in constructing the tank-waste treatment plant,” Findley said. “It further compounds the significant environmental threat posed by wastes in Hanford’s aging tanks. The Department of Energy needs to abide by its commitments.”

Weekly penalties

ORP has acknowledged that it will not begin constructing the facility by the TPA deadline, which will put it out of compliance with the TPA on Aug. 1. At that time, Ecology will begin fining DOE $5,000 for the first week and $10,000 per week after that, in accordance with TPA provisions.

Fitzsimmons said he will continue assessing the weekly penalties until construction begins. As an alternative, he said, the penalties will cease before construction begins if DOE submits an acceptable plan for starting waste treatment in 2007 and obtains an adequate budget for fiscal year 2002.

“For us, security means a sufficient budget, spending authority from the President, and a work plan that we know is achievable,” Fitzsimmons said. “Our focus is on action and results, and that’s the message we are sending with the fines. The penalties will end when we become convinced that treatment will get under way in 2007.

“Without the vitrification plant, the tanks will continue to fall apart, and we will have more leaks and a bigger mess. That is completely unacceptable.”

DOE may appeal Ecology’s decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board or to federal district court within 30 days. ✦

ORP manager responds:

‘We share the same goals’

Boston

Harry Boston, Manager
Department of Energy Office of River Protection

I believe the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Department of Energy share a sense of urgency to clean up Hanford’s tank waste — and protect the Columbia River and the people of the Pacific Northwest. Simply put, our agencies agree that we must complete this important project without further delay.

And that is what DOE’s Office of River Protection is doing. Our plan keeps the project on schedule to meet the Tri Party Agreement milestone dates to begin waste treatment plant operations in 2007. Our scheduled start of construction in 2002 allows us to preserve this key date and keeps the project on track to continue making safe, technically sound progress. We fully expect our regulators to hold DOE accountable for continued progress and for meeting the key 2007 date and other commitments for Hanford tank waste cleanup.

Unfortunately, cancellation of the privatization approach, despite the subsequent expedited award of a traditional contract, makes it impossible for DOE to meet the milestone date of July 31 to begin construction. Over the past year, DOE and Ecology have made much progress on regulatory issues, but in the end our agencies could not agree on modifying the TPA to extend the date for the start of construction.

Regardless of this dispute, we hope to continue a constructive working relationship with Ecology and to clean up Hanford’s tank waste under the framework of the TPA. The tank waste project is a large, complex and difficult job, and we expect to encounter and overcome challenges at each phase of this project. But we remain firmly committed to completing this critical project and keeping our promise to the citizens of the Pacific Northwest. ❖

CHG begins pumping two more single-shell tanks

Becky Curtis, CHG

CH2M HILL Hanford Group began pumping single-shell tanks BY-105 and BY-106 on July 12, meeting a Washington State consent decree approximately two days ahead of schedule.

CHG's Interim Stabilization team members remove a cover block in preparation for pumping single-shell tanks BY-105 and BY-106.

"All 18 of the single-shell tanks we've begun pumping were started on or ahead of schedule," said Dale Allen, CHG senior vice president of Operations. "To date, we have moved 1.3 million gallons of the 3.6 million that must be retrieved to reduce the risk of waste leaking to the groundwater."

Most of the necessary field work began on June 15. CHG Interim Stabilization crews worked double shifts, weekends and holidays to install saltwell pumps, replace hose-in-hose transfer lines, perform hydrostatic line tests and ready dilution systems in preparation for pumping these tanks. After 32 field-work packages were complete, the tanks were ready to be pumped.

"Essentially, our team made four months worth of progress in eight weeks," said Single-Shell Tank Interim Stabilization Director A.C. Youngblood.

Tanks BY-105 and BY-106 each contain about 100,000 gallons of pumpable liquid, which will be removed over the next 18 months. The liquid waste is being transferred almost seven miles to safer storage in double-shell tank AP-108. ✦

PNNL wins four R&D 100 Awards

In a novel approach to controlling vehicle exhaust emissions, re-searchers at PNNL have success-fully reduced harmful oxides of nitrogen in a diesel engine by half.

Researchers at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and their collaborators have been recognized by *R&D Magazine* for developing four of the 100 most technologically significant innovations of the year 2000. These technologies are reducing harmful exhaust emissions, significantly improving facility energy efficiency and lifecycle costs, improving the quality of glass and metal products, and helping to quickly locate, monitor and account for nearly anything from produce to people.

The magazine conducts the annual R&D 100 Award competition to honor the most promising new products, processes, materials or software developed throughout the world. Awards are based on a product's technical significance, uniqueness and usefulness. With these four awards, PNNL will have received 58 since the Lab began submitting entries in 1969, including 51 since 1988.

"I'm proud of the award-winning work done at PNNL," said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. "These accomplishments demonstrate the value of government-funded research to our nation."

This year's winning teams and their research projects are:

- **Materials that convert harmful engine exhaust emissions into components of clean air** — Stephan Barlow, Suresh Baskaran, Darrell Herling, Alexander Panov and Russell Tonkyn (PNNL), Lou Balmer-Miller (former PNNL staff member), John Hoard (Ford Research Laboratory) and Galen Fisher (Delphi Research Labs).

Engine emissions include harmful oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and can pose a serious health risk. These emissions also threaten the environment by contributing to the formation of acid rain and are precursors to ozone, the major component of smog.

PNNL researchers, working with Ford Motor Company, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler through the USCAR Low Emissions Technologies Research and Development Partnership, have been developing a promising new plasma-catalysis technology that significantly reduces NOx from the exhaust of next-generation energy-efficient vehicles.

The R&D 100 Award is for the invention and further development of the catalyst materials used in a plasma-catalysis device, and was carried out by researchers at PNNL, Ford and the Delphi Energy and Chassis Division of Delphi Automotive Systems. The research performed at PNNL was funded by DOE's Office of Transportation Technologies.

Delphi, previously part of General Motors, is now funding separate research with PNNL to develop a complete, integrated non-thermal plasma-catalyst system. The commercial engine exhaust after-treatment system will be capable of reducing NOx and soot emissions from diesel-powered vehicles.

- **A suite of analysis procedures, software and hardware that can reduce lifecycle operations and maintenance costs by as much as 25 to 50 percent** — Darrel Hatley, Donald Jarrell, Richard Meador and Daniel Sisk (PNNL).

The cost of operations and maintenance can make or break a business — especially with rising capital equipment and energy costs. Researchers at PNNL have attacked this problem by developing a suite of

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PNNL wins four R&D 100 Awards, cont.

analysis procedures, software and hardware that has proven to reduce lifecycle operations and maintenance costs by as much as 25 to 50 percent. Decision Support for Operations and Maintenance, or DSOM, improves process efficiency, cuts maintenance costs, extends equipment life and reduces energy consumption and harmful emissions.

Based on the concept of condition-based management, DSOM focuses on finding the balance between high production rates and the resulting machine stresses and failures. DSOM allows online condition monitoring of equipment and provides early warning signs of degraded performance.

After an initial assessment, baseline data are used to identify improvement opportunities. Some problems can be addressed easily with the DSOM software; others may require changes in organization and infrastructure. PNNL then creates a customized database and interface matrix that is tailored to the specific needs of each user group.

- **Long-Range Semi-Passive Radio Frequency Identification System** — Gordon Anderson and Kerry Steele (PNNL), and Curt Carrender, Jeff Cole, Ron Gilbert, Norman Hansen and Jeff Scott (Wave ID).

The long-range semi-passive radio frequency identification, or RFID, system was developed at PNNL and commercialized and marketed by the newly formed Wave ID company. These unique semi-passive radio frequency tags can identify, locate and even determine the condition of any tagged item. In an inventory application, this system significantly reduces the time required to count, locate, monitor and control distribution of resources ranging from clothing, blood plasma and perishable foods to military equipment and personnel.

Inventories of items in large warehouses or stores can be completed in minutes instead of days, and the locations of specific items can be found within the warehouse at a moment's notice.

- **A high-temperature viscosity measurement technology for process monitoring of hot molten materials such as those in glass manufacturing and metals refining** — S.K. Sundaram (PNNL), Gene Daniels (Savannah River Technology Center) and Paul Woskov (MIT).

The MilliWave Viscometer is a high-temperature viscosity measurement technology for process monitoring of hot molten materials such as in glass manufacturing and metals refining. The technology fills a need for a high-temperature, on-line viscosity sensor that makes possible real-time process control.

The MilliWave Viscometer is the only viscosity measurement technology that uses millimeter-wave electromagnetic radiation to probe the movement of liquids. The MilliWave Viscometer uses a hollow ceramic waveguide that can withstand the hot and chemical environment inside a melter. One end of the waveguide is immersed in the molten material, and the other end is sealed outside the melter with a window. The viscosity is determined by the rate of fluid flow in response to a waveguide pressure change.

The principal application for the MilliWave Viscometer is on-line monitoring of molten glass in melters, including those associated with glassifying radioactive wastes. The MilliWave Viscometer will allow active feedback control.

The MilliWave Viscometer was funded by the Department of Energy to improve the multi-billion-dollar effort to vitrify radioactive wastes. ✦

Roberson sworn in as EM assistant secretary

The Department of Energy announced on July 18 that Jessie Roberson was sworn in as assistant secretary for Environmental Management. “I am pleased and excited about Jessie joining me here at the Energy Department.” said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. “She brings tremendous experience and knowledge that will be an asset to our team at DOE.”

Jessie Roberson, center, is sworn in as DOE assistant secretary for Environmental Management.

As assistant secretary for Environmental Management, Roberson will spearhead efforts to clean up inactive waste sites and facilities — including the Hanford Site — and manage waste operations, research-and-development programs and environmental restoration.

Roberson was confirmed with the unanimous consent of the United States Senate. She has been a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and was the DOE manager of the Rocky Flats Field Office in Colorado from 1996 to 1999.

In 1996, Roberson was named National Black Engineer of the Year for Professional Achievement in Government. She has also held positions with Georgia Power Company and DuPont. Originally from Evergreen, Ala., she is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. ❖

FFTF, PNNL receive Voluntary Protection Program Gold Star

Fluor Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility is the most recent Hanford organization to receive the Department of Energy's highest safety recognition — the Voluntary Protection Program Gold Star. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory received word on June 28 that it had been given the same recognition of its safety program.

Both organizations, along with Fluor Federal Services, received DOE-VPP Gold Star flags and recognition during special ceremonies late last week. FFS was informed in mid-July that it had achieved Gold Star status ("Fluor Federal Services earns VPP Star status," *Hanford Reach*, July 16).

DOE-VPP Gold Stars were awarded earlier to Day & Zimmerman Protection Technology Hanford and DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, the first two Hanford organizations to earn the highest VPP status.

"For the past few years, our staff and managers have worked hard to demonstrate that PNNL has a strong safety culture where staff and managers share a common belief that all employees are responsible for safety and health in the workplace," said Don Boyd, PNNL deputy laboratory director for Operations, in a message to the PNNL staff. "I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your efforts to incorporate this important program into the workplace."

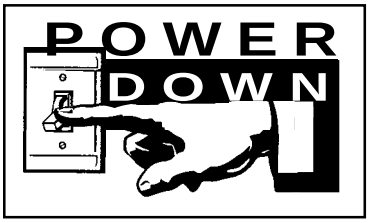
FFTF is the first of the Fluor Hanford projects awarded the DOE-VPP Gold Star. The River Corridor Project is next in line for review of its application.

"This award shows the world-class nature of the FFTF staff, as we maintain the readiness of the reactor to restart," said Bruce Klos, senior director of the FFTF Project for Fluor Hanford. "The DOE-VPP Gold Star is an employee initiative that surpasses the Integrated Safety Management core functions and guiding principles. It serves as a great test of an organization's character."

"Our success is due to our strong employee safety council, our employees and management support," added Steve Doebler, FFTF plant manager.

FFTF is the first DOE Class A nuclear reactor facility to achieve the DOE-VPP Gold Star. DOE Headquarters commended the FFTF staff of about 250 for having a "very strong safety culture." According to the on-site review team, responses to questions put to employees, managers and DOE representatives showed no differences in attitude, indicating a cohesive safety culture. ✦

‘Sleeping’ vending machines help save energy on site



Fluor Hanford has begun implementation of an innovative Conservation Augmentation Program funded by the Bonneville Power Administration to reduce power consumption by vending machines on the Hanford Site. This project will help Fluor Hanford and the Department of Energy meet the goal of decreasing power consumption on the Hanford Site by at least 10 percent.

Through the use of this program, Automat, the vendor for soda and other vending machines on site, has been provided with funding to install VendingMi$er vending machine energy conservation devices, invented by Bayview Technology Group.

This device allows the vending machine to “sleep,” or enter a power-conservation mode similar to a computer, which in turn saves energy by turning off machine lights when the vending machine location is unoccupied. The use of VendingMi$er can curb vending machine electricity consumption by up to 46 percent.

Automat has begun modifying its vending machines in the Richland/1100 Area, and will progress to the outer areas within the next month.

VendingMi$er relies on a motion sensor to operate. Therefore, not all vending machines can use the device. Vending machines located in areas of high traffic not related to vending-machine use or in outdoor locations within 60 feet of a street are not eligible for VendingMi$er.

Because of temperature controls in the VendingMi$er unit, no degradation of product quality or variation in storage temperature is expected.

The Fluor Project Hanford team is working with the DOE, Bonneville Power Administration, Automat and Bayview Technology Group on this innovative energy conservation measure.

For more information on VendingMi$er, visit **http://www.bayviewtech.com/html/products.html**, or contact David Kelly, Fluor’s energy manager with Hanford Site Operations, at 376-7334 or Jeannine McComb, Fluor’s contracting officer, at 376-5637. ❖

DOE-REC presents two academic achievement scholarships

In response to the ever-increasing costs of college, the Department of Energy's Employees Recreation Association voted to offer the first-ever DOE-REC Academic Achievement Scholarship. For 2001, the DOE-REC awarded two $500 scholarships to college students Avner Dagan and Alice Liou.

Both students have received numerous honors and awards throughout their academic careers and are active participants in extracurricular activities.

Dagan, the son of Ellen Dagan of the DOE Richland Operations Office Regulatory Compliance and Analysis Division, graduated this school year from Hanford High School and is attending the University of Michigan in the fall. His goal is to earn a Ph.D. in either science or engineering.

Liou, the daughter of Wen-Shou Liou of the DOE Office of River Protection Tank Farm Oversight Division, is enrolled at the University of California at Davis and currently is on an exchange at the University of Queensland in Australia. She is studying to become a veterinarian and would eventually like to focus on the research aspect of animal science.

The DOE-REC Academic Achievement Scholarship committee received 15 outstanding applications from college-bound and current college students. "We were pleasantly surprised by the quantity and quality of applications," said Greg Jones, DOE-REC president and scholarship committee member.

Students were evaluated on their educational and professional goals, honors and awards, extracurricular and civic activities, and individual need for the scholarship award. ✦

Fluor team helps Tri-City area students with school supplies

Not all families can afford to buy the supplies their children need for the upcoming school year.

Through the recently launched Fluor Corporate Community Involvement Team's program, "Backpack Basics," Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services are teaming with Seniors Helping All Kids' Education, a project of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, or RSVP. They will collect donated school supplies to help Tri-City area students.

Backpack Basics is the first volunteer project simultaneously involving many of Fluor's offices in North America. The Fluor Corporation is donating backpacks (250 locally, 1,500 in North America) and its employees throughout the United States and Canada are being asked to donate supplies.

Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services employees can donate supplies from Aug. 6 through 16 at the following locations:

1200 Jadwin

- Reception area
  Cheryl Smith, 376-6786
- 2nd floor
  Judy Barnett, 373-2407
- 6th floor
  Joanne Smith, 376-7934

Federal Building (Lobby)

- Traci Snyder, 376-2557
- Cliff Ledford, 373-5214

2420 Stevens (Lobby)

- Zona Gale, 376-5417

2425 Stevens (Lobby)

- Vicki Crosby, 376-6885

1979 Snyder

- Sharon Ciarlo, 376-1194

HAMMER

- Admin Building Cafeteria
  Eileen Geiger, 372-3143
- Training Building Lunch Room
  Libby Sickler, 376-7117

300 Area

- MO-557
  Lyn Sherman, 376-0895

200 East Area

- 2750 Lobby
  Cheryl Coppinger, 372-1589
- MO-286
  Sherry Hanson, 376-4993
- MO-272
  Cindy Lacy, 376-8884

200 West Area

- MO-841
  Vicki Brown, 372-1500

100 K Area

- MO-928 and MO-048
  Marilyn Cable, 373-0832
- MO-054, MO-401, MO-500, 105-KE, 105-KW, CVD and MO-293
  Ginger Petaschnick, 372·2820
  Pat Davis, 373·6030
  Mark Schorzman, 373-0069

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford also has collection boxes in Buildings 2721-E, 2704-Z, 2727-E, 3790 and the Patrol Training Academy. ✦

How do you remember to bring your badge to work?

Chet Braswell, PTH

Employees over 50 and classic movie buffs may remember the line uttered by the bandit leader in the Humphrey Bogart film, “Treasure of the Sierra Madre”: “Badges? We don’t need no stinking badges!”

Here at Hanford, however, badges are needed and are an integral part of our security program. Special measures are needed to protect the security badge and to remember to bring it to work.

It’s almost an inevitable fact of human nature that many of us will forget our security badges at some time or another. However, Hanford Patrol personnel have noted that the number of forgotten badges has shown a steep increase in the recent past.

As these numbers climb steadily upward, there are numerous “downside” consequences. Besides the delay for the employee while temporary security badges are being processed to verify identification, site access approvals and clearance levels, there are other consequences to take into account, such as:

- Being late for work (your lost productivity)
- The cost of temporary badges and the manpower needed to issue them
- The cost associated with issuing and tracking dosimeters (if needed).

Contest announced

Do you have some trick, memory jogger, mnemonic device or special routine that helps you remember your badge before leaving for work? If so, please pass along your secret to Security Education. We would like to collect your tips so we can pass them along to others.

Everyone who submits a tip by Aug. 14 will have his or her name entered in a random drawing. Three winners will receive their choice of a mini mag light, a multi-tool or a “security blanket.”

If you have a badge reminder tip to share, please e-mail your tip to ^SECURITY EDUCATION PHMC or mail it to Security Education at mailstop L4-09.

In addition, just for fun, can you recall another classic movie that included a satirical reprise of the line, “Badges? We don’t need no stinking badges!”? The answer will be printed in the next issue of the *Hanford Reach*.

Continued on page 21.

How do you remember to bring your badge to work?, cont.

The majority of Hanford employees never forget their badges — and, for that, security personnel say thanks. If you are in that number, you are what security awareness is all about. Moreover, Hanford security organizations and the *Hanford Reach* would like to know how you do it.

Tips that work

Here are a few time-tested methods we have seen in the past that help employees remember to bring their security badges to work:

- Put your badge in your lunch bag or briefcase
- After returning home from work, place the badge with your purse or wallet so it will likely be seen when preparing for work the next day.
- Make a habit of putting your badge in the same place every time you take it off.

Another point to remember is that you should *not* store your security badge in your vehicle. When vehicles are broken into (usually to steal valuables such as stereos, laptop computers or packages) the security badge is often taken as a souvenir. If your security badge is stolen, you must immediately report the theft to your local police department and to Hanford Patrol at 373-3800. ✦

Regular Features

CALENDAR

SARC volunteer advocate training begins July 31

The Sexual Assault Response Center will hold its summer volunteer advocate training beginning tomorrow, 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.

August Events at the Hanford Technical Library

The following events will take place in Room 101R at the Consolidated Information Center, Washington State University Tri-Cities campus:

- **Library Tour** — Thursday, Aug. 2, 8:30 a.m. Take a tour of the library and find out what services are available to you in the library and on your desktop.
- **How to Find Information on the Internet** — Thursday, Aug. 9, 12 noon. Learn how to tunnel through the mountains of information and discover Internet sites that are useful for your day-to-day work.
- **Library Research for Proposal Writers** — Thursday, Aug. 16, 12 noon. Learn how to find full-text articles from scientific and technical journals, use online databases for do-it-yourself literature searching, and download full-text reports of Department of Energy-sponsored research. Complete background research quickly and efficiently without the need for a charge code.

The library staff is also available for presentations at group meetings or brown-bag sessions. For more information, contact Mary Frances Lembo at 372-7441 or at mf.lembo@pnl.gov. Visit the library's Web site at **http://library.pnl.gov**. The Hanford Technical Library is a site service operated by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

CRESHT features photos by Natalie Forbes

The Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology is featuring the exhibit "Reaching Home: Pacific Salmon, Pacific People" by freelance photographer Natalie Forbes. Forbes' photographs of life stages of salmon and commercial and Native American fishing will be shown through October. After CREHST's showing, the exhibit will be placed permanently in a museum.

A four-part lecture series on topics related to salmon will begin Sept. 12 at CREHST.

CREHST hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $3.50 for adults, $2.75 for seniors, $2.50 for children (ages 7 to 16) and free for children six and under. ❖

Regular Features

SHOEMOBILE

100K Area
parking lot south of MO-401

Aug. 28	7 to 10 a.m.	BC Sales

200 East Area
northeast gravel parking lot of 2101-M

Aug. 28	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	BC Sales

200 West Area
parking lot east of MO-281

Aug. 28	2 to 5 p.m.	BC Sales

300 Area
along fence east of Wisconsin Street

Aug. 27	2 to 5 p.m.	BC Sales

NEWSBRIEFS

Investment Recovery Operations — 'Excess' — restarted

Investment Recovery Operations (Excess) has been re-activated and is ready to assist you with your excessing activities. The Declaration of Excess form is available on Site Forms, A-6002-881, along with instructions on how to complete the form. If you need assistance to excess unwanted items, call Susan Raymond at 376-7064.

Remember that all desktop computer equipment and peripherals still must go through a screening process that provides opportunities for reuse on the site or within the Department of Energy complex, or donated to the School Gift Program. Desktop computer equipment and peripherals are transferred using a Plant and Equipment Transfer (PET) form, A-6001-578. Contact Andy Gilbert at 376-6781 for more information.

To excess furniture on the site, south of the Wye Barricade, contact Mary Jo Coblentz at 373-0411. Contact Larry Walker at 373-1931 to excess furniture north of the Wye Barricade. ✦

CLASSES

Safety classes offered at HAMMER

D2000 Safety Solutions will offer the classes listed below at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. All classes qualify for Continuing Education Units.

- **Confined Space Rescue** – Aug. 23-25. Cost is $695. The course is designed to meet the requirements of the OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.146. Participants are taught to recognize confined space hazards, assess potential hazards during a mock rescue and learn the requirements of the new laws.
- **Trench Rescue** – Sept. 5-7. Cost is $695. The course is designed for individuals or organizations that provide trench rescue services. Subjects include scene assessment and safety; team organization; emergency shoring using speed shores, screw jacks and lumber; patient packaging, ropes and related equipment; and mechanical advantage systems. Scenario-based exercises will measure student competency.
- **Confined Space Train the Trainer** – Oct. 2-5. Cost is $695. The course covers the OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.146. The course focuses on tunnels, sewers, boilers and other spaces adequate in size and configuration for employee entry, with limited means of egress and not designed for continuous employee occupancy. Hands-on scenarios are also included. Students will conduct actual confined space entries.
- **Trenching and Excavation for Competent Persons** – Oct. 22-24. Cost is $595. The course focuses on the OSHA standard CFR 1926.650. Students will apply practical soil mechanics and identify the relationship to the stability of shored and unshored slopes and walls of excavations. Various types of shoring are also covered. The class is over 60 percent hands-on, and students will recognize the safety precautions of trenching and excavation.

To register for any of these courses , contact D2000 Safety Solutions at (800) 551-8763 or visit the Web site **www.d2000ss.com**.✦

Regular Features

VANPOOLS

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the *Hanford Reach*. The deadline for 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

8x9 vanpool to 200E picks up at Chuck E Cheese's and Federal Building. Drops off at 2750-E, WESF, 2704-HV and nearby facilities. Call or e-mail **Jim Brockus**, 372-2939. 7/30

PASCO

8x9 vanpool to 200E and 2704-HV needs riders. Leaves Road 68 and Burden Road in Pasco. Willing to stop anywhere along George Washington Way. Drops off at 2750-E, WESF and 2704-HV (will drop off between those spots). Contact **Doug Bailey** at 373-2392 or at douglas_m_bailey@rl.gov. 7/30

Carpool to 200W in need of two riders/drivers. No fees are charged. Everyone takes turns driving. Picks up at Road 68 Sun Mart. Currently stops at PFP. Call **Jackie Campbell** at 373-1220. 7/30

RICHLAND

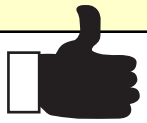
Vanpool No. 126, 8x9, 6:30 a.m.-4 p.m., has several openings. Leaves the Bechtel Building at 6 a.m. and will drop off at 2750-E and surrounding office buildings. Call **Cindy Jones** at 373-2068 or **Deena Bowe** at 373-1320. 7/30

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 ✦

BRAVO



CH2M HILL Hanford Group announces award winners

The CH2M HILL Hanford Group Employee Recognition Council honored May and June performance award winners during a luncheon held July 26 in the 200 East Area.

For the month of May, **John Comer** was the winner in the safety category. Winners in the individual categories were **Eric Hudspeth**, **Alicia Galliher**, **Sandy Fox**, **Kelly Carothers**, **Curtis Rieck** and **Jay Colgan**. Winning in the team category was the team of **Angie Glidden**, **Karen Burns**, **Bryon Bradley**, **Ruth Asercion** and **Sandy Wright**.

For the month of June, **Kelly Smith** and **Willis Taylor** were the individual winners in the safety category. The team of **Klint Johnson**, **Scott Snook** and **Ricky Sharp** was the winner in the safety category. Other individual winners were **Jeff Stewart**, **Doris Nytka**, **Nancy Larson**, **Richard Carlstrom**, **Karen Carlson** and **Steve Chapman**. **Bob Campbell**, **Malcom Chunn, Vern Matthews**, **Bob Parks**, **Don Reddout**, **Ginny Wallace** and **Julie Johnston** were winners in the team category.

Additional information about the awards and winners' accomplishments is on the Hanford Web site at **http://apweb02.rl.gov/rpp/index3.cfm?FileName=/docs/62/docs/main.htm&Pagenum=62&Pagenum=62**. Nomination forms are available on Site Forms: A-6001-358. ✦