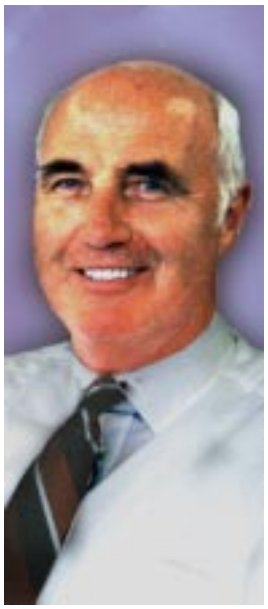
The HANFORD REACH

May 7, 2001

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

New CEO named for Fluor Hanford



Thomson

Keith Thomson, most recently senior vice president and global corporate account executive for Fluor Corporation, has been named president and chief executive officer of Fluor Hanford. Thomson succeeds Ron Hanson, who has been appointed to a senior-level position in Fluor's Arlington, Va., offices. The announcement was made by Alan Boeckmann, Fluor Corporation president and chief operating officer, at a gathering of Fluor Hanford and Fluor Federal Services employees on April 23.

"Keith Thomson knows the Fluor corporate commercial model," Boeckmann said. "He brings this, plus his extensive knowledge of environmental projects and experience working on government projects, to Hanford. I believe the Department of Energy and the community will be pleased with our choice and the expertise he will apply to this significant and complex project."

Boeckmann also had praise for the company's performance under Hanson. "Keith will continue to build on the momentum that Fluor Hanford has established under Ron Hanson," he said. "Under Ron's guidance, this workforce has made substantial progress in the cleanup of the Hanford Site. But more importantly, this workforce has drastically improved safety performance since taking over as prime contractor. For this and other accomplishments, I want to commend Ron. He did an outstanding job in his time at Hanford."

In the Arlington office, Hanson will oversee a newly created business operation to manage Fluor's Department of Energy contracts and acquire new government business. Hanford will remain part of his focus.

"I will still be involved with Hanford," Hanson said, "and will make occasional trips back to the Tri-Cities. And for that I am very fortunate, because I love the area and have many friends in the community."

Dave Van Leuven will remain as Fluor Hanford's Chief Operating Officer, assuring continuity during the change of CEOs. "Dave's knowledge of Hanford, plus his experience in the nuclear field, is invaluable to us," said Boeckmann. "Dave's presence, when coupled with Keith and Ron's new positions, give Fluor a DOE-focused team that should get maximum results." ✦

ORP investigating stained areas in AY-101

The Department of Energy's Office of River Protection and tank-farm contractor CH2M HILL Hanford Group are investigating two stains on the inside of Hanford double-shell waste tank AY-101.

ORP announced last Wednesday that it's trying to determine whether the stains indicate a water leak through the inner shell into the tank through small holes or if the stains were a result of construction or internal condensation in the tank.

Hanford's double-shell tanks have inner and outer steel walls separated by a two-foot-wide space called the annulus. The stains are 20 feet from the top of the tank on the inside wall.

There is no evidence of leaks from the tank into the annulus space or structural damage to the inner or outer shells. The waste in the tank is well below the area of concern, occupying only the lower 6 feet of the tank. The stained areas are approximately 20 feet above the surface of the waste.

The discovery is being discussed this week by a team of tank and corrosion specialists from the Savannah River Site, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, CHG and private industry. As a precautionary measure, no waste will be added to the tank until the investigations are conclusive.

The stains were found after inspections of the tank earlier this year found higher-than-normal amounts of rust in the annulus space. The rust detected in the annulus space prompted ORP and CHG to investigate further, using a video camera. ◆

The HANFORD REACH

Distribution questions:
call the Mailroom, 375-5170

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Keith Klein, Manager
DOE Richland Operations Office

Harry Boston, Manager
DOE Office of River Protection

DOE Richland Operations Office
Guy Schein, A7-75, 376-0413, fax 376-1563

DOE Office of River Protection
Diane Stock, H6-60, 376-4751, fax 372-1215

Fluor Hanford
Editorial office: B3-30, 376-4639, fax 376-5704
Craig Kuhlman, manager of Communications
Dennis Cresswell, editor
Cornelia Brim, associate editor
Sally Green, designer

Bechtel Hanford, Inc.
Sue Kuntz, H0-09, 375-4673, fax 372-9115

Bechtel National, Inc.
John Britton, 371-3677

CH2M HILL Hanford Group
Ace Etheridge, H7-07, 372-8058, fax 372-8036

Hanford Environmental Health Foundation
Erin Weber, H1-52, 376-7879, fax 372-3139

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Katie Larson, K1-55, 375-3698, fax 375-2221

The *Hanford Reach* is published weekly for all employees of the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site.

Deadline is 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 days prior to Monday publication. All articles are subject to editing. Consult with the Reach staff before ordering photos. Contact the editors by phone, fax, site mail or e-mail.

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

Hanford Reach, B3-30
Fluor Hanford
P.O. Box 1000,
Richland, WA 99352
Fax: 376-5704
e-mail:
Hanford_Reach@rl.gov
Phone: (509) 376-4639

Expert panel sees accelerated progress for Integration Project

Steve Sautter, BHI

Hanford's Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project has accelerated its rate of progress. That was the message delivered by Dr. Ed Berkey, chairman of the Integration Project's Expert Panel, or IPEP, at the close of its three-day meeting April 27 at Hanford.

The IPEP reviewed the work and progress of the Integration Project, which is systematically organizing and assessing all of Hanford's activities that affect the soil, the groundwater and the Columbia River. The Integration Project is managed by Bechtel Hanford and is composed of collaborators from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Fluor Hanford.

The panel's eight nationally recognized technical experts received updates on the Integration Project's progress in developing a System Assessment Capability, which will enable the potential future impacts of Hanford's contaminants on the Columbia River and its many users to be evaluated. Project team members also provided updates on the characterization of the contaminants in the soil beneath the waste storage tanks on Hanford's central plateau.

Another area of focus for the IPEP was the science and technology results that are filling in key gaps in our understanding of the migration or movement of these contaminants.

The IPEP chairman cited several specific areas of progress within the Integration Project since the group's meeting last October. These included the compilation of the initial site-wide inventory of contaminants, improvement in providing easier access to site technical data, the integration of science and technology, and completion of the history matching segment of the System Assessment Capability.

Berkey said this work, along with the Integration Project's improved internal and external linkages, has led to a more effective use of Hanford's resources.

In opening-day remarks, Keith Klein, manager of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, stressed the importance of the Integration Project's work in achieving his vision for Hanford Site cleanup. He addressed the uncertainties in the current budget process, but said similar issues had been faced before and he was optimistic about the ultimate outcome.

Mike Hughes, president of Bechtel Hanford, comments during the April meeting of the Integration Project Expert Panel. Seated are, from left, panel chairman Dr. Edgar Berkey, John Morse, project manager for the DOE Richland Operations Office and Michael Graham, the BHI project manager.

Bechtel Hanford President Mike Hughes also addressed the IPEP and members of the project team. He commended the Integration Project team for not losing sight of the Hanford vision and for focusing on their project goals.

Stakeholders, tribal nations and regulators also provided input to the expert panel. Organizations represented were the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Office of Energy.

The next IPEP meeting will be held in September. ❖

Do not recycle copy-paper ream wrapping — it ruins the mix!

Attention all you office paper recyclers at Hanford – the ream wrapping for copy paper cannot be recycled and must be thrown away! The wrapping has a plastic liner that serves as a moisture or vapor barrier and protects the quality of the copy paper. This plastic liner does not break down during the paper recycling process.

Darrick Deitrich, president of Basin Recycling, explains, “Once the paper fiber is sufficiently ‘pulped’ or mixed into slurry, the excess water is drained off. The vapor barrier sticks to the drain screens within the hydropulper and clogs them. When this occurs, the recycling process must be halted so that the vapor barrier material can be removed, either by manually emptying the hydropulper or rejecting the whole batch for disposal. Either method is costly, and defeats the goal of recycling the fiber.”

Bill Hangartner of Basin Recycling empties office paper for recycling with copy-paper wrappers into his tote. The copy-paper wrapping should be thrown away in the trash and not in the recycling bags. The plastic liner of the wrappings does not break down during the paper recycling process.

The paper-recycling program has been one of the most successful recycling programs at Hanford. Each year, the Hanford Site recycles between 450 and 550 tons of paper. For each ton of paper recycled, 17 trees are saved. This means that over the past five years Hanford has saved between 38,250 and 46,750 trees.

Recycling paper and saving trees are extremely important for the environment because the average tree produces five pounds of oxygen a day and absorbs 13 pounds of dioxides a year.

Recycling also saves energy and water, an important fact given the recent shortages. Recycling one ton of paper rather than manufacturing virgin (new) paper saves approximately 4,100 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power the average home for 6 months. Nearly 7,000 gallons of water are saved by recycling one ton of paper.

The two separate paper recycling programs at Hanford are the scrap office paper program (for white and pastel-colored copy paper and envelopes, which are recycled using white bags on stands or blue roll-carts in high volume areas) and the lunchroom recycling program (mixed paper products including aperture cards, blueprint paper, catalogs, magazines, newspapers, yellow and manila envelopes, neon copy paper, paperboard, post-it notes, and hard or softbound manuals, which are collected in designated green roll-carts).

If you would like a complete list of what is recycled through each program, send e-mail to ^Recycling-Hanford. These lists can be posted next to recycling stations to describe what can be recycled in each type of container. If you have questions or comments, call Kathy Hinkelman at 373-SAVE. ❖

Picture Pages

PLANTING HOPE: It has been said that he who plants a tree plants hope. DynCorp Tri-Cities Ser-vices employees are planting more than 1,400 trees as a windscreen near office buildings south of the Waste Receiving and Processing facility in hopes of cutting down on blowing dust in the 200 West Area. The trees were donated by CH2M HILL Hanford Group. The tree planting is part of a larger effort by the Department of Energy, Fluor Hanford, Duratek, DynCorp and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to revegetate a larger area burned in last summer's range fire.

RAVENS 7,
BIRD GUARD 0:
It must have been a mating call rather than a distress call. The bird guard that was supposed to emit calls to keep the ravens away from the 3902-A water tower didn't work (front page photo, April 16, *Hanford Reach*). Instead, some ravens built a nest in the tower. Five raven chicks had hatched at the time of the photo (see inset) and by now the last two eggs will have hatched for a total of seven raven chicks. Fortunately, ravens leave the nest within 35 to 42 days of hatching, so their presence won't affect the schedule to demolish the 300 Area water towers this summer.

Picture Pages

SECURITY PAYS IN MANY WAYS: John Bickford of Fluor Hanford draws the name of Dale DeCoursey, latest grand prize winner of a $200 Savings Bond in the Security Pays In Many Ways campaign. Pat Schweiger of FH nominated DeCoursey, a Fast Flux Test Facility engineer, for his cyber security work at FFTF. If you know someone on the Fluor Project Hanford team or in the River Protection Project who is doing something extra for site security, nominate him or her for an award by sending 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 and are eligible for the grand prize drawing. For more information on the Security Pays program call 376-1820 or visit the Web site **http://www.rl.gov/sas/pg1v3.htm**.

The 244-AR Vault cleanup team works with less cumbersome PPE, thanks to employee innovation.

Teamwork at 244-AR Vault reduces cost, time and risk

Becky Curtis, CHG

The 244-AR Vault cleanup team recently solved seemingly insurmountable problems and is expected to save more than a million dollars using the Project Delivery System, the chartering method also called PDS that was developed by CH2M HILL.

Chartering “ensures that team members share the same vision for the project, which greatly increases the probability that the team will experience both success and high-quality performance,” according to the PDS textbook.

“The employees design the work, then they *do* the work within the safety parameters,” said Pete Pallis, cognizant radiological control supervisor. “Our team made 10 to 15 entries into the 244-AR facility without a contamination incident. The spirit of cooperation between Operations and RadCon is causing this effort to be successful.”

The 244-A Vault was constructed between 1966 and 1968 as a lag storage and treatment facility for PUREX waste. Before cleanup began, the vault was a radiological and chemical nightmare. The canyon area had become a dumping ground for industrial cleaners and abandoned equipment. Contamination levels were far higher than the standard field instruments could measure. And about 19,000 gallons of waste remain in three cells and four tanks located below the canyon floor.

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Better solutions

Cleanup and closure plans for 244-AR called for a $500,000 ventilation system which would provide some radiological control, but not enough. Those working in the facility still had to wear three pairs of anti-contamination clothing and breathe filtered air from powered blowers they carried. Due to lengthy suit-up time and the threat of heat stress, only about two hours of work could be performed each day. So the 244-AR team came up with some better ideas, including the use of containment tents, polyurea coating, plasma arc cutting and mockup testing.

First, a three-chambered containment tent was installed outside the vault so the crew could enter and exit the facility without spreading contamination. The discarded items in the canyon were disposed of appropriately. “Innovative thinking and good conduct of operations by the craftsmen made this possible,” said Al Erhart, 244-AR project manager.

The next step was to apply polyurea to the canyon floor and 8 feet up the walls for preliminary radiological control. This sprayable coating, not unlike that used for permanent truck bed liners, virtually eliminated loose contamination in the facility by trapping it within the coating. Workers now wear far less personal protective equipment and can work almost twice as many hours per day.

Other innovations

Through PDS chartering, the 244-AR team designed a second containment tent that is expected to save $1 million in installation and hardware costs. The tent, which consists of several rooms connected by a long hallway, will be set up in the facility’s canyon. Inside, holes will be cut in the five-foot-thick concrete floor so that pumps can be installed in the waste tanks below. The liquid waste remaining in these tanks will be transferred to a double-shell tank for safer storage.

It was planned that an abrasive water jet would cut through the waste tanks, but employee input through team chartering led to the solution of using a plasma arc cutting tool instead, to essentially “unweld” the metal. This choice will save the project $300,000 because it’s a faster method and will not generate additional liquid waste requiring disposal.

Pipefitters and operations personnel will do mockup testing of plasma arc cutting before performing the work in the 244-AR Vault. Operators will also practice setting up the containment tent. Mockup testing saves time and increases the comfort level by allowing the team to troubleshoot the job and become familiar with the equipment and usage.

The interim stabilization of the 244-AR Vault is a Tri-Party Agreement milestone to be completed by Sept. 30, 2003.

“The project team is driving to beat this commitment date through innovations and teamwork,” said Dale Allen, manager of the Double-Shell Tanks/Waste Feed Delivery Project. “This is a marvelous example of how using a disciplined project-delivery-centered approach with worker involvement in the planning process creates safe, cost-effective, early project completion.” ❖

Four groups emerge from FH Contracts restructuring

On April 16, the Fluor Hanford Contracting Department was restructured to better support its customers, reduce operating costs, improve efficiencies, increase organizational flexibility, provide greater staff development opportunities and facilitate supply-chain process improvement initiatives.

In developing the new structure, Fluor used input from several plans and studies. Included are the Tim Martin Study of the FH structure, the FH Five-Year Supply Chain Strategy Plan, the improvement recommendations from Fluor Hanford projects via the recently completed Supply Chain Value Engineering Study, and a Department of Energy complex-wide benchmark study recently completed by Arizona State University's Center for Advanced Procurement Studies.

The restructuring involved all FH contracting and procurement personnel. It resulted in organizing around four groups to meet the goals mentioned above as well as these specific objectives:

- Consolidating like activities to streamline the placement process
- Creating consistency in dealing with customers and suppliers
- Providing acquisition strategic planning resources to customers
- Developing more in-depth commodity/service knowledge
- Allowing for the ability to provide "back-up" staff to support customers during peak periods and staff absences.

The four groups are:

- **Prime Contract Management** – This group focuses on administration of the prime contract with the DOE Richland Operations Office, including contract change control via modifications, fee tracking and reporting, administration of the DOE-RL directives process, and administration of the work-for-others process and memoranda of agreements with other Hanford contractors.

- **Contract Support** – This group focuses on developing and providing timely acquisition processes and tools in support of FH supply-chain activities, providing acquisition reports and data for internal and external customers, administering the FH Small Business Programs, providing company-wide supply-chain training and conducting specialized cost/price analyses. This group serves as the primary focal point for all acquisition-related issues with DOE-RL.

- **Materials Purchasing** – This group is responsible for executing and administering all FH procurements of materials and design/build components.

- **Subcontracting** – This group is responsible for executing all FH procurements and providing the associated administration for services.

In addition, project contracting leads have been established, reporting to the director of Contracting. These senior contracting professionals are assigned to each of the projects and functional organizations, providing strategic support and a single point of contact. They assist in planning and monitoring procurement activities as needed by their customers, and they provide interface support and assist in problem resolution.

This initial reorganization is only a first step. It will take time to fully realize the objectives. During the transition efforts, all Contracting customers will continue to be supported by their current buyers and points of contact.

As specific reassignments are made, customers will be informed, and Contracting will work to ensure that no customer is negatively affected by the restructuring. ❖

Soil, groundwater sampling under way at B Tank Farm

Geoff Tyree, CHG

Soil and groundwater sampling is under way in the B Tank Farm in Hanford's 200 East Area. CH2M HILL Hanford Group, the tank-farm contractor to the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection, is gathering the samples to help characterize the contamination under Hanford's single-shell tanks.

Hanford crews are drilling a hole near Tank B-110 down to groundwater level, about 260 feet below the surface, taking soil samples along the way. Tank B-110 is one of the first tanks built in the 1940s in Hanford's 200 East Area. The tank leaked an estimated 10,000 gallons before it was stabilized — in other words, had its retrievable liquid removed — in 1984.

"Information from the sampling is important for getting a picture of how the contaminants are moving under this tank," said Rick Raymond, manager of CHG's Single-Shell Tank Closure Project. "And it's part of a larger project to find out where the contaminants are under tanks that have leaked, where the contaminants are going and how fast they're moving."

In the past, 67 of the 149 single-shell tanks have leaked or are assumed to have leaked about a million gallons of highly radioactive and hazardous waste.

Hanford crews are drilling near one of the site's oldest single-shell tanks to find out where and how fast contamination from a past leak is moving. The soil and groundwater sampling effort in B Tank Farm is part of a larger project to characterize the contamination under Hanford's aging single-shell tanks, including 67 that have leaked or are assumed to have leaked in the past.

Near completion

The sampling is part of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, corrective action program. The program was established in 1998 with input from Hanford regulators, tribal nations and stakeholders. The program has been following a step-by-step plan to characterize the contamination below tank farms that have had leaks.

Information gathered will help determine how contaminants move through the soil and what, if any, interim or long-term corrective measures are required to slow the migration of contamination to the groundwater.

The sampling project in the B Tank Farm should be done by mid-May. In March, sampling was conducted in the BX Tank Farm. Last summer, samples were taken in the S and SX Tank Farms, which are among the most contaminated sites at Hanford.

The broader program

CH2M HILL's work to learn more about the contaminants in the soil beneath the tank farms is a core project in a site-wide program called the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project, led by Bechtel Hanford and its Environmental Restoration Contractor team. Regulators and the Department of Energy will make cleanup decisions based on the technical capabilities and scientific information gathered and developed during the course of the Integration Project. Its goal is to assist in protecting the Columbia River from Hanford's radioactive and chemical contaminants. ✦

Several methods used in drilling for samples

More than one method has been used to collect soil and groundwater samples in Hanford's tank farms. A variety of commercial drilling methods is available, but only a few methods are suited to the special conditions in the tank farms.

There are restrictions on the amount of weight that can be above a tank, called dome loading limits. There are also restrictions on how close a hole can be to a tank, and restrictions, or controls, designed to keep environmental contamination levels and worker dose levels as low as can be reasonably achieved.

All of the drilling methods described here use a casing — a metal pipe that is driven into the soil. The drilling is done inside this pipe, which helps direct the drill and keeps the borehole from caving in.

Cable drilling

The latest sampling effort at B Farm uses the cable drilling method. This technology goes back to the 1800s and has been in use at Hanford since the 1940s. In cable drilling, there's a large spade, or bit, on the end of a long, heavy steel shaft. A cable raises the assembly up a few feet and lets it drop. The weight of the steel shaft drives the drill bit into the soil.

After several impacts from the drill bit, the assembly is lifted out of the hole, and a bailer is lowered to scoop out the loosened material. It's a relatively slow method, with drilling distances of about 20 feet on a good day. However, it is a low-risk method of drilling and collecting samples, in that it doesn't result in excessive airborne contamination or add large amounts of liquid to the ground. It can also be used for drilling deep holes.

Numerous "drywells" — holes that don't go down to the groundwater — were drilled in Hanford's tank farms in the past using this method. Radiation monitoring instruments were lowered into the holes to check for contamination in the soil.

Slant drilling

While the cable drilling method is good for "straight-down" holes, a new technique was needed to get under Hanford's tanks. Last summer, using an innovative technique called slant drilling, crews made an angled hole beneath Tank SX-108 to retrieve soil samples. The hole measured 150 feet vertically and 180 feet along the slant.

Designers modified a standard pile driver to meet the special needs of slant drilling. To reduce potential contamination of workers, a remote arm device was used to maneuver the drill rod sections and soil samplers. To reduce the potential for contaminated soil being released, the sampler was sealed in plastic at the surface when it was removed from the borehole.

Cone penetrometer

A third method of checking the soil for contamination is the cone penetrometer. The sampling machinery is mounted on a truck, which pushes a rod into the ground as far down as 50 feet. While this sampling method can't go as deep as the other drilling techniques, it is a relatively quick way to collect small samples.

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Cone penetrometer, cont.

When coupled with a “down-hole” sensor, the cone penetrometer is good for mapping contamination plumes. Several sites around Tank S-104 were mapped and sampled in January and February of 2000. An operational history of the tank indicated radioactive and hazardous waste had overflowed from the tank during a 1965 waste transfer. The technique will also be used in B and BX farms this coming summer.

Air-rotary drilling

Another drilling technique that was tried is air-rotary drilling. It was only used once because of the extensive environmental containment and personnel protection required.

In air-rotary drilling, a machine drives a drill shaft downward. Instead of having to send a bailer into the hole periodically to remove loosened soil, as in the cable drilling method, compressed air continuously flows into the hole. The air pushes the loosened soil up to the top of the hole, where it is collected.

While air-rotary drilling is faster than cable drilling, the measures required to protect workers and the environment from potential airborne releases outweighed the gains in speed.

Regardless of the method, when the drilling is done and the boreholes decommissioned, the holes are sealed with cement grout. This prevents water from entering the openings at the surface and prevents contaminants already in the ground from migrating downward along the borehole. ✥

Teamwork is key to training in Field Team Olympics

Health physicists take to the field

The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office is the coordinating office for the DOE Region 8 Radiological Assistance Program, or RAP, which includes Alaska, Oregon and Washington. DOE has sponsored the RAP since the late 1950s.

Under the RAP, DOE provides — upon request — radiological assistance to DOE programs, other federal agencies, state, tribal and local governments, private groups and individuals. The program provides trained personnel and equipment to evaluate, advise and assist in mitigating real or imagined radiation hazards.

The RAP is divided into eight geographical regions. Regional coordination is intended to provide a timely response capability and to foster working relationships among DOE and the response elements of the state and local agencies.

The Field Team "Olympics" was begun in the early 1990s by the State of Washington as a way of teaching state health physicists how to respond to radiological threats.

Bob Clark of the Washington State Department of Health presents a map to participants at the Navigation and Map booth at the Field Team Olympics "fair."

New approach needed

In the past, conventional methods such as classroom lectures were the primary teaching tools. A more interactive, hands-on approach was needed — an approach that not only kept personnel interested but enabled them to participate in a realistic experience. The realistic experience includes use of radioactive material, with the potential for exposures and spread of contamination.

It was also considered worthwhile to share this training with other responders like the Region 8 RAP, which might interface with the state during a major radiological accident.

Today, the Field Team Olympics has grown to include not only the Region 8 RAP but also the Washington State Departments of Health, Emergency Management and Agriculture as well as Energy Northwest, Framatome ANP Richland (formerly Siemens), Allied Technology Group (ATG), the Oregon Department of Energy, the Washington National Guard 10th Civil Support Team of Tacoma, and other DOE entities such as

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Health physicists take to the field, cont.

the Nevada Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center. It's an example of how private industry and government can work together to ensure public health and safety.

The RAP teams comprise DOE and contractor personnel specifically trained for radiological response. The team members are volunteers who perform radiological assistance duties as part of their formal employment or as part of the terms of the contract between their employer and DOE.

After a sample collection, Region 8 RAP team member Linda Synoground of Fluor Hanford performs a survey on Staff Sergeant Brian Busby of the National Guard 10th Civil Support team.

Radiological assistance requests may require the deployment of one or more RAP teams equipped with personal protective equipment, radiation monitoring instruments, air sampling equipment, communications equipment and other devices.

Realistic exercise caps three-day event

The Region 8 Radiological Assistance Program and the Washington State Department of Health teamed up to host the 2001 Joint Field Team Olympics April 23–26 at the Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center in Pasco. This year's field team activities focused on the early intermediate phase of an emergency.

Roughly 70 people participated in the event — 25 of whom are actual Field Team Olympics team members. Employees of ATG, Framatome ANP Richland, the Washington National Guard 10th Civil Support Group, Region 8 RAP and the Washington Department of Health formed the teams that competed.

The first day of the Field Team Olympics included an overview of the week's events, individual expectations and a brief team game. There were five teams, each striving to win the gold medal.

As part of the exercise, Kris McCargan (left) of Allied Technology Group and Pam Walsh of the Washington State Department of Health assess a backyard garden.

Teams include a member from each participating organization. RAP members compete against each other as the teams individually work their way through the events. The challenge a RAP team member faces is to think outside of his or her "normal" job responsibilities and figure out how to best provide assistance to others — putting RAP team members in a situation of continuous learning and understanding other response capabilities.

Lectures, a 'fair'

Lectures and a discussion about the intermediate phase of an emergency kicked off the second day of the Field Team Olympics. Teams listened to instructors describe the steps, sampling protocols and documentation that must be identified and completed during an emergency.

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Realistic exercise caps three-day event, cont.

Teams also learned about public interaction and risk communication — when and how to relay information to bystanders and the general public. Unlike the initial phase of an emergency when the public is either sheltered or evacuated, the intermediate phase occurs during the time when members of the public may have been allowed to return to their homes. However, sampling and monitoring continue.

Following the morning lectures, each of the five teams had an opportunity to visit five "fair booths." Teams visited the booths to experience the hands-on use of global positioning systems and Department of Health and RAP equipment for sample collection and "chain of custody." They also practiced their risk communication.

Todd Ponczoch of Fluor Hanford, a member of the Region 8 RAP team, takes a sediment sample near the Ringold fish hatchery.

The RAP Emergency Mobile Lab was used to demonstrate sample turnover. Controllers observed and evaluated the teams and awarded points based on their participation and team interaction.

The field exercise

On the third day of the Field Team Olympics, the teams, controllers, evaluators and observers traveled to Ringold to participate in the main event — the field exercise. The field exercise is particularly important because team members have an opportunity to respond as a field team to five different locations. As a team they must complete the required sample collection and documentation and transfer chain of custody to the mobile lab.

They interacted with actors portraying members of the public, and navigated using global positioning. The team members are trained and are expected to use the tools provided in the lectures and booths, and from each other, to evaluate the emergency, practice the techniques and execute the necessary steps to ensure public safety and health.

The scenario focused on a simulated Energy Northwest "release" in which the affected areas extended into Franklin County.

The final day included a Jeopardy-like knowledge game, a review of the field exercise and the awards ceremony.

It wasn't until the final points were tallied that the medals fell into place. The green team took home the gold and the red and black teams earned the silver and bronze, respectively.

Observers labeled the 2001 Field Team Olympics a successful team effort. ✦

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Team winners in the Field Team Olympics:

Gold medal: **Green Team**

Pam Walsh, Wash. DOH
Tom Cooper, Wash. DOH
Todd Ponczoch, Region 8 RAP
(FH employee)
Major Arthur Russell, 10th Civil Support
Kris McCargan, ATG

Silver medal: **Red Team**

Earl Fordham, Wash. DOH
Linda Synoground, Region 8 RAP
(FH employee)
Staff Sergeant Brian Busby, 10th Civil Support
Jeff Ferritto, Framatome
MaryAnn Thomason, Wash. DOH

Bronze medal: **Black team**

Dick Jaquish, Wash. DOH
Tim Hidalgo, Region 8 RAP
(CHG employee)
Sergeant First Class Tony Williams,
10th Civil Support
Duane Tubbs, Framatome
Staff Sergeant Jerome Jones,
10th Civil Support

Ribbon Winners:

Nancy Darling, Wash. DOH

Alton Jenkins, Wash. DOH

Robin Woodford, Region 8 RAP
(FH employee)

Captain Dave Patsiga, 10th Civil Support

Scott Delawder, Framatome

Gail Laws, Wash. DOH

Roy Evans, Wash. DOH

Dana Anderson, Region 8 RAP
(FH employee)

(Captain) Ben Maltz, 10th Civil Support

Mark Smith, ATG

CHG Recognition Night 2001 begins a new tradition

A new tradition began this year at CH2M HILL Hanford Group's Recognition Night, which was held at the Pasco DoubleTree Hotel on April 14. Five awards named in honor of the founders of CH2M HILL were given to six employees.

The Fred Merryfield Award for Manager of the Year went to Jim Bryce. Ace Etheridge earned the Clair Hill Award for External Relationships and Community Service. The Holly Cornell Award of Excellence was given to both Jhivaun Freeman-Pollard and Dave Taylor. Bob Popielarczyk was awarded the Burke Hayes Award for Technical Innovation. Ron Nelson received the Jim Howland Award for Team Builder of the Year.

CHG President Fran DeLozier with Award of Excellence winners Jhivaun Freeman-Pollard and Dave Taylor. Mike Kennedy, CH2M HILL president of regional operations, is on the right.

Thirty-six other employees received awards for significant contributions that affected CHG's ability to meet project milestones, schedules and profit commitments during the year. Employees honored were Kevin Adamson, Susan Alexander, Julie Allen-Floyd, Amy Basche, Roger Bauer, Kristine Bowen, Dave Burt, Bill Engel, Janice Erickson, Michael Geffre, Sandra Gilmore, Richard Harrington, Mike Hay, Gary Hopkins, Pete Hopkins, Gerald D. Johnson, Mark N. Johnson, Rose Karl, Edward Kennedy, James O. Knight, Jim Lee, Stewart Mackay, Lauri Marquardt, Susan May, Chris Mercado, Randy Ni, David Patrick, Pete Sederburg, Marnell Sheriff, Dell Spaulding, Willie Taylor, Geoff Tyree, Craig Upchurch, Carl Wallgren, Dick Wurz and Bruce Wyatt.

Also receiving awards were a number of individuals and teams chosen as annual winners among those recognized monthly by the Employee Recognition Council. Dale Higham, William McFee and Khamphouk Phongsa received the safety award. Corey McCord received the award for the hourly category. Laurie Franklin received the non-exempt category award. The exempt category award was given to Victor Boyles. Stephen Chapman earned the award in the manager category. Glenda Davis, Stephanie Livesey, Jim McAuley, Rick Reeder and David Pattee received the award in the team category.

Special guests from the CH2M HILL corporate office in Colorado included Mike Kennedy, president of regional operations, and Bill Dehn and Dirk Stauthammer, respectively senior vice president and vice president of human resources with the CH2M HILL Energy, Environment and Systems Business Group. Harry Boston, manager of the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection, also was a special guest.

Boston spoke briefly at the event, telling the CHG employees, "You had a great year, and I hope you each understand how proud I am of all of you." He said he was especially pleased with the new contract CHG signed in January with ORP, adding that he and CHG President Fran DeLozier are "an awfully good team."

DeLozier told the employees that they and their families should take pride they are "making the world a better place" by "participating in the largest nuclear cleanup in this country." "I know what is possible, and I believe in us," DeLozier said. "As much success as we've had in 2000 and prior years, our best days are ahead." ✦

The USS California: the ship returns to the captain

Bryan Kidder, FH

Barry Burrow holds a photograph of the USS California, a Navy nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser that was under his command from 1988 to 1991, when he was Capt. Barry Burrow. In the background, the reactor compartment of the USS California is being loaded for transport to the 200 East Burial Grounds on March 24.

It was a difficult homecoming for Barry Burrow of the Waste Management Project. As he watched from the banks of the Columbia River, a naval reactor compartment was being loaded from a barge onto a multi-wheeled transporter for movement to Hanford for disposal.

But this wasn't just any shipment; this was *Burrow's* ship they were hauling out there.

From 1988 to 1991, Burrow was Capt. Barry Burrow, commanding officer of the USS California, a Navy nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser. The "golden grizzly," as the ship was called, was commissioned in 1974. She was designed to detect and destroy any threats by hostile forces either independently or as an element of a fast carrier task force. The California had a crew of 615 and had a speed in excess of 30 knots.

But all of that was in the past. The California had served her time and the reactor compartments were coming to the 200 East Burial Grounds to join those from other surface and submarine vessels in the Navy's fleet.

With great pride in his voice, Burrow described the rich naval heritage represented in the California. "When I close my eyes, I can still see those wonderful sailors that served on board the California. This would be a sad day for them all — the true end of their ship."

Burrow's connection to the California goes back even further than his own service. His father, James B. Burrow, also a Navy captain, served on an earlier ship by the same name, the *battleship* California, in the 1930s. He was then assigned to a ship destroyed in the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, but fortunately had been reassigned to Annapolis just two months before the Dec. 7 attack.

The battleship California was sunk during the attack and it was refloated and repaired in the Puget Sound Navy Yard. It rejoined the war in mid-1944.

Many site employees and residents of the Tri-Cities show their pride with each reactor compartment that comes to Hanford. It is not uncommon to see people along the highway watching the compartments slowly crawl down the road — some standing at attention, giving full respect to the vessel's heart as it goes to its final resting place.

Barry Burrow's love of his ship is easily witnessed when he recounts stories of the cruiser California. Complete with a scrapbook, mementos and photographs, he tells the tale of service to country given by the powerful ship.

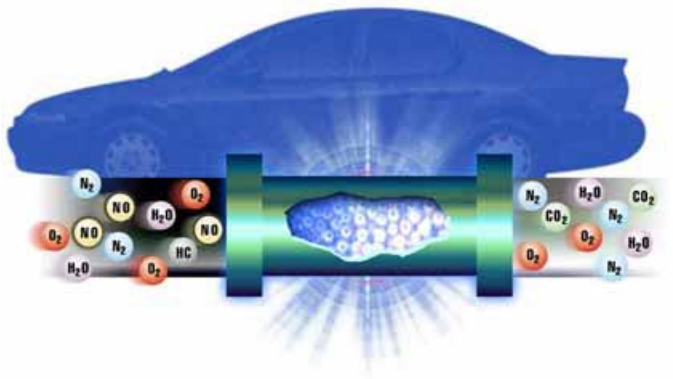
In his role as facility support manager for Fluor Hanford's Waste Management Project, Burrow will probably make some extra rounds of the burial grounds, just to make sure they're taking good care of *his* ship. ✦

New PNNL technology reduces 'NO$_x$ious' emissions

Gayle O'Donahue, PNNL

By combining an electrically charged gas with a specialized catalyst, researchers at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have successfully reduced harmful oxides of nitrogen in a diesel engine by half. Laboratory results show even greater reductions are possible.

These reductions are critical to meeting emissions requirements and fuel economy goals in diesel vehicles. A patent is pending on a class of zeolite catalyst materials that appear to be the key to nitrogen oxide, or NOx, reduction in this novel approach to the control of harmful vehicle exhaust emissions.



In a novel approach to controlling vehicle exhaust emissions, PNNL researchers have successfully reduced harmful oxides of nitrogen in a diesel engine by half.

While current tests show promising results, the foundation for this research began several years ago when PNNL scientists showed that an electrically charged gas, called plasma, along with a catalyst, could convert nitrogen oxides to nitrogen — a component of clean air. They developed a small reactor to house the plasma reaction and quickly discovered that the packing material used in the reactor affected the chemical reaction.

"Our scientists began looking at various materials and found a specialized catalyst that selectively reduces oxides of nitrogen," said Chuck Peden, principal investigator for the project. Those initial laboratory studies showed that the process reduced NOx by 70 percent.

"But our lab results over the past six months now show that greater than 90 percent reduction can be achieved," Peden said.

Laboratory tests also have shown the potential for significant soot reduction. The soot portion of exhaust consists of tiny particles of carbon and organics that are potentially harmful to human health.

As part of a research and development partnership on low emissions technologies with the United States Council for Automotive Research (USCAR), PNNL scientists are helping to develop a new generation of vehicles.

DaimlerChrysler, Ford and General Motors — under the umbrella of USCAR — work together on shared technological and environmental concerns. In 1993, USCAR formed the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV) with the federal government to develop cars that would travel up to 80 miles on a gallon of gas. They would meet reduced emissions levels for nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons.

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Cleaner diesels

New hybrid, light-duty diesel engines, such as those used in passenger cars and small trucks, already can meet target fuel economy requirements and actually emit less of the "greenhouse gas" carbon dioxide than gasoline engines. However, unlike gasoline engines, there is no technology that can sufficiently reduce nitrogen oxides in the lean burn exhaust typical of diesel vehicles. Nitrogen oxides cause air pollution.

"Combining the plasma reactor concept with a catalyst was considered to be a left-field approach but is now moving to the top of the PNGV list," said Steve Barlow, a PNNL chemical physicist. "Six years ago, this field of non-thermal plasma-activated catalysis didn't exist, but it appears to have many advantages over competing technologies. For example, our catalysts aren't poisoned by sulfur in the exhaust, which is a challenge for other catalytic technologies.

"Since the beginning, we have worked to improve both the electrical discharge designs and the catalyst performance," Barlow said. "The resulting hybrid system is vastly more efficient than what we started out with. It is also much more rugged and reliable. One surprising result has been the relative ease with which we have been able to move from the laboratory bench to actual engine testing. This gives us confidence in the soundness of our approach."

More work ahead

Recent prototype reactor tests conducted on a diesel engine at DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory show a 50 percent reduction of NOx. Researchers are continuing to refine the plasma reactor system, which received a patent in 1999, to achieve even greater reduction of NOx. PNGV targets are a 90 percent reduction in NOx emissions at 80 miles per gallon.

"We continue to make progress toward achieving the goals with this technology," said Peden. "There is more work to be done to reduce the amount of electrical power required to operate the reactor and to increase the overall NOx reduction from 50 to 90 percent on a real engine."

"This technology, if successful, will reduce NOx and particulate emissions and enable the use of high-fuel-economy diesel vehicles that will help relieve our dependence on foreign oil," said Kathi Epping, program manager for DOE's Combustion and Emission Control Program. The program is part of the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Office of Transportation Technologies, which is funding the research.

One proposed timeline for integrating the emission-reducing reactors comes from PNGV, which hopes to have a prototype vehicle by 2004. The laboratory also is working with Delphi Automotive, a potential supplier of a plasma-catalyst system. Under a separate Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, PNNL is teaming with Caterpillar, Inc. to find solutions to reducing emissions on heavy-duty diesel engines.

Formed in 1992, USCAR leverages Ford's, General Motors' and Daimler-Chrysler's research efforts in non-competitive areas. For more information, visit the Web site **www.uscar .org.** ❖

New Intranet search tool for documents available

Jeff Highland, LMSI

The Hanford Site has a new Intranet tool available for searching RIM (Records and Information Management) databases to find Hanford documents, records and related information.

This new tool, called RILS for RIM Information Locator System, provides access to seven RIM applications from one Intranet entry point:

- Hanford Document Control System Documents Table
- Records Management Information System Records Table
- RMIS Material Safety Data Sheet Table
- RMIS Solid Waste Table
- RMIS Tank Farm Information Center Table
- Site Drawing File (SDF) Document Table
- Hanford Video Production Library

The intent is that RILS will eventually include all of the RIM non-sensitive, general-use databases. For its initial release, RILS will display up to 11 fields of information for each record.

There are two ways you can search using RILS. The basic search provides a one-line search capability similar to that used by many Internet search engines. The expanded search lets you enter any of a number of specific search parameters in order to restrict the search. This will result in a lesser number of hits, thereby simplifying the search for a specific document.

With either method, the user can select which fields and which databases to search. Any record that contains an image or native file will have an icon displayed with it that will allow a user to retrieve and display the image or native file.

A “Search Tips” screen provides information on how to use the search functions. As user questions come in, this screen will be expanded to include additional tips.

The new online RILS tool offers two ways to search for Hanford documents.

The Intranet address for RILS is: **http://apweb02.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/rils/rils/main/**. To be able to view images or native files, it will be necessary to download the appropriate viewer from Software Distribution. The viewer is RMIS ViewPrint 5.00, which is listed under “Hanford Site Applications.”

If you have any questions concerning RILS, e-mail them to: ^RILS/RIM Information Locator System. ❖

Pull the box or push the button to report emergencies

Martha Rice, Hanford Fire Department

If you work at Hanford, you know all about dialing 9-1-1 to report an emergency (or 373-3800 if you use a cellular phone). But did you know that you can report emergencies by using a fire alarm manual pull station or radio frequency alarm reporting devices as well?

So, what is a fire alarm manual pull station? Many of us walk by them every day and may never notice this vital piece of emergency notification equipment. These alarm notification devices are connected directly to the Hanford Fire Department dispatch center. When the box is pulled, it immediately notifies the dispatcher of an alarm, along with the building number where it is located.

In case of a fire or major emergencies such as a medical or hazardous material event, *PULL THE BOX!* This will alert the building occupants (by sounding the fire alarm gong) and the fire department to the emergency. Once you are safely evacuated, dial 9-1-1 to describe the emergency. Be prepared to answer these questions: What has happened? Where did it happen? What help is needed?

When working in other facilities, you may want to consider identifying manual pull station locations as part of your pre-job planning activities.

Now that you know about the fire alarm pull station, what would you do if you were outside during an emergency or have to leave the building before you can notify the fire department or dial 9-1-1?

Many Hanford facilities have radio frequency alarm reporting, or RFAR, devices located on the front of the building. Just go to the nearest red RFAR and push the large button in front. Pushing the front button does notify the fire department to initiate response to that location, but it does not alert the building occupants. If possible, call 9-1-1 to describe the emergency and stay by the red RFAR box to advise the fire department upon arrival.

Whether you dial 9-1-1 to notify the fire department of an emergency, activate a pull station or push the RFAR box front button, the response is the same. Sometimes “pulling the box” or “pushing the front button” is the fastest way to alert emergency respondes.

Hanford Fire Chief Don Good would like to remind you that these emergency notification systems are there for your safety and they can be used to report an actual emergency — just remember to always follow up with a telephone call. ✥

In case of fire, these alarms may be the fastest way to alert both building occupants and the HFD.

May is recognized as National Electrical Safety Month

Paul Case, FH

Electrical hazards and unsafe work practices cause hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries each year. One person is electrocuted in the workplace every day, and property damage is measured in billions of dollars.

The National Electrical Safety Foundation declares each May to be National Electrical Safety Month, to focus our attention on electrical hazards at work and at home. Recognizing electrical hazards and knowing how to work safely with electrical tools and equipment can help you avoid becoming an accident victim.

Installation safety

Electrical safety begins with installation of wiring and equipment. The National Electrical Code, or NEC, is the recognized national standard for safe electrical installations. Your home electrical system was inspected for compliance with NEC requirements. You should ensure that the system remains safe by having additions and modifications installed by licensed contractors and electricians. Certified inspectors from the Department of Labor and Industries will verify NEC compliance. *Don't take shortcuts when it comes to electrical installations!*

Electrical installations at Hanford are also required to comply with the NEC. Electrical installation permits are used to track new construction and modifications. Designated NEC inspectors appointed by the Hanford Electrical Codes Board verify NEC compliance.

Use of tools, equipment

Most electrical tools and appliances are safe when used according to manufacturers' instructions. Always look for evidence of third-party evaluation, such as an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label. That will provide extra assurance that the equipment is safe to use.

Read the manufacturer's instructions. They will tell you how and where to use equipment safely. For example, some equipment may be used outdoors. Other equipment may be intended only for indoor use. Also make sure your electrical system has the rated capacity to operate equipment you purchase. Overloaded circuits are a leading cause of residential fires.

Inspect portable electric tools before each use. Look for cracked cases, frayed cords and damaged plugs. Unless tools are identified as double-insulated, pay particular attention to grounding connections. The round pin on the plug provides the grounding path and it should be intact — not bent, loose or missing.

Avoid using three-prong adapters. Unless the ground wire is properly connected to a verified grounding path it will do absolutely no good, and you may be exposed to a lethal shock.

Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) whenever you use portable tools, especially outdoors and in damp or wet locations. Thousands of electrocutions have been prevented since GFCIs were introduced in 1972. If you don't have permanent GFCIs where you need them — for example, outdoors or in your shop — consider having them installed. Or you can purchase a portable "pigtail" GFCI that you can use wherever you need protection.

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GFCIs will not prevent you from being shocked, but they will prevent you from being electrocuted. But don't forget to test them. The internal circuitry can fail, so that power is still available at the outlet but ground-fault protection is not. Permanently installed GFCIs should be tested monthly and portable devices should be tested before each use. A "Test" button is built into every device for easy testing.

Safe electrical work practices, at home and at work, begin with three basic steps: 1) turn off the power; 2) ensure the circuit will not be inadvertently re-energized; and 3) test the circuit to verify it's dead.

It is always safer to work on circuits that are de-energized. There are very few tasks that require circuits to remain energized. Work methods and protective equipment are available to protect workers near exposed energized parts, but they are intended as a last resort — not as justification to leave the circuit energized while working on or near it.

Put tags on switches

Make sure the circuit you are working on will not be inadvertently energized. That means using lock and tag at work. If you don't lock out circuits at home, at least attach a tag securely to the switch or circuit breaker. Put a warning on the tag that the switch should not be touched. Then make sure everyone at home knows that you are working on an electrical circuit.

Verify circuits are dead before touching parts that may be energized. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration requires a qualified person to use test equipment to verify circuit parts are de-energized in the workplace. That is also the preferred method in the home. But be very careful — various wiring methods, miswiring by previous homeowners and other anomalies can deceive an unwary person.

If you have any doubt about the status of an electrical circuit or system, call a qualified electrician for assistance!

Electricity provides us with many conveniences, but can be lethal to anyone not alert to its dangers. Make sure you can recognize electrical hazards in the workplace. Contact your supervisor if you see any unsafe condition. A brochure from the NESF is available to help you perform an electrical safety check at home. Contact me, Paul Case, if you would like copies.

More information

More electrical safety information is available on the Hanford Electrical Safety Program Web site. You will find points of contact for installation safety, NEC inspections and safe electrical work practices. You will also find information on subjects such as GFCI testing and safe use of extension cords, as well as links to many Web sites related to electrical safety.

The HESP Web site is at **http://www.rl.gov/boards/hesp/hesphome.htm**. ✦

Parker appointed Kaiser-Hill president, CEO

Former CH2M HILL Hanford Group Executive Vice President Alan Parker has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the Rocky Flats closure project for Kaiser-Hill.

Parker replaces Bob Card, who stepped down because of time demands from his prospective nomination as U.S. Department of Energy undersecretary and the pending Senate confirmation process.

Parker returned to Rocky Flats in March after serving as executive vice president of CHG, the DOE Office of River Protection's tank waste storage and retrieval contractor. Before that, he served as vice president of Closure Project Integration at Rocky Flats.

"Alan Parker is a highly talented, innovative and enthusiastic leader with a firm understanding of what it takes to get the job done safely at Rocky Flats," said Ralph Peterson, chairman of the Kaiser-Hill Board of Managers. "He brings with him a depth of experience in nuclear cleanup and decommissioning and will continue with our strong commitment to the safe, accelerated closure of Rocky Flats. We are proud to have him on our team." ✥

Parker

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.

Appreciates issue

Nice issue this week (*Hanford Reach*, April 30). I actually took time to read most of it! I hadn't realized how involved in the community the many organizations have been. Good to see the other side.

Kim Massie
CH2M HILL Hanford Group

Overzealous

This morning while coming in to work, I personally witnessed a sheriff pull over a motorist right before the Wye Barricade. The motorist was doing about 40 miles per hour in a 35 mph zone.

Although this is technically over the speed limit, I believe the sheriff created a greater hazard by pulling over a car where he did. The immediate result of this sheriff's actions was to create a snarl of traffic right before the barricade, where five lanes of traffic squeeze into two while on a curve with a check point.

Because of the commotion ahead, I was forced out of the right merge lane and came close to going off the road. Had I gone off the road I would have been in a direct path from where this sheriff and civilian were. I believe this sheriff demonstrated an overzealous desire to hand out tickets and was completely oblivious of the traffic snarl he had created.

My grandpa would have had a simple term for this type of behavior; however, today in our politically correct world we simply call them Darwin Award candidates.

Ron Sandefur
CH2M HILL Hanford

Editors' Note: Lt. Charles Kissler of the Benton County Sheriff's Office has indicated that his office would review this incident. According to Kissler, "The Benton County Sheriff's Office is always concerned about safety. Enforcing traffic laws to promote the public safety is a primary purpose of our organization, as is enforcing those laws safely."

Kissler also noted that the Sheriff's Office welcomes comments from citizens concerning its operations. Contact the Sheriff's Office by phone at 376-1022, or through plant e-mail at *Benton County Sheriffs Office.

Expo thank-you

The Health and Safety Expo Planning Team would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2001 Health and Safety Exposition. An outstanding trade show requires time, effort, creativity and a budget. It is only successful when our people are fully supported by management. For the first time since it began, all Hanford contractors participated in Expo.

Thank you Department of Energy, Bechtel Hanford, Inc., Fluor Hanford, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, Building Trades Union and all the subcontractor companies for allowing your employees to participate in Expo 2001.

Janette Pettey
Expo Communications Lead
Fluor Hanford

Excess yard status

How about a follow-up article on the Excess Yard ("Hanford Excess Yard moving," *Hanford Reach*, Nov. 13, 2000). Have they gotten a new facility? If so, where is it, what are the hours, and what other information do I need so I can drop in and shop?

Jack Dowell
Fluor Federal Services

Editors' Note: According to Susan Raymond with Investment Recovery Operations, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services is still operating the excess function on a very small scale with limited warehouse space and no laydown yard. Currently there is no retail store and no public auctions are scheduled. Once it has been determined, the *Hanford Reach* will announce the location of the new warehouse and yard.

PNNL director to speak at ANS meeting

Lura Powell, director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will be the guest speaker at the dinner meeting of the local section of the American Nuclear Society on Tuesday, May 15, at the Richland Shilo Inn. The topic is "The Future of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory." Social hour begins at 6 p.m., dinner is at 6:30 and the presentation is at 7:15. The cost for ANS members is $12 and $15 for non-members. Contact Floyd Ivey at 735-3581 for information.

CONSYS 2001 scheduled for June 13

The local chapter of the Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society will hold its annual exhibit and technical conference, CONSYS 2001, on June 13 at the Pasco DoubleTree Hotel from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free and lunch will be provided to attendees. For more information, contact Elisabeth Boyd at 373-0076 or Erwin Icayan at 371-3538.

INCOSE to tour B Reactor in May

The May meeting of the Tri-Cities Chapter of the International Council on Systems Engineering will be a tour of B Reactor. The tour will take place Friday, May 18. Badging and radiation protection training prior to the tour will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the Bechtel building, 3350 George Washington Way. The tour will be complete by 11 a.m. The tour is limited to 30 participants and is open to INCOSE members, their families and friends. Tour participants must make reservations in advance, be U.S. citizens, be at least 18 years old, have photo identification and wear appropriate footwear during the tour (no high heels, sandals or open-toed shoes). For more information or to make reservations, contact Mike DeLamare at MADeLama@mail.bhi-erc.com or at 372-9482.

AAAS banquet honors academic excellence

The 25th annual Afro-Americans for an Academic Society Recognition and Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the West Coast Hotel in Kennewick. African-American students in grades 4 through 12 who have maintained a 3.0 or higher GPA for the first three academic quarters of the school year will be honored at the banquet. The students are from Pasco, Richland, Kennewick and Benton City and will receive certificates, ribbons, trophies, thesauruses and scholarships. The theme of the banquet is "Citizenship, Vision, Hope for the New Generation — Meeting New Challenges Together," and the keynote speaker is Harry Boston, manager of the Department of Energy Office of River Protection. Tickets are $15. Contact Clarence Alford at 547-3655 for more information.

Community Summit hosted by AAAS on May 19

Afro-Americans for an Academic Society will host, and the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection and Richland Operations Office will sponsor, a Community Summit on Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Hawk Union Building of the Columbia Basin College Pasco campus. The purpose of the summit is to motivate, challenge and inform students and their parents on diverse topics ranging from peer pressure to being a well-rounded student. The summit features breakout sessions for students in second through fifth grades, sixth through eighth grades and ninth through twelfth grades, plus a session especially for parents. The summit is free to the public. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m. Lunch is provided for attendees. Contact Clarence Alford at 547-3655 for more information.

CLASSES

EXITECH offers classes in OSHA standards for construction

The 30-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standard for Construction Industry class will be offered May 7-10 by EXITECH at the Hanford Training Center. The 30-hour OSHA Standards for General Industry class will be offered July 16-19 at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. To register for either, call 946-2573.

Columbia Basin College Small Business Development Center offers:

- **Small Business Accounting Basics** – May 15 or June 6, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Cost: $35. Instructor: Donald Smith, CPA.
- **Small Business Tax Basics and Preparation** – May 22 or June 13, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost $30. Instructor: Donald Smith, CPA.
- **Small Business Advertising and Marketing: What's the difference?** – May 16 or June 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost $15. Instructor: Melanie Jones.
- **Small Business Public Relations Basics** – May 8, May 29 or June 12, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost $15. Instructor: Melanie Jones.
- **Small Business Customer Relations** – May 23, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Cost $15. Instructor: Melanie Jones.

All classes will be held in the TRIDEC Conference Room at 901 N. Colorado, Kennewick. To register or to obtain more information, call Ritzy Rafer at 735-6222, or mail your request to CBC-SBDC, 901 N. Colorado St., Kennewick, WA 99336.

D2000 offers Advanced Confined Space Train-the-Trainer class

Tuesday, May 15, through Thursday, May 17, D2000 Safety Solutions will offer a three-day Advanced Confined Space Train-the-Trainer class at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center's Administration Building in Room 14 at 7:30 a.m. The course meets requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.146 and is applicable to the 1.6 million general industry workers who enter confined spaces annually. Students successfully completing the program receive a certificate of completion. The class has been reviewed and approved for CEUs by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training. The course cost is $595 per person. Call Vicky DeMoss at (800) 551-8763 to register.

Beryllium Assigned Worker course to be offered at HAMMER

Beginning May 30, Beryllium Assigned Worker (PeopleSoft Course Number 004100) will be offered at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. Piloted in April, the course will be compliant with 10 CFR 850.37. Its target audience will be Hanford employees assigned to work with beryllium, beryllium-containing materials or beryllium contamination. Students may register for Beryllium Assigned Worker through their training coordinators, in PeopleSoft under Course Number 004100, or by sending e-mail to ^Training - HAMMER. For questions or further information about this course, contact Bill Robinson at 373-6338.

Classes continued on page 29.

Root cause analysis courses offered at HAMMER

Decision Systems Inc. will offer its REASON® 4 Root Cause Analysis basic, advanced and executive briefing classes the week of July 9 at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. Register these classes online at **www.rootcause.com/open_training.htm** or by contacting Jason at (903) 236-9973 or jjones@rootcause.com.

- **The REASON® 4 Root Cause Analysis basic class** will be offered Monday, July 9, and Tuesday, July 10, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the HAMMER Administration Building, room 28. Students will learn about root cause methodology and software applications — where the emphasis is on applying and managing elements of the data-gathering process. The cost is $650 per person. This basic course is a prerequisite for the 3-day REASON® 4 Root Cause Analysis advanced class.
- **The REASON® 4 Root Cause Analysis advanced class** will be offered Wednesday, July 11, through Friday, July 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the HAMMER Administration Building, room 16. Through hands-on computer-based learning, students will gain the skills necessary to serve as site resource people. The cost for this course is $975 per person.

  The cost for the combined two-day basic class and the three-day advanced class is $1,475 per person. This figure represents a savings of $150 per person over registering for the classes separately.

  Decision Systems will offer a four-hour executive briefing class Monday, July 9, and Tuesday, July 10, from 8 a.m. to 12 p. m. at the HAMMER Administration Building in Conference Room 31. Instruction will discuss and demonstrate the key elements, concepts, and applications of the REASON® 4 Root Cause Analysis System for operations improvement. The cost for the executive briefing class is $75 per person. ✦

NEWSBRIEFS

NMA names speech contest winners

The three local chapters of the National Management Association that make up the Columbia Basin Area Council held their High School American Enterprise Speech Contests on March 24 in Kennewick and Yakima. The winners of the Hanford Chapter competition are: first place, Sana Zuberi of Richland High School; and second place, Zack Nielson of Southridge High School. Rene Rojas of Prosser High School took first place in the Tri-Cities Area Public Employees Chapter competition, and Aaron Jameson of West Valley High School took first place in the Energy Northwest Chapter competition.

These first-place winners went on to compete at the council level on April 21. At this level, Zuberi won first place and $500, Jameson won second place and $300 and Rojas won third place and $200.

Zuberi goes on to compete at the Pacific North Area speech contest on May 20 at the Chapter Leadership Conference in Seattle, where she has a chance to win a $2,000 Savings Bond. First place winners from the area contests continue on to the national level contest and a chance to win a $10,000 Savings Bond.

Fish tagging crew wanted at old town site

A crew of six to eight people is needed to assist the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in tagging 200,000 juvenile wild fall Chinook salmon at the old Hanford town site. No prior experience is necessary. Applicants must be over 16 and be available for as many as 12 consecutive days starting approximately May 30. The project could start as early as May 22, depending on river conditions. The pay starts at $8 per hour. For further information, please contact Jeff Fryer of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at (503) 731-1266 or via e-mail at fryj@critfc.org.

Newbriefs continued on page 30.

PNNL 1999 Hanford Site Environmental Report wins Crystal Award of Excellence for communication

The Public Safety and Resource Protection Program managed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory received the Crystal Award of Excellence for the *1999 Hanford Site Environmental Report* in the annual report division.

The award was presented by The Communicator Awards, a national awards organization from Arlington, Texas, that recognizes outstanding work in the communications field. In the 2001 Print Media competition, there were over 3,340 entries in 16 different divisions.

The *Hanford Site Environmental Report* is a year-long endeavor by a few dedicated individuals within PNNL to coordinate and combine in one volume a summary of the significant environmental programs and compliance efforts onsite. While coordinated at PNNL, many different groups at Hanford contribute to the creation of this report.

Reminder for Respiratory Protection students

Instructors at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center would like to remind students in the Respiratory Protection Initial and Respiratory Protection Refresher training classes of the following requirements:

*Respiratory Protection Initial students should dress appropriately for outside training and must bring to class proof of a current respiratory user physical and mask-fit glasses, if needed.

*Respiratory Protection Refresher students should dress appropriately for outside training and must bring to class proof of a current respiratory user physical (if their mask fit is not current) and mask-fit glasses, if needed.

For questions or further information about these requirements, please phone Karen Eggers at 373-6094.

Recycle outdated prescription eyeglasses and hearing aids

The yellow wooden collection boxes for donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids have been moved to the 200 East Area, front lobby of 2705-E; 400 Area, entryway of 4701-A Badgehouse; the lobby of 2440 Stevens Center and the lobby of ISB-2. The collection boxes are moved to different locations around the Hanford Site every four to six months

DynCorp Tri-Cities Services administers the collection program, and the eyeglasses and hearing aids collected are donated to the Kennewick Lions Club. The last collection resulted in 177 pairs of glasses, 22 pairs of eyeglass lenses, 111 glass cases, and four pairs of prescription clip-on sunglasses being donated.

Once collected, the eyeglasses are tested for prescription levels, repaired (if necessary) and provided to the needy in underdeveloped countries. Hearing aids are repaired and reused throughout the United States. Hanford employees have been donating eyeglasses and hearing aids to the Kennewick Lions Club for seven years.

For more information, call Kathy Hinkelman, the Hanford recycling coordinator for non-hazardous materials, at 376-7631.

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 **www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm**.

KENNEWICK

8x9 vanpool to 200E has an opening. Picks up at the church on 19th, Garfield and Albertson's on Clearwater. Drops off at 274-AW, 2750-E and 2704-HV. Call **Sue Hulsey** at 372-3752. 4/30

8x9 vanpool seeking riders. Leaves Kennewick Albertson's at Edison and Clearwater and picks up at Columbia Basin Racquet Club. Stops at PFP and West Tank Farms. Call **Abe Garza** at 373-2898. 5/7

8x9 vanpool to 200E. Originates at Chuck E Cheese's and picks up at the Federal Building. Drops off at 2750, B Plant and vicinity. Contact **Jim Brockus** at 372-2939 or via e-mail. 5/7

Do your feet get tired from walking? How about riding to work in comfortable 8x9 Vanpool No. 90 to 200 E, with a great group of people? Picks up at Kennewick Fred Meyer (2811 W. 10th Ave.) and Ranch & Home (845 N. Columbia Center Blvd.). Stops at 2750-E, MO-251, MO-414, MO-294, 2727-E, MO-725, MO-979 and 2025-EA. If you are interested in sharing the driving responsibilities in order to keep your costs down, please ask for specifics when calling. Contact **Deanna Baird-Scott** at 373-6046 or **Carl Kinkel** at 373-0813 for additional details. 5/7

RICHLAND

8x9 vanpool to K Basins has an opening. Picks up at the Park 'n Ride across from the Ben Franklin Bus lot and at the Uptown Shopping Center in Richland. Call **Margaret Cato** at 373-1315 or **Kristi Gronski** at 373-9769. 5/7

Vanpool No. 116, 8x9, to 200E has an opening. Picks up at Joe's Chevron at Jadwin and McMurray. Drops off at 2750, M0-286 and 2701-HV. Call **Nester Wise** at 376-6373 or at 376-7266. 5/7

WEST RICHLAND

Van No. 80, 8x9, to 200E has two openings. Picks up at riders' homes, mostly in the Bird Hill area. West Richland Transit Center and Dave's Pit Stop are also possible pick-up points. Drops off at 2101-M, 2750-E, MO-276 and 2704-HV, with others possible. We are looking for back-up drivers. Call **Lou Antonissen** at 373-2049. 4/30

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. Conta**ct Mari**on at 372-0383. 5/7

YAKIMA

Seeking 8x9 rideshare to 400 Area. Contact **David Frey** at 372-2736. 4/30 ✦