

FYI Link

Fluor Your Information

In This Issue

Buildings demolished	2
Watch for pedestrians	3
Flu vaccination update	4
HERO Christmas party coming	4
Volume 4, No. 34	November 6, 2006

Fuel Transfer System retired – last fuel moved

The Fuel Transfer System (FTS), a complex system linking the K East and K West Basins, transferred its last load of nuclear fuel from the East Basin to the West Basin last week. The system will be retired after successfully transferring 370 loads (over two

million pounds) of irradiated uranium fuel, containing more than 3,600 aged canisters of fuel and 25 million curies of radioactivity to the K West Basin during 2002-2004.

The system was laid up in July 2004, but kept in standby status to transfer found fuel and special debris from the K East Basin. Three canisters of fuel transferred last week to the K West Basin were found as sludge was cleaned out of the K East Basin.

According to Kalli Shupe, legacy fuel manager for the K Basins Closure Project, many of the nuclear chemical operators who made the recent transfer also operated the system during the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. “They’re careful and experienced, and they

used the same, proven processes that were applied during Fluor’s main fuel-removal project,” Shupe said. “They did an excellent job, and there were no problems during this last transfer.”

The FTS consists of casks, elevators and cranes. Fuel is loaded into the shielded transfer casks underwater, raised by a lift or elevator, rinsed of contamination, and placed inside cask transfer overpacks. The overpacks are then moved by crane to trucks staged in the basin annex, driven a half mile to the K West facility, and lowered into the basin via an underwater lift.

With the FTS now being deactivated, Shupe will concentrate on preparing to restart the systems that will enable the multi-canister overpacks of found fuel to be loaded out of the K West Basin, dried in the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility, and received and stored at the Canister Storage Building. ■

Michele Gerber, Communications

