

KBC Project celebrates removing debris from KE Basin

Fluor Hanford Vice President and Chief Operating Officer George Jackson thanked workers at an all-project lunch and safety meeting in 100-K Area, March 23. "Your work was well-executed, under budget, and since you finished removing the last rack on Dec. 22, it was also a great Christmas gift," said Jackson. "From me personally, I want to say thank you very much for a job well done!" Fluor Hanford K Basins Closure workers finished removing nearly 100 tons of debris from the KE Basin in late February. Debris removal manager Rob Gentry received a special award for leading the quick and efficient effort to remove the racks and debris.

KE Closure Manager Chris Lucas asked 100-K workers to think back to all the "seemingly impossible" tasks they have accomplished. "When we look down in the KE Basin today and we can see the floor, it's quite amazing," Lucas said. "We remember when that basin was not only full of racks, debris and sludge, but it also had over 1,000 tons of fuel in it. Together, with lots of worker input, we figured out how to do each job, we put our shoulders and our backs and our brains into it, we were innovative and made changes where it made sense, and we went forward. We removed the fuel, with all of its problems, and now we've removed the significant debris and racks. We've also vacuumed 87 percent of the sludge into containers. These are huge chunks of work, and I'm proud of every one of you for accomplishing them."

Paul Pak, DOE/RL KBC Project Manager, said "Because of the nature of sludge and conditions in the KE Basin, we had challenges and we had to make changes in the project. You gave your ideas, we responded, and together we have gone for-

ward." Pak told assembled KBC workers that "your great work is being recognized by DOE, both here in Richland and at the headquarters level. It's my privilege to be part of such a high-performance team."

Pete Knollmeyer, KBC Vice President, and Tony Umek, Fluor Hanford vice president for Safety and Health, also

thanked the KBC employees.

Umek presented a safety award from the Association of Washington Businesses to KBC employees Pablo Villarreal, Steve Burke and Bob Brotherton, and to consultant Denise Brooks.

Michele Gerber, Communications



KBC employees enjoyed a lunch (middle left and bottom photos) marking the successful conclusion of their debris-removal efforts. Speakers were Pete Knollmeyer (top left, on left), KBC Project vice president; George Jackson, Fluor Hanford's chief operating officer (right); and DOE's Paul Pak (top right photo, left), who is presenting an achievement award to Fluor's Rob Gentry (far right), while Tony Umek, Fluor Hanford's vice president of Safety and Health, looks on (second from right). Chris Lucas (middle right photo) also spoke.

