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K Basins Closure Project marks two million hours

The K Basins Closure (KBC) Project was recognized at the July 21 Presidents Zero Accident Council meeting for achieving two million safe work hours without a lost work day. This milestone represents the safe work record of approximately 600 employees working on the Project from January 2004 through June 2005.

Ron Gallagher, Fluor Hanford's president and chief executive officer, made the presentation to Tony Umek, deputy vice president of the KBC Project (standing in for Pete Knollmeyer), and members of the KBC Project team.

The KBC Project has gone from an OSHA recordable injury rate of 3.52 (injuries per 200,000 hours worked) for 2003, to a rate of 0.74 for CY 2005 through June – representing a 79-percent reduction in worker injuries.

Activities occurring at the KBC Project

during the 18-month safe work hour milestone included:

- Successfully processing and relocating 2300 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel (containing over 55 million curies) to safe, interim storage away from the Columbia River

- welding 397 multi-canister overpacks (MCOs) without a single injury or defect
- containerizing 33 cubic meters of sludge, out of an estimated 43 cubic meters of sludge estimated in 105K East
- removing 130 racks and 7200 canisters and almost 5000 lids that previously contained spent nuclear fuel
- grouting the K East Basin Discharge Chute in a first-of-a-kind underwater effort to isolate a previous leak path

"This Award represents just one more example of the positive accomplishments of Fluor's KBC Project Team," said Umek in accepting the award. "I am extremely proud of all the employees at the KBC Project. Every day they are performing some of the most difficult clean up work in the DOE Complex; and most importantly, they are doing it safely."

Karen Welsh, Communications



The K Basins Closure Project's Voluntary Protection Program group takes a look at the plaque presented to KBC for achieving two million hours without a lost work day.