

DOE NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 29, 2007

DOE PRESENTS NATIONAL SAFETY AWARD AT HANFORD

In a ceremony along the banks of the Columbia River, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Jim Rispoli, today presented DOE's most coveted safety award to the Hanford Site's Soil and Groundwater Remediation Project.

Rispoli and Keith Klein, Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office, conferred "Star Status" in the Department's Voluntary Protection Program to officials and employees representing cleanup contractor Fluor Hanford.

"The Voluntary Protection Program was enacted to ensure a higher level of safety performance," said Rispoli. "Today, DOE recognized employees on the Soil & Groundwater Remediation Project for their commitment to safety excellence."

"Achieving this status is not easy," said Klein. "It requires a partnership between labor, management and government, and a commitment to the highest level of safety awareness and promotion."

DOE's Voluntary Protection Program was instituted nationwide in 1994 and is modeled on a similar program by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. DOE adopted the program to reduce risk in the workplace by encouraging and recognizing safety and health programs that demonstrate full involvement and commitment by company management and employees.

Nationwide, 27 projects have achieved recognition in DOE's Voluntary Protection Program. Thirteen projects at Hanford have reached Star Status.

"Earning this recognition takes months, and sometimes years," said Con Murphy, Fluor Hanford President and CEO. "The road to recognition begins with a management

commitment and employee involvement. The bottom line is that more people are going home safe at the end of the day and injuries are down more than 80 percent since Fluor came to Hanford in 1996, and much of the credit goes to the Voluntary Protection Program.”

The 200 employees of Fluor Hanford’s Soil & Groundwater Remediation Project are responsible for working with scientists from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, as well as with other Site contractors and subcontractors to understand and clean up chemical and radiological contaminants that could affect the Columbia River.

“Our employees are on guard for two million people who live along the Columbia River downstream of the Hanford Site,” said Bruce Ford, Vice President of the Soil & Groundwater Remediation Project, Fluor Hanford. “They work around some of the most hazardous substances on the planet while protecting the river, yet they do their work safely day in and day out. They know the best way to approach work safely, and management listens to them.”

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RL-07-0012