The HANFORD REACH

May 15, 2000

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

NEW PFP PROCESS EQUIPMENT: Nuclear chemical operator Larry Rosane of Fluor Hanford checks one of the new magnesium hydroxide precipitation system gloveboxes being installed at the Plutonium Finishing Plant. The gloveboxes, which were fabricated by Diversified Metal Products of Idaho Falls, Idaho, were delivered to PFP last week. Construction efforts are ongoing to install the new gloveboxes and process equipment, and startup stabilization of solutions is planned for next fall.

Vitrification project moves forward

BNFL Inc. contract terminated, design work continues

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson announced last Monday, May 8, that he will terminate the BNFL Inc. privatization contract for a high-level waste treatment facility at the Hanford Site.

Richardson made the decision after BNFL's proposal was found to raise serious concerns in many areas, including cost and schedule, management, and business approach. The proposal's technical design was found to be sound, but was also found to be over-conservative, shifting risk from the contractor back to the U.S. government.

"BNFL's proposal was outrageously expensive and inadequate in many ways," Richardson said.

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Vitrification project moves forward, cont.

In August of 1998, after a competitive procurement, BNFL said it had a high confidence it could design, build, own, operate and finance a waste vitrification plant for $6.9 billion. Three weeks ago, BNFL's proposal increased in price to $15.2 billion.

Design continues

After meeting with Washington Governor Gary Locke and Attorney General Christine Gregoire on Wednesday, Richardson announced new DOE commitments to the state for the treatment of tank waste. The existing consent decree will be amended and DOE will solicit bids for a new design and construction contractor by August. A contract will be awarded by next January 15, and DOE will be able to meet its Tri-Party Agreement milestones to begin vitrifying waste in 2007. "We are committed to cleaning up the Hanford Site as rapidly as possible," the Secretary said.

Richardson also unilaterally agreed that no shipments of new waste to Hanford from other sources will be made while DOE works to get the new contract on firm footing. More talks will be held regarding longer-term commitments on waste shipments.

No delays

During the transition period, design will continue under a team led by Bechtel. ORP Manager Dick French said the work accomplished in the last two years under the privatization contract is not wasted. DOE has gained a sound, proven technological solution that will be picked up and completed under the new arrangement.

The need to maintain the project's momentum and keep DOE's commitments to regulators and the citizenry were primary considerations in the Secretary's decisive action. Northwest stakeholders want no delays in acquiring the tank waste treatment capability at Hanford.

The change from the tank farm operations contractor Lockheed Martin to CH2M HILL was made quickly and seamlessly by the Office of River Protection, according to French, and he said the Office of River Protection must also accomplish this change in an expedited manner.

"In view of the unacceptable price proposal submitted by BNFL on April 24th, I'm pleased with the plan announced Monday," French said. "It gives us a path forward with the least disruption of the work and the workforce necessary to get tank waste treatment at Hanford.

"Work over the next several months will focus intensely on putting into place the Secretary's plan. We will need a tremendous effort from DOE and contractor employees. The project continues to evolve, but the goal of protecting the Columbia River from Hanford's tank waste remains the same," French concluded. ✦

The HANFORD REACH

Distribution questions: call the Mailroom, 375-5170

See the *Hanford Reach* on the Web at: **www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html**

Keith Klein, Manager
DOE Richland Operations Office

Dick French, Manager
DOE Office of River Protection

DOE Richland Operations Office
Erik Olds, A7-75, 372-8656, fax 376-1563

DOE Office of River Protection
Mig Owens, H6-60, 376-4751, fax 376-8532

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

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

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

Hanford Environmental Health Foundation
Diane Turney, H1-53, 376-4101, fax 372-3139

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

***Design**: Sally Green, Lockheed Martin Services, Inc.*

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. 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

Tank A-101 pumping begins

CH2M HILL Hanford Group began pumping liquid waste from single-shell Tank A-101 on May 6, five months ahead of the schedule negotiated with the State of Washington and one week ahead of the project schedule.

It's the 12th tank to begin pumping since June 1998, when work began under an aggressive schedule to pump the retrievable liquid from the last 29 of Hanford's 149 single-shell tanks.

While solids and sludge remain in the tanks, moving the liquid waste to newer, safer double-shell tanks is essential to protecting the Columbia River because pumping reduces the possibility of future leaks. In the past, 67 single-shell tanks have leaked or are suspected of having leaked.

To date, pumping has been completed on five tanks covered under the schedule and another tank of concern. About 352,000 gallons of liquid waste were retrieved from Tanks S-103, SX-104, SX-106, T-104 and T-110. About 188,000 gallons of waste were sluiced and removed from single-shell Tank C-106. The tank wasn't part of the schedule, but it had concerned regulators for years because of its high heat content.

Seven other single-shell tanks covered under the schedule, including Tank A-101, are being pumped. ✦

And the winner is...

Annie Robinson of Fluor Hanford won the grand prize, a $200 Savings Bond, in the Security Pays in Many Ways campaign for March. Robinson and six other members of the Human Resources Information Systems team were nominated for their extra effort concerning passwords and password-protected screen savers.

In all, 13 Fluor Hanford team and River Protection Project contractor employees were recognized for their efforts to strengthen security on the Hanford Site in March. All nominees received a memento from the Safeguards and Security program and became eligible for the monthly grand prize.

If you know a Fluor Hanford team or RPP contractor employee supporting site security, nominate the individual. Send an e-mail message to ^Security Education PHMC, or mail your nomination to Security Education at L4-09. Include your name and a brief description of the extra support given. ✦

Eileen Geiger of Fluor Hanford holds up the name of the March Security Pays In

Health and Safety Expo a great success by any measure

Charles Olaiya, ORP

As an occupational safety and health specialist at Hanford, I know that it takes training coupled with experience to function well at one of the world's most complex waste sites.

One way that I gain experience and training is to attend safety and health conferences and expositions, including the annual conference of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. My goals are to share experiences with fellow professionals, attend workshops and lectures relevant to safety and health issues in the workplace, and get a first-hand look at the latest safety technologies.

When I return to Hanford I have a responsibility to share the experience with management, supervisors, fellow safety professionals and the entire workforce if that is feasible. Then I can say that the money and time away from work to attend the event were well spent.

Sparky the Fire Dog watches as Justin Tilley tries manipulating a model crane at the Health and Safety Expo. Waiting to take a turn are Justin's brother Kyle, left, and Dru Bevan-Church, right. Kyle and Justin are the sons of John Tilley of CH2M HILL Hanford Group. Dru's father is Fluor Hanford's Kelvin Church.

Hanford's Expo

The Hanford Health and Safety Expo is somewhat different from other safety events. It reaches an audience that is more diverse in age and experience, and it offers a greater variety of exhibits, products and services. Most technical expositions restrict attendance to professionals or charge fees to attend, but the Hanford Safety Expo is a unique family event. This year, nearly 18,000 people attended.

The Hanford Expo gives your family members some idea of the conditions under which you make a living, and of the hazards and controls associated with the Hanford work environment. It demonstrates our workers' dedication to safety and to our safety culture.

I have been impressed with the support, smoothness and coordination displayed by the Hanford Safety Expo Steering Team, as well as the craftspeople who helped the exhibitors put up the booths and make sure electrical equipment is connected safely. The security at the TRAC arena is superior to that of any similar event I have experienced. Our entire workforce once again displayed a high level of professionalism and should be commended.

Why attend?

Hanford has the most highly trained and experienced workers I have ever had the privilege of being associated with. To them, the annual Hanford Health and Safety Expo is not just time away from work, but a chance to display pride in what we do and show our great Northwest community Hanford's successes, failures and future plans for a better Northwest.

An exposition has been always a good avenue for companies and professionals to highlight their successes and display innovative technologies. Everyone profits from such an event.

Hanford contractors and Northwest companies that were not represented at Expo this year may want to plan to participate in next year's. For those already participating, the annual event is a communication channel which demonstrates concern and support for an improved safety culture. ❖

Best Expo exhibits named

Those who attended the Hanford Health and Safety Expo 2000 were given an opportunity to vote on the exhibits they liked best. The winners in the six categories are**:**

- **Most Interactive** - Analytical Services Project
- **Best Safety Information** - Fire Maintenance
- **Best Health Information** - Hanford Environmental Health Foundation
- **Best Visual Presentation** - Liquid Waste Project
- **Most Useful Information** - Benton Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition
- **Kids' Favorite** - Analytical Services Project

The Hanford Expo Steering Team expressed thanks to all who participated for helping to make this year's event a huge success.

CONTINUING THE PARTNERSHIP: Fluor Hanford President Ron Hanson, left, and Bob Frix, president of DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, sign a contract modification that extends DynCorp's Hanford contract through Sept. 30, 2001. In conjunction with the extension signed on May 3, DynCorp committed to supporting Fluor in its economic development initiatives in fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

Bechtel Hanford appoints safety representative

Bechtel Hanford, Inc., in conjunction with the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, has appointed Kenny Robinson to the full-time position of safety representative in the Environmental Restoration Contractor's Quality, Safety and Health organization.

The position is part of the established HAMTC Safety Representative Program, and it supports the ERC team's overall commitment to"zero accidents."

Robinson will represent employees with both the ERC team management and HAMTC, focusing on the employees' questions and concerns involving environmental, safety and health issues.

"The addition of a full-time HAMTC safety representative to the ERC team will strengthen our safety program," said Tom Logan, vice president and manager of Operations for BHI. "Kenny will also provide a key link to our nearly 200 HAMTC employees."

An ironworker/rigger by trade, Robinson has worked at Hanford for more than 11 years. He has been with BHI since the Department of Energy selected the company to lead Hanford's ERC team in 1994.

Robinson has a personal commitment to safety. During his career as an ironworker, he has lost three friends in industrial accidents.

"We must continue to make safety our number-one priority," Robinson said. "A major step to ensure that attitude is through employee involvement. Early employee involvement and input into job planning are critical in the success and safety of our projects. Their experience can save time and money, while improving safety."

Robinson's goal in his new position is simple. He wants to ensure that the ERC team's employees "go home after work in the same condition as they were at the start of their shift."

HAMTC was organized more than 50 years ago to provide represented service employees to Hanford contractors. Today it represents nearly 3,000 employees from 14 different union affiliates.

Employees with questions and concerns involving environmental, safety and health issues can contact Robinson at either 373-6964 or 521-6633. ✦

American Cancer Society Relay for Life coming this weekend

Michele Gerber, FH

Teams from various Hanford Site organizations will be walking and running in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life 2000 this coming weekend. The annual fund-raising event to fight cancer will be held from Friday May 19, at 5 p.m. to Saturday, May 20, at 5 p.m. at the Southridge High School track in Kennewick.

The Tri-Cities Relay for Life is part of a nationwide series of similar relays, wherein members of teams walk or run continuously around a track for 24 hours. Walkers and runners solicit donations in support of their efforts, with the funds going to the American Cancer Society.

All Hanford Site employees are welcome to visit the relay to watch their friends, visit booths where they can learn more about cancer risks and research, and make donations. This year, there will be a special "Relay Store" booth where people can buy items to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

A highlight of the relay is the luminary ceremony, which takes place at dusk on May 19. Luminary candles in white bags are lit in honor of people who have survived cancer, and in memory of those who have succumbed to cancer. People can purchase luminary bags from any relay participant ahead of time, or Friday evening at the relay, and decorate the bag with mementos of the person named. At 9 p.m., the bags are arranged to spell out the word HOPE, and names of persons on all of the bags are read aloud. During the overnight hours between midnight and 6 a.m. only those signed up as relay participants are allowed at the Southridge High School track ✦

For more information on the relay or to make a donation, call one of the following coordinators:

Fluor Hanford
- Cheri Nansen 372-2572
- Michele Gerber 376-1475

DynCorp Tri-Cities Services
- Pam Daly 373-6027
- Don Good 373-1311

Bechtel Hanford, Inc.
- Sebastian Tindall, 372-9195

CH2M HILL Hanford Group
- Ace Etheridge, 372-8058

CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc.
- Jennifer Ollero, 372-9570

Duke Engineering & Services
- Paul Viggiano, 375-9714

Waste Management Technical Services
- Kathy Leonard, 373-0373

Eat, drink and help charities at the à la Carte Festival

You can sample some of the area's finest wine, beer and food and enjoy some fine music and art while benefiting regional charities at the Tri-Cities à la Carte festival May 19 and 20. The festival takes place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Pasco. Tickets are $15, and you must be 21 years or older to attend. Get your tickets early because they are going fast.

The à la Carte festival, now in its fourth year, is a project sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of the Tri-Cities to showcase attributes of the Columbia River Valley. Revenues from the event benefit regional charities.

Hanford contractors that also sponsor the event include Fluor Hanford, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Protection Technology Hanford, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, Bechtel Hanford and the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale for $5 at the Fluor Hanford/Kiwanis booth. The raffle is a fund-raiser to purchase video cameras for local law enforcement officers. The drawing for prize, a new car, will be held June 17.

For more information on festival tickets and scheduled events, visit **www.tcalacarte.com.** ✦

Bechtel group's donation extends health-care services

"When we learned that something as simple as transportation was the difference between receiving health care and not receiving it, we thought we could make a difference," said Sue Kuntz of Bechtel Hanford, Inc.

That realization led to the donation of three vehicles by the Bechtel Women's Group to CHC La Clinica in Pasco. The vehicles will enable La Clinica to better provide medical and dental services to its 20,000 clients a year, many of whom live in rural areas and require transportation to the clinic as well as to other social services.

Olga Guardada, CHC La Clinica Social Services Department manager, holds the clinic's banner over one of three vehicles donated to the medical agency by the Bechtel Women's Group. Executive Director Guillermo Castaneda looks on while KEPR-TV reporter Kirk Gimenez records the event.

The vehicles were purchased from the proceeds of a service auction held by the Bechtel Women's Group. Originally, Kuntz and Lauren Parchen, co-chairs for the auction, hoped to raise enough to purchase one van. Thanks to the generosity of employees and businesses that donated items and those who bid on them, it was possible to purchase two sedans and one van from Budget Car Sales, which discounted the prices. This year's auction raised more than $40,000.

The vehicles were presented May 5 to Guillermo Castaneda, CHC La Clinica's executive director, and Cynthia McCreedy, special projects coordinator. Castaneda said the donation was timely, as two of the three vehicles the agency had used were towed in for service the previous day.

Castaneda also said that La Clinica was selected to receive the majority of the auction proceeds before Initiative 695 passed — a measure which had the effect of reducing public transportation budgets. The reductions have made it even harder for clients to travel to the clinic.

McCreedy said it is difficult to receive funds for vehicles, as most grants and donations must be focused on direct patient care. However, many of the agency's clientele live in rural areas and the family car is used to transport the wage earner to and from work.

Founded in 1982, La Clinica is a private, non-profit agency whose mission is to provide high quality, effective and affordable health care and other associated services to all people without regard to race, color, creed or economic status. Programs include medical and dental services, home visits for new mothers and their newborns, and nutrition education for women, infants and children.

"The agency impressed us with the high-quality, cost-effective services they offer and we wanted to help them extend that care more broadly in our community," said Kuntz.

The Bechtel Women's Group is made up of spouses and employees of Bechtel Hanford and Bechtel National. Each year the organization holds a service auction for which employees and businesses donate goods and services such as group dinners, boat trips and condo vacations.

The auction proceeds are given to local children-oriented agencies, and almost $150,000 has been raised in five years. This year, in addition to supporting La Clinica, funds were provided to the Fishing Connection to stock the Family Fishing Pond and to the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy for a counseling program for children who have family members with cancer. ✦

Campaign 'cascades' 1.3 million gallons through evaporator

Connie Eckard, FH

Nuclear chemical operator Brent Joyce can do it all from the control room of the 242-A Evaporator in 200 East. Joyce can monitor performance, operate valves and pumps, and keep the evaporator operating smoothly throughout a campaign process.

The first 242-A Evaporator "campaign" of 2000 was a success on many fronts, including being completed seven days ahead of schedule. By the evening of May 2, more than 1.3 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste had been processed through the Fluor Hanford Evaporator over a period of 12 days and a few hours.

During the course of the campaign, the 242-A Evaporator maintained an operational efficiency of 99.7 percent, which means the evaporator ran almost non-stop. Originally scheduled to last 19 days, the campaign finished sooner because of the smooth operation of the evaporator.

The campaign process removed approximately 700,000 gallons of water from Hanford's double-shelled underground waste tanks, reducing the volume of contaminated liquids on the site to about 53 million gallons.

The campaign was a continuous demonstration of teamwork and coordination. "We processed 350,000 gallons that we couldn't have without cooperation with CH2M HILL Hanford Group and Analytical Service Project personnel at the 222-S Laboratory," said Kent Smith of the Fluor Hanford Waste Management Project.

"Any time you have the opportunity to run more waste during an individual campaign, it makes good sense to do so," Smith said. "And the people at the Analytical Service Project at 222-S turned the waste characterization tests around inside of a month. They handled potential issues with professional competence and their support allowed us to be successful."

This availability of additional waste led to using a "cascading" technique for the first time in years. At the same time waste was being moved from the 102-AW feed tank to the 242-A evap-orator, a cascading transfer was being performed by CH2M HILL Hanford Group shift operations. The transfer was moving waste materials from tank 108-AP into the 102-AW feed tank.

"By cascading, we were able to process the additional waste in a single campaign instead of two," said Smith, going on to explain, "We were able to cascade because very similar characteristics of waste in the tanks allowed for blending."

Being able to process a single campaign eliminated the set-up time and costs involved with starting a second campaign. Each individual campaign has regulatory requirements that must be repeated each time that a campaign is conducted.

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Campaign 2000-01 quick facts:

Total feed volume – More than 1.3 million gallons. This volume is higher than typical 1 million-gallon feed for a campaign because of additional feed coming from TK-108-AP.

Total volume reduction – About 52 percent. This reduction ratio is less than previous campaigns because of higher than normal density of the feed.

Total campaign duration – Seven days of "cold" training preparation were followed by 12 days of hot processing.

Glenn Richardson, DOE-RL program manager, lauded team efforts that enabled the campaign to finish seven days ahead of schedule. "Even prior to the run," Richardson said, "the team members had to work through the readiness activities to have everything in order. Those activities went very smoothly. The campaign was a tremendous accomplishment for the team and for Fluor Hanford."

Richardson himself was part of the teamwork and cooperative effort during the readiness activities. During the readiness assessment, a potential unreviewed safety question turned up on the exhaust stack requirements for high-efficiency particulate air filters. The safety analysis was addressed and Richardson walked the changes through the DOE-RL signature requirements.

"A great deal of credit for the success has to go to the extremely good operators and shift managers running the evaporator," said Don Flyckt, the facility operations manager.

A full month was spent completing a management assessment to ensure readiness to operate this first campaign of 2000. The campaign went "hot" on April 20 after a seven-day "cold run" to train operators who had been newly assigned to the facility.

This was the eighth successful campaign since the 242-A Evaporator was upgraded in 1994. The last campaign at the evaporator was in August 1999.

Waste Management Project personnel can only process the tank waste at the 242-A Evaporator after the waste has been staged and sampled by CH2M HILL Hanford Group employees.

Reducing waste through separation

The 242-A Evaporator reduces the volume of radioactive mixed waste stored in the double-shell tanks at Hanford, reducing the number of underground tanks needed for waste storage. This reduction ultimately reduces the volume of waste that will require disposal.

The evaporator treats mixed waste by separating water and most volatile organics from inorganic and radionuclide constituents. This process makes the mixed waste more suitable for future treatment and disposal.

At the end of the process, the condensate stream is routed from the evaporator for storage at the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility, which consists of three 7.8-million-gallon storage basins. Condensate stored at the LERF is then processed at the Liquid Effluent Facility, which was constructed in the 200 East Area to support environmental cleanup of the Hanford Site.

The evaporator was built in 1977 with a planned life span of 20 years. Extensive upgrades in 1994 turned the evaporator into a state-of-the-art facility. The upgrades included the current monitoring and control system, which allows process operations to be monitored by computers.

Since that time, the evaporator has reduced the double-shell tank inventory by more than 11 million gallons. This reduction has allowed CH2M HILL Hanford Group to continue key cleanup projects such as the single-shell tank stabilization and backup feed staging for privatization. ✦

Canister Storage Building transfers to Operations

Michele Gerber, FH

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Heavy, new "crash gates" are among the last construction items just completed on the Canister Storage Building.

The Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's first new facility, the Canister Storage Building, was turned over from construction forces to the Operations organization last week, signifying an important turning point in project readiness to move fuel.

CSB Operations Manager Oly Serrano reports that he is "excited about this opportunity to set a high standard for conduct of operations and begin a positive legacy. It's not every day that you get to start up a brand new nuclear facility for the Department of Energy," he said. "It's a huge responsibility and challenge, but we are glad to be starting on the path."

Key part of vision

According to Phil Loscoe, director of the Office of Spent Nuclear Fuels for the DOE Richland Operations Office, readying the CSB to operate represents a giant stride toward DOE-RL's vision for the Hanford Site. In that vision, areas along the Columbia River shoreline will be cleared of nuclear and hazardous wastes. Wastes will be collected in the site's central plateau, the area in and around the 200 Area, where the wastes can be isolated and monitored.

"The SNF now stored in the 100K Area contains about 55 million curies of radioactivity, by far the most significant collection of radioactive materials remaining along the rivershore, " said Loscoe. "By readying the CSB to receive and store that material in the 200 East Area, we demonstrate that we're serious about making this vision a reality."

The CSB will function to receive the Multi-Canister Overpacks, or MCOs, filled with spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins after the fuel has been dried in the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility. Once inside the CSB, the MCOs will undergo inspection and transport from their shipping casks into below-grade tubes where they will be stored for up to 40 years. A 450-ton, specially equipped crane inside the CSB, known as the MCO Handling Machine, will move the MCOs around the building inside a shielded enclosure.

Transport responsibility

The CSB also has operational responsibility for the transport of spent nuclear fuel to the facility. MCOs loaded with fuel and scrap fuel pieces are expected to begin arriving at the CSB during the first week of December.

Spent nuclear fuel from Hanford's K Basins will occupy one of three vaults below the 5-foot-thick concrete operating deck of the CSB. Vault No. 1 contains 220 steel storage tubes, each 40 feet tall, that were put in place a year ago.

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Some spent fuel from an early test reactor at Shippingport, Pa., now stored in Hanford's T Plant, will also be stored in Vault No. 1. In the future, DOE plans to use the other two vaults beneath the CSB to store vitrified waste from Hanford's underground waste storage tanks. However, those vaults have not yet been outfitted to receive this waste.

An outdoor dry-storage facility known as the Interim Storage Area, just west of the CSB, will consolidate storage of spent nuclear fuel from the Fast Flux Test Facility and from other non-production reactors, now stored at various locations on the site.

Operations gearing up

Right now, Serrano and his team of five shift managers, Deputy Operations Manager Tom Orgill and Operations Engineering Manager Jerry Bazinet are busy establishing conduct of operations procedures and working toward the training and qualification of all Operations staff members. Now that facility turnover has occurred, Operations is responsible for all testing and work control.

About 75 people are needed to operate the CSB, and about 50 are assigned to the facility now. The staff includes engineers, operators, shift managers, health physics technicians and maintenance personnel, with support from training and procedures personnel. The facility now operates on day shift only, but Serrano expects to add a swing shift next month in order to complete training in time for the start of the Fluor Hanford SNF Management Self Assessment on June 12.

CSB operators, shift managers and maintenance personnel learn the bridge and trolley travel section of their four-part CSB classroom training. The class also covers hoists and grapples, turret operations and a facility overview before the students go to on-the-job training.

Even though CSB construction isn't fully finished yet, Serrano feels it's important for the Operations organization to take ownership of the facility at this time. "The SNF Project is on a fast track," he said. "We, the Operations team, need to work out any kinks together in order to keep the important commitments made by FH and DOE to begin fuel movement out of the K West Basin in November. Hanford's SNF Project has a unique mission, and it's getting attention from across the nation. We at the CSB intend to do our part and be ready."

Readiness reviews

Fluor Hanford's Operational Readiness Review to prepare for fuel movement is scheduled to begin on Aug. 8, while the follow-on DOE ORR is expected to begin Sept. 14.

Orgill, who has 20 years of experience at Hanford and served as the start-up manager at the site's most recent new nuclear facility, the Waste Receiving and Processing (WRAP) facility, is also enthusiastic. He said he's handling "day to day activities, pulling together the pieces in order to give Oly a chance to concentrate on programmatic issues."

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Canister Storage Building transfers to Operations, cont.

Bazinet, who has been at Hanford 26 years, is a special asset because of his detailed knowledge of the facility. He has been the design authority for the CSB throughout its design and construction.

Serrano has worked in the DOE system eight years, including six at Hanford. As the operations manager at the highly contaminated 771 Building at the Rocky Flats Site in Colorado, he earned a reputation for strict enforcement of conduct-of-operations standards.

Construction completion

Closeout of final construction activities at the CSB this spring includes approximately $2 million in work by construction subcontractor George A. Grant, Inc. Recently the company completed welding the Vault No. 1 tubes to the operating deck floor, installed six special overpack tubes that will be used to store any MCOs with off-standard conditions, installed heavy “crash” gates as a security measure just west of the CSB receiving door, and constructed the utilities for an operational support trailer that will be located north of the CSB. Other miscellaneous “punchlist” and construction tasks are being finished now.

The CSB is a 42,000-square-foot steel structure on a concrete operating deck. The building is 60 feet tall in its above-ground areas, and cost $157 million to build.

A unique feature is the CSB’s passive, low-maintenance cooling system. Once inside Vault No. 1 in the CSB, the spent nuclear fuel will be cooled in an economical manner, by natural circulation of cool air into the intake plenum, through the vault and out the exhaust stack.

A 170-foot-tall steel-alloy exhaust stack has been erected on the east side of the building, and an 80-foot-tall concrete and steel alloy air intake stack has been built on the west side. The alloy material used for both stacks forms a self-protective oxide layer which requires no surface maintenance and resists weather damage.✦

Repro Services up to date

Recent technological changes at the Duplicating, Printing and Engineering Reproduction shops have helped improve service for Hanford Site customers. The shops can provide any product that is printed or duplicated, including color copies, and can work from digital files. They are associated with the Government Printing Procurement Office (GPO), which allows access to even greater printing technologies and capabilities.

Remember that paper reproduction work paid for with government-appropriated funds must go through the Hanford Site government print shop. It is not legal to use government P Cards to procure any work of this nature. Call Linda Perkins at 376-2707 or Ann Olive at 376-4887 if you have any questions or need information for a project you are working on. ✦

Hazel Daniels of Fluor Hanford works in the print shop operated by DynCorp Tri-Cities Services.

Log on to see the Wizard for Savings Bonds values

If you have questions about the U.S. Savings Bonds program, a wide variety of information is available on the Internet.

For instance, there is a free program that will maintain an inventory and the current values of your Savings Bonds. It's called the Savings Bonds Wizard, and you can download it from Public Debt's home page.

The Wizard is an easy-to-use Windows program designed to help you price and record an inventory of your Savings Bonds. By entering the serial numbers and the issue dates of your Series E or EE Savings Bonds, you can find out what they are worth.

Every six months, you can download the new redemption values and update your Savings Bonds values without reentering the data. The Wizard also lets you automatically recalculate your Savings Bonds values and interest for past and future redemption rates in the database.

Some investors create separate inventories for the Savings Bonds they are planning to use for each child's education. This way they can watch their education savings grow.

Log on to see the Savings Bond Wizard at **www. savingsbonds.gov.** ✦

Crime Prevention: what we can do

Detective Arthur Owen
Benton County Sheriff's Office

Preventing crime has been a public concern throughout history. Around 1780 B.C., the Babylonian king Hammurabi had the entire body of laws written down so that all subjects might read them, and know the consequences of breaking the law. Since the punishments for many crimes under this code were very severe, knowledge of the code may have been a deterrent to would-be criminals.

Today the opportunity to commit crimes has risen dramatically as the population increases and prospers. National Police Week, observed May 14-20, is a good time to review some common-sense suggestions to help prevent crime.

Avoid being a victim

You can lessen your chances of being a victim of crime by working in partnership with your local police agency. Pick up your telephone and call 9-1-1 when you observe anything suspicious near your home or in your travels. Citizen apathy and misunderstanding of criminal intent leaves the door open to criminals and harms everyone through increased insurance rates. It also complicates police efforts to deter and identify criminal acts.

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Improve security

You can improve your personal security in many ways. For example, before you walk out of the grocery store with your hands full of groceries, put your keys in your hand with the key to the door of your vehicle ready. You can use that key to protect yourself, and it will be ready to unlock your vehicle door immediately. As you walk to the door of your home, your key should be in your hand, ready to use.

Do you have a storm or screen door at home? A second door puts another barrier between you and the outside and may give you the time and opportunity to shut the primary door quickly in an emergency.

Safeguard identity

Modern thieves often try to steal your identity as well as your money. Do not keep credit card access numbers, passwords, Social Security numbers, or dates of birth with your credit cards and checkbook. When you pay your bills, drop them off in a secure mailbox and pick up your mail every day.

Don't make it easy for someone to find your date of birth and Social Security number, or you may find new credit cards issued in your name and many thousands of dollars missing in a matter of hours. If you are away from home, have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your mail and newspaper every day.

Secure property

Thieves most often target your property. Simple measures such as a good lock, inside and outside lighting and a large dog are most effective. Large rose bushes planted beneath all first-floor windows can discourage unauthorized entry.

Get to know your neighbors, keep an eye on their homes when they are away, and count on them to help you. Talk to your police agency about a neighborhood watch program. If you live in Benton County, call Deputy Joe Marsh at 735-6555. Marsh can assist with your watch program and get you started.

A home alarm from a reputable alarm company can bring you added comfort. Just remember to teach everyone in your home how to turn the alarm on and off.

Several excellent crime-prevention tips and helpful articles are available from the National Crime Prevention Council's Web site at **http://www. ncpc.org/.** ❖

High blood pressure can cause serious health problems

When you water your garden, you want a gentle, low-pressure stream so you don't damage the plants. Just as extremely high water pressure can damage your garden or your plumbing, high pressure in your blood vessels can damage your body.

Unlike your water supply, your blood supply alternates between a higher pressure during a heartbeat and lower pressure between heartbeats. These are the high and low numbers in your blood pressure reading. A normal blood pressure reading is one that is not more than 120/80.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, can occur if the total volume of your circulating blood increases or if the size of your blood vessels gets smaller. Kidney disease, pregnancy and certain medications can cause high blood pressure, but most commonly, the cause is unknown. Heredity and lifestyle both play a role. Most of the time, there are no symptoms associated with having high blood pressure until the damage has been done. That's why it's called "the silent killer."

Effects of high blood pressure

Blood vessels respond to increased pressure by getting thicker, narrower and less flexible, decreasing blood flow and raising blood pressure further. Excess fats circulating in the blood add to the problem by creating fatty deposits in the arteries. The kidneys respond to the decreased blood flow by producing hormones that raise the blood pressure still further.

Narrowed arteries result in the heart having to work harder to supply the blood to your body. This may cause the heart to enlarge and become less flexible and less efficient. Blood flow becomes poorer and poorer. Obstruction of the coronary arteries can also result directly in a heart attack.

High blood pressure increases the risk of stroke and can damage the kidneys which will cause toxic wastes to build up in your body.

Role of salt

When you have too much salt in your diet, your body and your blood retain more water to try to dilute the salt. Excess salt may also contribute to a narrowing of the blood vessels. Although not everyone has increased blood pressure as a result of eating salt, those who do should restrict the amount of salt they eat.

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Are you at risk?

Your chances of developing high blood pressure are greater if you:

- Are overweight
- Are of African-American descent
- Have relatives with high blood pressure
- Drink excess alcohol
- Smoke
- Eat excess salt
- Use certain medications, including birth control pills, steroids, decongestants and anti-inflammatories
- Are inactive.

What you can do

If you have a tendency for high blood pressure, six things can help you lower it.

1. Reduce salt in your diet.
2. Lose weight.
3. Exercise regularly, after consulting your health-care provider.
4. Manage stress effectively.
5. Eat a low-fat diet.
6. Quit smoking.

Hanford Environmental Health Foundation's Health Education Services can provide you with more information on high blood pressure and numerous other health topics. Contact them at 373-3729. ❖

Oops

In the page-one photo caption "All dressed up for Expo" (*Hanford Reach*, May 8), the adult to the left was incorrectly identified. John Price, a nuclear chemical operator at PFP, observed nine-year-old Paul French in protective clothing working inside a containment glove bag.

In the photo caption that accompanied the article "Hanford-area kids get a taste of the real world," *Hanford Reach*, May 8, Dianna Schafer was incorrectly identified as a Pacific Northwest National Laboratory employee. Schafer's employer is the DOE-RL Office of the Assistant Manager for Science and Technology. In that same caption, Grant Ceffalo of Bechtel Hanford, Inc. was incorrectly identified as Grant Cefally. ❖

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.

Recycling is way to go

In a recent letter ("Workers deserve credit," *Hanford Reach*, May 8) regarding DynCorp Tri-Cities Services' recycling award, the author pointed out that DynCorp received an award for recycling "...waste sent to them by Hanford contractors and their concerned, conscientious employees." Although this is a true statement, putting a program like this together takes much coordination and preparation up front. Candace Marple and Kathy Hinkelman did this work before getting the cooperation of contractors and their employees and implementing these programs.

I am continually amazed at the amount of waste that goes into the garbage cans which could be recycled, especially when a variety of recycling containers are very near employees' work areas. Recycling is definitely the way to go for waste reduction here at Hanford. I applaud and congratulate Marple and Hinkelman for their diligent work in making a name for Hanford in the recycling arena.

Dee Stairet
DynCorp Tri-Cities Services

DynCorp does recycle

Thanks to all of you who have written or called about the Department of Ecology Recycling Award. I concur with Souix Williams' comments that all Hanford employees contribute to the success of the site-wide recycling programs ("Workers deserve credit," *Hanford Reach*, May 8). This is especially true for all the building administrators, custodians, and other contacts out in the trenches who are my eyes and ears. Last year over 60 percent of all routine sanitary waste from Hanford was recycled and all Hanford contractors made significant contributions to that result!

For the non-hazardous recyclable materials, DynCorp does not just receive the waste that is sent to them. In many cases, the waste that is recycled is picked up by Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council truck drivers or by the vendor.

With this in mind, I would like to thank each of the following individuals for their daily contributions; I am extremely grateful for their support:

- Pam Shelton handles the Software Recycling Program for the Fluor Hanford team, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Bechtel Hanford.
- Jim Foss and Chuck Nelson package, weigh and document all Fluor Hanford team toner-cartridge shipments.
- Dennis Ealy and all the other storekeepers weigh the recycle trucks in and out every day and deliver the tickets and schedules to me.
- The stores delivery drivers pick up and haul toner cartridges, software and water bottles for recycling.
- Les Ryan prepares and sends out the lunchroom recycling carts to the customers.
- Rita Magnaghi and Danny LaPlant are the contract administrators for the recycling contracts.
- Bill Hangartner, the driver from Basin Recycling, picks up all the office paper (250 tons so far this fiscal year) for the Fluor Hanford team and recently began picking up materials for the lunchroom recycling program as well.

Kathy Hinkelman
DynCorp Tri-Cities Services

Don't water the road

To those responsible for watering Horn Rapids Road between Stevens Drive and George Washington Way, and Washington Way in the same vicinity, please stop. Aside from the obvious waste of water (the pavement won't grow), the water creates three serious safety hazards:

1) The water makes the road slick.

2) The solids in the water coat windshields, making them difficult to see through.

3) Folks tend to swerve into the oncoming lane to try to avoid the spray.

Ted Long
Bechtel Hanford

Regular Features

CLASSES

Columbia Basin College Small Business Development Center offers:

- **Small Business Planning Basics** – May 31, 6-9 p.m. Cost: $15. Instructor: Blake Escudier. The class will be held at the TRIDEC Conference Room.

- **Small Business Advertising Basics** – June 3, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Cost: $15. Instructor: Blake Escudier. The class will be held at the TRIDEC Conference Room.

- **Making Money on the Side** – June 5, 6-9 p.m. Cost: $15. Instructor: Blake Escudier. The class will be held at the Energy Northwest Multipurpose Facility.

- **Small Business Tax Accounting** – June 7, 6-10 p.m. Cost: $35. Instructor: Don Smith, CPA. The class will be held at the Energy Northwest Multipurpose Facility.

The TRIDEC Conference Room is located at 901 N. Colorado, Kennewick. The Energy Northwest Multipurpose Facility is located at 3000 George Washington Way, Richland. To register or obtain more information, call Ritzy or Grace at 735-6222.

Protrain Professional Training Systems offers

- **Crystal Reports Introduction**, May 18. Cost: $215
- **Crystal Reports Advanced**, May 19. Cost: $215

Enroll in both classes for $398.

- **Upgrading to Word 2000**, May 17. Cost: $99
- **Upgrading to Excel 2000**, May 30. Cost: $99

Enroll in both classes for $179.

- **Project Management**, May 31 through June 2. Cost: $759.

Call 946-1123 for more information.

Applied ALARA Workshop scheduled May 22-24

The second Hanford Applied ALARA Workshop, sponsored by the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office and The Fluor Hanford Project team, will be held May 22-24 at the Richland Shilo Inn. This unique three-day conference will include discussions and presentations of lessons learned in the application of ALARA; demonstrations in the field of applied ALARA practices (including tours of the ALARA Center of Technology and work areas); and workshops on dose and contamination control, waste minimization, mock-up training, protective clothing, work planning, ALARA problems at plutonium facilities and new technologies. A number of product vendors will be present during the workshop. Seating is limited to 150. This workshop has been granted 32 continuing education credits from the American Academy of Health Physics and 1.5 continuing education credits from the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists. To register or get more information, including a tentative workshop agenda, contact Jerry Eby at 372-8961 or send an e-mail message. ✦

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.

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 (PHMC) at **http://www.rl.gov:1050/sas/pg1v3htm.**

KENNEWICK

8x9 vanpool from Thriftway (on Columbia Center Blvd.) and the Federal Building to 2750-E and 2704-HV buildings needs a rider who can also be an occasional backup driver from Kennewick. The fare is now $45 and it would be lowered to $42 with the new rider. Contact: **Emilia** at 373-4228 or 373-1889. 5/8

PASCO

Riders wanted for 8x9 vanpool from Pasco to 2750-E and 200W. Picks up at new Food Pavilion parking lot off Court Street and at Federal Building. Contact **Meldon** at 373-5115 or **Sylvia** at 373-4856. 5/8

RICHLAND

Save your car for summer trips. Drivers and riders are welcome in vanpool from Richland to 200W. Picks up at Wright, McMurray and Bethel Church on Jadwin. Stops at PFP, MO-287, 277-W, MO-279, MO-281 and 272-WA. Call **Bobbie** at 373-2119 or **John** at 372-1041. 5/15 ✦

Regular Features

CALENDAR

ANS meeting features talk on DOE Low Dose Research Program

The Eastern Washington Section of the American Nuclear Society is sponsoring a dinner meeting on Tuesday, May 16, at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn, which will feature a presentation by Dr. Antone Brooks of Washington State University Tri-Cities. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner will begin at 6:30 and the speaker at 7:30. Price for dinner is $12 for members, $15 for non-members. Checks payable to ANS will be taken at the door. Everyone is welcome! You do not need to register or come for dinner to attend the talk, but seating is limited. Contact Steve Gedeon by e-mail at Steve.Gedeon@Fluor.com or by phone at 376-9892 to register no later than 4 p.m. today, May 15.

DOE-RL's Boston to speak at INCOSE chapter meeting

The May 16 meeting of the Tri-Cities Chapter of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Lewis Room at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn. Harry Boston, DOE-RL deputy manager for Site Transition, will speak on "DOE Key Initiatives and Systems Engineering Processes." There will be hors d' oeuvres and a no-host bar.

PNNL bioremediation forum open to public

On May 16, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Washington State University Tri-Cities are hosting an informal public discussion of bioremediation from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium Room at Cavanaugh's in Kennewick. Bioremediation is the use of plants and microorganisms to clean up environmental pollution. Under the Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation program, PNNL scientists are studying processes that might be enhanced to immobilize or reduce the toxicity of contaminants. The event is open to the public, and no reservations are needed. For information, call Jodi Amaya at 372-4337 or Gordon Bilyard at 372-4219. Information on the NABIR program can be found at **http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR.**

SHRM meeting to discuss WSU as a resource

The Society for Human Resource Management, Columbia Basin Chapter, will meet May 18 at the Richland Shilo Inn. The featured presentation will be "WSU as a Resource for Human Resources Professionals," presented by Dallas Barnes, WSU Tri-Cities associate director of Student Services and Mark Moreno, WSU Tri-Cities recruiter. Barnes and Moreno will team up to give human resource professionals important information about access to students as interns or potential employees, or special services such as videoconferencing for interviews. The pre-dinner social begins at 5:30 p.m. The dinner costs $13 per person, and includes tax, tip and dessert. Reservations should be made to Beth Johnson at 582-4142, extension 223, by noon on Tuesday, May 16.

NMA meeting features talk by fighter pilot

The National Management Association Hanford Chapter will hold its monthly dinner meeting on May 17 at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn. The featured speaker will be Keith Rosenkranz, Desert Storm F-16 fighter pilot and author of *Vipers in the Storm*, who will discuss camaraderie and combat, and information and resource management. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., the dinner meeting begins at 5:45. For reservations, visit the Web site at **http://www. nma1.org/chapters/395/** or contact Linnea Williams at 372-0285 by noon today, May 15. The cost to attend is $15.50 for non-members.

Publisher will speak at NAPM meeting

Scott Fivash, president and publisher of *Washington CEO* magazine, will be the featured speaker at the National Association of Purchasing Management - Columbia Basin program on May 17 at Cavanaugh's in Kennewick. The social hour starts at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 and the presentation at 6:30. Interested members of the business community are welcome. Reservations are required. The cost of dinner is $14. Contact Lonnie O'Neal at 754-5035. For more information, visit the Web site at **www.mltweb.com/napm/napmcb.htm.**

N Reactor groups to hold reunion

The seventh annual reunion for UNC/100N/K/300 Area Fuels and N Reactor-associated groups will begin at 3:30 p.m. on May19 at Jackson's in Richland. For information, call Joyce LoParco at 373-2317 or 582-6994, Sherry Foreman at 943-5934 or Paul Vinther at 943-1747.

Blood drive scheduled May 22

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held Monday, May 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 1981 Snyder, Rooms 131 and 132. Contact Kelly Layfield at 376-6785 for an appointment.

Learn about the power of humor and leadership for 2000

Kadlec Medical Center and the National Management Association are sponsoring Dr. Tom Steiner, who will present "Leadership for 2000 and the Power of Humor" on June 9 at the Richland Best Western Tower Inn. "Leadership for 2000" will take place 8 a.m.-1 p.m., and costs $25. Topics include "Creating an Achievement Climate," "Option Thinking" and "Motivating Without Money." "The Power of Humor," a stand-up comedy presentation, will begin with a no-host social at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6. The cost of dinner and the presentation is $25. To attend both presentations, the total cost is $40. Contact Kadlec Medical Center Education at 942-2600 for more information.

Hot Hoops to benefit SARC

The seventh annual Hot Hoops 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held June 10 and 11 in Richland. All proceeds from this fund-raiser will benefit both the education and crisis programs of the Sexual Assault Response Center. The deadline for signing up is May 20. Call SARC at 946-2377. ✦