

ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
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To: ALL HANFORD SITE EMPLOYEES

Subject: PLUTONIUM FINISHING PLANT (PFP) UPDATE

As part of a continued effort to ensure the protection of employees, the public and the environment, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has directed changes in how the recovery of PFP will be managed. Jacobs Engineering Group (Jacobs), which recently acquired CH2M, will assume control of the PFP demolition site and manage recovery activities. Jacobs has appointed John Fulton, former CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) President, to manage the PFP recovery project. Fulton has many years of experience managing complex, high-profile projects for DOE. He is already at Hanford and has begun leading recovery efforts. CHPRC President Ty Blackford will continue to manage CHPRC's other work.

DOE expects that the new corporate leadership will work diligently to rebuild DOE's, workers' and stakeholders' confidence in their ability to manage the situation and protect employees and the public.

Late Friday, DOE received notification that contamination was discovered on a vehicle previously surveyed and decontaminated, initiating additional actions by CHPRC to confirm information DOE thought we already had. This is not acceptable.

The contractor is conducting follow-up surveys of seven employees' vehicles that had been decontaminated and cleared for release after a spread of contamination from PFP in mid-December.

One of the vehicle owners declined to remove their vehicle from the PFP parking lot after it was decontaminated, and the vehicle remained on site. The vehicle has been moved several times to accommodate recovery efforts and the expansion of the work control zone around PFP.

In order to confirm the condition of the vehicle before returning it to the owner, the vehicle was surveyed again for contamination on Friday, Jan. 26. A speck of contamination was detected at a level of 48 disintegrations per minute.

Because of the contamination finding on that vehicle, CHPRC contacted owners of the six other personal vehicles and asked for permission to re-survey those vehicles.

Two of the six employees requested re-survey of their vehicles. Radiological Control Technicians, with DOE oversight, surveyed the vehicles on the Hanford Site late that night and early into the morning on Saturday, Jan. 27. No contamination was detected in or on the two vehicles.

Four employees declined to have their vehicles surveyed. CHPRC is contacting them again today to ask for permission to re-survey their vehicles, with oversight by DOE. One of the four vehicles is a rental vehicle. When that vehicle was surveyed in mid-December, the contamination was later determined to be naturally occurring radon. CHPRC has located the rental vehicle, which will be resurveyed with DOE oversight.

As a reminder, CHPRC will survey employees' vehicles upon request. Please contact Sheila Godfrey with your vehicle location, color and license plate number so CHPRC can arrange a survey team and location.

The sole focus at PFP is on the health and safety of the workforce, addressing worker concerns, ensuring that facility, debris and rubble piles are stable, and mitigating the potential for additional contamination spread.

Doug S. Shoop
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