

## It's the people . . .

Do you ever think about the projects and programs that are supported by your daily work activities? Do you realize that the work that you are doing right now has an impact upon large programs that affect our nation and eventually the world?

By completing your assigned work tasks, you contribute to your company's mission and goals, the mission of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO), and to your country. Take a look around your immediate work area. It's people sitting in the cubicle or office next to you, it's people in the next department, it's people down the hallway.

The following articles highlight individuals and teams that are recognized for their contributions in support of our nation.

## Monette nominated for Federal Employee of the Year

by La Tomya Glass

"It is an honor to be among so many talented and committed federal employees," said **Deborah Monette**, assistant manager for National Security at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO), of her nomination as one of the best and brightest federal employees in this year's Service to America Medals. Along with two fellow Homeland Security nominees, Monette is recognized for significant contribution to the nation in activities related to homeland security.

She earned the nomination for her leadership role in establishing and operating the National Center for Combating Terrorism. The training center prepares the nation's first responders to fight against terrorism by providing a realistic test and evaluation laboratory for "first

responders," such as police or firefighters, who are first at the scene of a disaster. In the year following the September 11 attacks nearly 1,300 military personnel, police officers, firefighters, medical professionals and SWAT team members were trained as first responders at the site.

**Kathleen Carlson**, NNSA/NSO manager and Monette's supervisor, described the center as "the graduate school in weapons of mass destruction training."

As a senior responder with more than 20-years of experience in accident response, search and consequence management, Monette's experiences are invaluable in keeping America prepared for a nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological attack. However, she says the nomination is the compilation of dedicated federal and contractor employees supporting the homeland security mission.

"While my name may appear on the nomination, the real recognition goes to the men and women who make this program a success," she said.

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## Monette nominated for Federal Employee of the Year

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According to the Service to America Medals program, good government requires good people, by honoring excellence in the federal workforce sends a powerful message to the American people about the importance of a strong civil service and seeks to inspire a new generation of Americans to public service.

Twenty-eight finalists were chosen from hundreds of outstanding contributions from federal employees with varying degrees of experience and professional backgrounds, including business, science, national security, social services, and justices. For all award categories, the nominee must have shown a strong commitment to public service as a civil servant and demonstrated significant accomplishments within his or her particular government field. The 2003 Selection Committee charged with the task of identifying the Service to America Medals honorees comprise a select group of prominent national leaders.

The America Medals program is sponsored by the Partnership for Public Services, a nonprofit organization devoted to reviving interest in government service. The Partnership for Public Service was created in 2001 by Connecticut businessman **Samuel J. Heyman**, who went to work for Attorney General **Robert F. Kennedy** after graduating from law school in 1963. He recalls how eager he was to serve his country. He was not alone. Unfortunately, the interest in public service has declined in the years since. When Heyman graduated from Harvard Law School, 30 percent of its graduates went to work for the federal government. Today, the number has dwindled to 3 percent. There are more federal employees in their 60s than in their 20s. Heyman and the Partnership recognized that action must be taken to inspire a new generation of public service and to help federal agencies attract, hire and keep the talent needed to do the nation's business.

Award recipients of the 2003 Service to America Medals will be announced and honored on October 15, 2003, at a tribute dinner in Washington, D.C. Honorees will also be featured in the October issue of *Government Executive* and profiled in the *National Journal* and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

## Ginanni honored with DOE award

**Joe Ginanni**, NNSA/NSO aviation manager, has received the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Aviation Management Professional of the Year award for 2002. Ginanni was nominated along with fellow aviation managers and safety officers from other DOE sites.

The award recognizes and promotes excellence in aviation management by individuals and organizations. It honors accomplishments that produced cost-savings, greater efficiency of operations, innovations in programs/processes/systems, the ability to provide additional service at no additional cost, or an extremely high level of effectiveness in the achievement of organizational missions.

"During calendar year 2002, Mr. Ginanni was the Department's most outstanding contributor to the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of a federal flight program. His aviation expertise, both as a pilot and an innovative leader, enabled him to make significant contributions to the management/administration, operations, maintenance, training, and safety elements of NSO aviation services. Mr.

Ginanni wrote the first ever Aviation Accident/Incident Response Plan for the Nevada Site Office, and produced a

new Aviation Plan that not only incorporated Headquarters guidance, but also included new direction on crew rest, proficiency, performance measures, and events-based training. Furthermore, his strong leadership with the weekly long-term Aviation Scheduling Meeting significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheduling process for the NSO fleet. Mr. Ginanni's outstanding achievements during this period reflect great credit upon himself, the Nevada Site Office, National Nuclear Security Administration, and

the U.S. Department of Energy."

General **Robert G. Jenkins**, director, office of aviation management, presented the large traveling trophy, along with a personal trophy, to Ginanni during the U.S. Department of Energy's Aviation Operations and Safety Workshop held in San Antonio, Texas.



**Joe Ginanni**, NNSA/NSO aviation manager, is DOE's Aviation Management Professional Award winner for 2002.

## Wagner uses RATS in training exercise

by Jennifer Morton

Bechtel Nevada scientist, **Eric Wagner**, developed a new software program that has affected the way emergency response exercises are conducted for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Wagner has interfaced a Palm™ Operating System with Global Positioning System (GPS) for a new software program called Radiological Assessment Training Simulator (RATS). RATS generates data that enables emergency responders to determine the extent and source of a simulated disaster during training exercises. Emergency responders carry hand-held computers, or Palm pilots, which show the responder's current location, time and the simulated instrument's measurement. Prior to RATS, responders used contour maps to estimate the geographical spot where the simulated measurement might have occurred.

RATS not only provides exact coordinates enabling more accurate measurements, but it also reduces the number of controllers needed in an exercise, speeds up the exercise process, and simulates aerial measurements, reducing the number of aircrafts needed in an exercise. RATS can even simulate a field team enabling the entire exercise to be conducted from an operation center sans field workers.

Here's how RATS works: A scenario designer determines the simulated radiological incident, as well as the time and location of the incident. Based on the selected radiological component, the scenario designer can determine what instruments to use to record the various types of radiation - alpha, gamma or beta. The software is then able to determine a radiation reading based on the time, location, characteristics of the radiation field, and the instrument's properties.

Once a measurement has been successfully taken in either a real scenario or a simulated scenario, the measurement's time, location, and reading, as well as team member names who took the measurements, are radioed back to the operations center for further implementation.

RATS was used in the Top Off 2 exercise held last May in Seattle. While this was the first major exer-



cise the software was used in, it proved to be successful.

"RATS significantly eased the workload on controllers and enabled them to work effectively when short of manpower," said Wagner about RATS role in Top Off 2.

Wagner, who received a performance award for the development of RATS, hopes to create a second version in the near future, if funding is approved.

RATS is currently being distributed to DOE headquarters and is available for other government training purposes, both domestically and internationally.

System and Global Positioning System (GPS). Wagner designed a new software program called the Radiological Assessment Training Simulator (RATS) for the devices. RATS generates data that enables emergency responders to determine the extent and source of a simulated disaster during training exercises.

### Key to Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

<b>BN</b>	Bechtel Nevada
<b>ES&amp;H</b>	Environment, Safety, and Health
<b>JASPER</b>	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
<b>LANL</b>	Los Alamos National Laboratory
<b>LLNL</b>	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
<b>NNSA</b>	National Nuclear Security Administration
<b>NSO</b>	Nevada Site Office
<b>NTS</b>	Nevada Test Site
<b>RSL-A</b>	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
<b>RSL-N</b>	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
<b>SC</b>	Service Center
<b>SNL</b>	Sandia National Laboratories
<b>STL</b>	Special Technologies Laboratory
<b>WSI-NV</b>	Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada

## And the award goes to...



Photo by La Tomya Glass

(left to right) **Billy Thomas**, NNSA Service Center, contract specialist; **Bob Golden** NNSA/NSO, hydrogen program manager; and **Darby Dieterich**, NNSA Service Center, contracting officer, recently received the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Superior Achievement Awards for their work on the world's first hydrogen energy station featuring the co-production of hydrogen fuel and electric power. Golden, Dieterich, and Thomas are recognized of their commitment and dedication to the project. The station, which was dedicated in November 2002, is a public-private partnership between DOE, the city of Las Vegas, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., and Plug Power. It will serve as a commercial demonstration of hydrogen as a safe and clean energy alternative.

## BEEF rumbles on

by La Tomya Glass

For more than fifty years the Nevada Test Site desert landscape has witnessed some of the most spectacular explosions in history. Last summer, the Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF) played host to Los Alamos National Laboratory's largest high-explosive experiment *WATUSI* with the yield equivalent to approximately 40,000 pounds of TNT.

This spring the facility was put on "modified warm standby mode" due to budget issues limiting the day-to-day activities at the facility. To make better use of the facility and resources, a series of experiment campaigns are planned for September and January. Between campaigns, employees supporting BEEF are being reassigned to other projects at the test site.

According to **Carol Shelton**, NNSA/NSO project manager, BEEF customers have the ability to conduct non-nuclear experiments using up to 70,000 pounds of explosives and utilizing a wide range of state-of-the-art diagnostics. "BEEF will continue to conduct experiments to support the Stockpile Stewardship mission," she added.

Originally, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory conducted high-explosive experiments in Livermore, California before, relocating to the test site. Today's mission has broadened to include a large role in accumulating data supporting Stockpile Stewardship, along with a variety of new experimental programs, that will expand this nation's non-nuclear experiment capabilities.

## News Briefs

### Bechtel Foundation donates \$300,000 to Atomic Testing Museum

by Kirsten Kellogg

In a ceremony on August 19 in the lobby of the new Frank H. Rogers Science and Technology Building, future home of the Atomic Testing Museum, Bechtel Foundation presented the first part of a three-year grant totaling \$300,000 to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) Historical Foundation. Earmarked for developing exhibits at the museum – slated to open next year – the \$100,000 check will be followed by two others of equal denomination, one next June and another in 2005.

On behalf of Bechtel Foundation, **Fred Tarantino**, president and general manager of Bechtel Nevada, presented the first check to **Troy Wade**, NTS Historical Foundation president.

"We are delighted to be able to provide this grant to help honor the contributions of the test site and honor the people who made these contributions possible," said Tarantino. We present this gift as both a measure of the admiration we have for you and your accomplishments, and as a measure of the gratitude for the role you played – and will continue to play – in national defense."

Bechtel Foundation has made \$34,000 in other grants to the NTS Historical Foundation (NTSHF) since 2001 and has been responding for 50 years to the needs of communities around the world where Bechtel has offices or major projects.

Thanking Bechtel Foundation and accepting the check for the historical foundation, Wade pointed out that Nevadans and others who worked at the test site during the Cold War dedicated their lives to national security at a time when the

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## Bechtel Foundation donates \$300,000 to Atomic Testing Museum

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world's fate hung in the balance.

"It was a crucial juncture in world history, and the NTS played an important role – a role embedded in our culture," Wade said. "We owe it to ourselves as a nation to understand and appreciate that role."

The 8,000-square-foot Atomic Testing Museum will feature exhibits depicting the Cold War role of the Nevada Test Site as well as those that highlight the site's current missions. Another 2,000 square feet of museum space will be dedicated to traveling exhibits from the



Photo by Ron Kalb

Smithsonian Institution, with which the museum is affiliated. The museum is scheduled to open next year.

**Fred Tarantino** (middle), Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager, **Troy Wade** (left), Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation (NTSHF) president, and **Alan Austin** (right), Desert Research Institute vice president for finance and administration, attend a check presentation ceremony.

Tarantino presented a \$100,000 check, the first installment of a three-year grant totaling \$300,000, to the NTSHF.

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*This feature highlights various components of the Six Sigma process at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office complex. A monthly article will detail the Six Sigma process, individual Process Improvement Projects (PIPs), the team members associated with Six Sigma, or the anticipated benefits and cost savings associated with implementing the PIPs.*

## Last year's black belts become today's leaders

by Jennifer Morton

Each Six Sigma black belt typically serves for approximately two years while they work on multiple Process Improvement Projects (PIPs). After the two-year period the black belt returns to a regular assignment, either in the same department as before, or sometimes in an entirely different department. The post black belt assignment draws on prior experience and the new skills, insights, and experience gained in Six Sigma to help Bechtel Nevada excel in its performance.

The black belt tenure may be over for Bechtel Nevada employees **Trey Johnston**, **Craig Barnes** and **Steve Cruz**, but their duties as managers in the company have only begun.

Prior to joining Six Sigma, **Trey Johnston** worked in the strategic development organization. As the first black belt, Johnston led the way for all of Bechtel Nevada's subsequent black belts, including conducting a series of "Introduction to Six Sigma" orientation sessions for employees. Johnston worked a number of PIPs, assisted champions and black belts in drafting numerous business cases, and helped teach the last champion training, before he completed his black belt assignment at the end of February. On March 3,

Johnston joined the Environmental Management Program, reporting to **Wayne Johnson**, program manager. Johnston is now the project manager for the Program Integration/Pacific Operations Project.

**Craig Barnes**, who was in performance assurance prior to becoming a black belt, is now Bechtel Nevada's quality assurance manager, and is in the process of establishing a quality assurance program and organization for Bechtel Nevada. While in Six Sigma, Barnes led several PIPs and assisted in leading the overall deployment of Six Sigma within Bechtel Nevada. The new quality assurance department will be an essential element in Bechtel Nevada's successful implementation of nuclear operations, a challenge that will afford Barnes many opportunities to apply Six Sigma skills and tools.

A project engineer prior to Six Sigma, **Steve Cruz** was certified as a black belt in November 2002 and worked on a number of PIPs during his black belt assignment. Most of the PIPs involved stockpile stewardship programs and operations processes. On July 28, Cruz was named Bechtel Nevada's acting manager, site engineering, reporting to **Dan Steinberg**, manager of engineering. In one aspect of this role, Cruz is responsible for improving the interface between engineering and construction.

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## Last year's black belts become today's leaders

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### New Black Belt Candidates

In addition to three new leaders, Bechtel Nevada welcomes five new black belt candidates. Of these five new black belt candidates, one is from wave 15 and four are from wave 16. Wave 16 is the first black belt training session where black belt candidates are selected from all three Bechtel Nevada partners. The four black belt candidates from wave 16 - **J.P. Ayubi** (Johnson Controls Inc.), **Thomas Fitzmaurice** (Bechtel Nevada Corporation), **Robert Noto** (Lockheed Martin Nevada Technologies), and **Vicki Tong** (Bechtel Nevada Corporation), along with **Ray Thom** (Bechtel Nevada Corporation) from wave 15, will each lead two PIP projects.

Ray Thom is expected to be recognized as a certified black belt at a graduation ceremony in early November. This for-

mer senior engineer has been involved in the Engineering Disposition of Construction Documentation PIP and the 50-mm Phototube Fabrication PIP.

The objective of the Engineering Disposition of Construction Documentation PIP is to reduce the amount of time engineering takes to disposition documentation that is produced by the construction department requesting information/clarification/direction during the course of construction work. The faster turnaround time will give construction workers less downtime and better work scheduling capabilities, as well as reduce the cost of projects.

The objective of the 50-mm Phototube Fabrication PIP is to reduce the rework during the assembly of 50 mm Streak camera phototubes at Bechtel Nevada's Livermore Operations. Without compromising quality, reducing the rework will decrease the cost of each phototube and allow the fabrication shop to assemble other prototype designs.

Look for future articles highlighting black belt candidates and their PIPs in upcoming issues of *SiteLines*.



## High blood pressure: Silent killer

by LaTomya Glass

High blood pressure is called the "Silent Killer" because many people go about their daily activities without knowing their blood pressure is elevated. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to stroke, heart attack, heart failure, or kidney failure.

Everybody has and needs blood pressure, noted **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell**, Bechtel Nevada occupational health nurse. "Without it, blood can't circulate through the body and without it vital organs can't get the oxygen and food needed to work," she adds.

Ninety percent to 95 percent of high blood pressure cases are unknown. This is called *essential hypertension*. The second type is *secondary hypertension* when a physical problem or disease is the cause of high blood pressure.

### Understanding what your blood pressure means:

Blood pressure is the force of blood against the walls of the arteries. It is written as two numbers – the systolic pressure (as the heart is beating) and the diastolic

pressure (when the heart relaxes between beats). The systolic pressure is the first or the top number and the diastolic pressure is the second or bottom number.

According to the new national blood pressure guidelines, issued in May 2003, the risk of cardiovascular complication starts to increase with a blood pressure reading above 115/75. The disease doubles with each elevation of 20 for systolic and 10 for diastolic over the 115/75 guideline.

When blood pressure remains elevated, it causes damage to the lining of the artery walls. This can lead to the development of plaque in the walls of the arteries, which will ultimately increase the risk of heart attack and other problems.

The American Heart Association recommends:

Normal: less than 120 systolic and less than 80 diastolic  
 Prehypertension: 120-139 systolic or 80-89 diastolic  
 Hypertension, Stage 1: 140-159 systolic or 90-99 diastolic  
 Hypertension, Stage 2: systolic more than 160 or diastolic more than 100

High blood pressure can occur in children or adults, but is more common in people over age 35. For people over the age of 50, systolic pressure greater than 140 is a more important risk factor for cardiovascular disease than diastolic blood pressure.

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## High blood pressure: Silent killer

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### Controllable risk factors:

- Obesity - A body mass index (BMI) of 30.0 or higher can lead to high blood pressure. BMI is the ratio of your weight to your height.
- Eating too much salt will increase blood pressure in some people.
- Heavy and regular use of alcohol can increase blood pressure.
- Lack of exercise or an inactive lifestyle can lead to weight gain and increases the chance of high blood pressure.
- Stress - This risk factor is inconclusive and hard to measure as responses to stress vary from person to person. Acute stress can cause a short term increase in blood pressure, but high blood pressure and exposure to chronic stress remains controversial.
- Smoking - Reduces the size of some vessels, which increases pressure.
- Oral contraceptives
- Pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or kidney disease

### Uncontrollable risk factors:

- Race – African Americans have a higher incidence of high blood pressure.
- Heredity – If your parents or close relatives have high blood pressure you are more likely to get it.
- Age – The older you get the greater your chance of developing high blood pressure. Men usually develop it most often between the ages of 35 and 50. Women are more likely to develop it after menopause.

### Uncontrolled high blood pressure:

- Three times more likely to develop coronary heart disease
- Six times more likely to develop congestive heart failure
- Seven times more likely to have a stroke

Severe high blood pressure symptoms:

- Tiredness
- Headache (occasionally)
- Confusion
- Vision changes
- Nausea, vomiting
- Anxiety

- Excessive perspiration
- Pale skin or redness of the face or other areas
- Muscle tremors
- Angina like pain, crushing chest pain
- Nosebleed
- Ear noise/buzzing
- Heartbeat sensations (irregular heartbeat, palpitations, heart pounding)
- Insomnia

Some people have “white coat hypertension,” their blood pressure is elevated at their doctor’s office but normal at other times. In these cases, a doctor may suggest ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABP). These devices take blood pressure every 15 – 30 minutes throughout the day and are used to clarify the status of blood pressure.

Prevention:

- Eating healthy
- Reduce salt intake and sodium in your diet
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise (become physically active) this is crucial in helping to control your blood pressure because it makes your heart stronger
- Limit alcohol intake
- Quit smoking
- Take medication if needed (do not skip days)
- Follow doctors’ advice

The only way to tell if you have high blood pressure is to have it checked. Get your blood pressure taken and questions answered either through the Occupational Medical Offices or by your personal physician. For additional information on blood pressure, visit the following internet sites:

[www.americanheart.org/hbp/](http://www.americanheart.org/hbp/)  
[www.lifeclinic.com/focus/blood/whatisit.asp](http://www.lifeclinic.com/focus/blood/whatisit.asp)  
[www.mayoclinic.co](http://www.mayoclinic.co)

Facts from the American Heart Association:

- As many as 50 million Americans aged six and older have high blood pressure.
- One in five Americans has high blood pressure (one in four adults).
- 31.6 percent of people with high blood pressure do not know they have it.
- 14.6 percent of people with high blood pressure aren’t on therapy (special diet or medication). 26.2 percent are on inadequate therapy and 27.4 percent are on adequate therapy.
- The cause of 90-95 percent of high blood pressure is unknown.
- High blood pressure affects about one out of every three African Americans.
- African Americans and Mexican Americans are more likely to develop high blood pressure.

## New communication tool aids Lincoln County emergency response

by Dona Merritt

“Can you read me?” That’s a question the Lincoln County sheriff’s department is no longer asking thanks to the installation of a new emergency management communications system funded by a grant from the Nevada Test Site’s Environmental Management Program.

The new system, which operates using microwave links between mountain towers, allows the sheriff and his deputies to communicate over long distances anywhere within Lincoln County—an area that covers 10,000 square miles. The previous system relied on a less-sophisticated Very High Frequency (VHF) transmission technology, which was often insufficient for remote communication.

Unlike the previous system, the new microwave technology no longer requires a centralized dispatch center for mobile and portable radio users. The newer system also allows the user to transmit emergency information county-wide, such as caller identification or “man down,” at the touch of a button.

**Margie Gunn**, Lincoln County emergency management director, believes the new system’s most important feature is its ability to encrypt communications. According to

Gunn, encryption prevents anyone with a scanner to pick up messages between emergency responders. “This has helped so much, especially with liability issues,” said Gunn.



Gunn, along with **Dahl Bradfield** and **Gary Davis** from the Lincoln County sheriff’s department, and representatives from local fire departments, ambulance services, and hospitals in Lincoln County pooled their experience and knowledge to provide valuable information needed to design this system. The transition to the new system has an added benefit: the remaining VHF system is now available for local emergency responders, ambulance departments, and hospitals, which do not require the ability to

communicate county-wide. By maximizing the use of the previously used equipment, a dedicated link was established between the Lincoln County sheriff’s department and local emergency personnel.

**Cody Whipple** of McIntosh Communications, Inc., the company that designed and constructed the new system, said that “Lincoln County has made the most of its emergency management grant. Last year’s funding was used to build the communication system and it’s been up and running for a year.”

A further benefit of the new system is its flexibility; the system can be easily modified or enhanced to grow with Lincoln County’s emergency response needs.

## Hydrogen bus gets patriotic



Photo by Dan Hyde

A hydrogen enriched natural gas bus, a clean air bus, developed in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy NNSA/NSO, Bechtel Nevada, Collier Technologies, and the City of Las Vegas recently received a patriotic makeover. The City of Las Vegas operates the bus and has placed the vehicle in passenger service, serving the Chelsea Outlet Mall and various downtown events.

## Face-to-Face



Name: Carrie McClain  
 Employer: Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada  
 Title: Senior Security Clerk  
 Hometown: Hubbard, Texas

Hobbies/  
 Interests: Travel, entertaining, attending church, gospel play and concerts, playing cards and dominoes



## NNSA/NSO receives Diversity Champion Award

by La Tomya Glass

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) was presented with the Southern Nevada Hispanic Employment Program (SNHEP) Council's 2003 Diversity Champion Award. The award was given to NNSA/NSO for contributing to the success of the SNHEP annual training and scholarship program. A founding member of the council since the late 1970's, the U.S. Department of Energy's employees contributed to the first \$300 scholarship out-of-their-own pockets.



Photo by La Tomya Glass

ness services, said, "Our work at the Nevada Test Site is important to the national security of this country and it is important that we find the best and the brightest employees. Investing in education is a key way to guarantee the workers of tomorrow."

The council annually hosts a training and luncheon with proceeds going toward scholarships for local Hispanics of all ages to further their education. The primary purpose of the council is to provide relevant information to employers and employees regarding Hispanic employment and education issues. SNHEP awarded \$65,000 in scholarships this year for a total of more than \$400,000 since its inception.

### Maureen Hunemuller,

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) deputy manager accepts the Southern Nevada Hispanic Employment Program (SNHEP) Council's 2003 Diversity Champion Award from **John Medina**, Bechtel Nevada's employee relations manager and SNHEP conference chair.

Bechtel Nevada awarded their first SNHEP scholarship to **Joe Huerta**, an electrical engineering student at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. **Marv Wollin**, Bechtel Nevada's vice president and assistant general manager, busi-

## ...And the flags are up!

by Tom Vaselopoulos

All across the Nevada Test Site (NTS) new flagpoles have been erected to fly the orange flag, indicating the location of Primary Evacuation Assembly Areas (PEAAs).

What's a PEAA? Bechtel Nevada's Company Directive 2120.005, *Nevada Test Site Protective Actions (Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place, Relocation)*, defines a PEAA as:

*"A location designated by the Operations Center for the assembly and evacuation of personnel from a particular area of the NTS."*

How does the PEAA work? Should an emergency occur at the NTS that requires an evacuation, employees are told to proceed to their facility/building Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) for accountability. When directed by the Local Emergency Director (LED) employees will convoy to

the designated PEAA. Once at the PEAA, the Primary Evacuation Assembly Area Coordinator (PEAAC) will perform another accountability check. The PEAAC will report the accountability results via the "red phone." The "red phones" are located at all PEAA locations near the orange flags. If directed by the Crisis Manager (CM), the PEAAC will further evacuate employees to one of the designated onsite or offsite staging areas. To ensure the "red phones" are operational and the orange flags are visible, they are inspected monthly by operation center employees.



Photo by Tom Vaselopoulos

*A new orange flag flies at the intersection of Pahute Mesa Road and Tippisah Highway to indicate the location of a Primary Evacuation Assembly Area (PEAA). Seven other flags indicate other assembly areas at the Nevada Test Site.*

The "red phones" at the PEAAs are not just for emergency evacuations. They can be used by employees to report any type of emergency condition or situation. Picking up the "red phone" will automatically connect you to the Communications Information Center (CIC) at Fire Station #1 in Mercury. The dispatcher can assist you with whatever emergency that you need assistance with.

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## ...And the flags are up!

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There are eight PEAs located throughout the NTS.

PEAA	AREA	LOCATION
Assembly Area A	Area 23	Mercury Commuter Bus Parking Lot
Assembly Area B	Area 5	Cane Springs Road and Mercury Highway
Assembly Area C	Area 6	Control Point – Commuter Bus Parking Lot
Assembly Area D	Area 6	Building 644 Parking Lot, east of Mercury Highway on 6-01 Road
Assembly Area E	Area 6	Building 6-900 Parking Lot
Assembly Area F	Area 1	U1a Complex
Assembly Area G	Area 1	Intersection of Pahute Mesa Road and Tippipah Highway
Assembly Area H	Area 12	Teamster Parking Lot (intersection of Rainer Mesa Road and Logan Road)

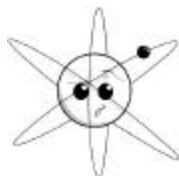
PEAAs are only located and used at the NTS in the event it is necessary to either evacuate an area of the NTS or the entire site. In Las Vegas and the outlying areas, each facility has an Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) where employees would go to for accountability. Depending on the circumstances, the crisis manager would order further evacuations and instructions are relayed to the local emergency directors and EAA coordinators.

To help you remember the locations of all the PEAs and other important emergency information the operations center has developed a pocket guide called the “*Emergency Action Aid for the Nevada Test Site.*” The pocket guide contains a map of the NTS with all the PEAA locations, a listing of the emergency signals and actions to take, an action list to take if you receive a telephone bomb threat, and letter and parcel bomb recognition points. A copy of the pocket guide is available from your **facility manager**, through the **general facilities office (702- 295-7668)** or the **operations center (702-295-0889)**.

Emergency action aids are also available for the North Las Vegas Facility and the Cheyenne Facility. Those aids are available through the **North Las Vegas Facility Emergency Response superintendent (702-295-1813)**.

## Never fear ... Dr. Proton and Adam the Atom are here

by Heather Emmons



The Environmental Management Student Forum, a group of talented students from Advanced Technologies Academy High School (A-Tech) in Las Vegas, Nevada, recently unveiled its long-awaited and highly anticipated EM Kids Display. Entitled “*Operation: Clean Desert,*” the display utilizes two main characters, Dr. Proton and his trusty sidekick Adam the Atom, to explain difficult concepts about past nuclear testing and how these activities created the need for an environmental management program.

During their presentation, students from A-Tech stood before key U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office environmental management (EM) staff to present the objectives of the project, describe how the structural portion will support the display, and walk them through the creative process, including how the use of animated characters will help their target audience (primary-middle school students) relate to the messages.

For the past two years, the Student Forum has provided valuable input to EM on a variety of community outreach materials including fact sheets, videos, and posters. The EM public affairs staff requested the students’ assistance on

the EM Kids Display not only to take advantage of their unique talents and perspectives but also to provide the students the experience of working as a team on a project from start to finish. Thanks to A-Tech teacher, Ms. Michaels, two Student Forum members were able to work on the EM Kids Display as part of their senior projects.

The project forged a strong partnership among the A-Tech students, the EM public affairs group, and Skyline Display and Design, the successful local bidder on the project. Skyline graphics design staff worked closely with the students to develop the final “look” and provided valuable mentoring throughout every step of the design and layout. Skyline also treated the students to a tour of their showroom to show students how display structures are put together.

The display will appear at community events, schools, libraries, and museums. Kids will enjoy the EM Kid’s Display’s easy-to-understand text, enticing colors and graphics, and interactive design. Kids require the use of special decoder glasses to find answers to questions throughout the display.

Congratulations to the EM Student Forum for a job well done!



# Partnering for Education



## Employees focus on giving

For most students the first day of school is opportunity to sport the latest fashion on the schoolyard. However, for a few students' families the start of a new school year is a hardship. If not, for the pens, pencils, notebooks, paper, backpacks and other school items donated by employees during this year's Back-to-School Drive.

The collected school supplies, kindly donated by the employees of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) family, were handed out to students at Quannah McCall Elementary, Kit Carson Elementary, and Jim Bridger Junior High schools in August.



*Donna Williams, teacher at Quannah McCall Elementary School, hands out school supplies, donated by NNSA/NSO employees, to students.*

"The Back-to-School Drive is the first activity to kickoff the new school year," said **Elizabeth Donnelly**, NNSA/Service Center (SC) Focus School Project coordinator for Quannah McCall Elementary School. "This year's drive was successful due to the generosity of the NNSA/NSO family, who freely give their time and money."

According to **La Tomya Glass**, Bechtel Nevada's coordinator, supplies were collected from North Las Vegas, the Cheyenne Facility, and the Nevada Test Site. "In addition to the 'typical' school supplies, employees donated more than 1,500 pens and pencils, allowing students at both schools to receive an item," Glass noted.

The donation was made possible through the Clark County School District's Focus School Project. The project is designed to provide opportunities for students to understand how the basic skills they learn in school apply to the business world and the community. It also, gives the business community insight into the workings of the school and education system.

Schools are matched with businesses, organizations, agencies, and individuals that bring resources directly to the classrooms. This year marks the eighth year of participation in the Focus School Project. NNSA/NSO, with the help of Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada, will continue to partner with Quannah McCall Elementary School (kindergarten through fifth grade) and Bechtel Nevada will support two schools, Kit Carson Elementary (kindergarten through fifth grade) and Jim Bridger Junior High (sixth through eighth grade).

This year's planned activities range from mentoring to fund raising. The success of this year's project depends on the involvement of volunteers. For further information on how to volunteer, contact **Elizabeth Donnelly, NNSA/SC (702-295-1640)**, **La Tomya Glass, BN (702-295-1134)** or **Sharil Hamlin, WSI-NV (702-295-0804)**.

## Face-to-Face



Name: Justina Bowen  
Company: NNSA Service Center  
Job Title: Accountant  
Hometown: Tucson, Arizona  
Hobbies/  
Interests: Spending time with my husband and our two dogs, going to Arizona Diamondbacks baseball games, white water rafting trips, and reading John Grisham books

## Are you practicing cell phone safety and etiquette?

by Kirsten Kellogg

Talking on cellular phones has become a way of life for millions of Americans. Currently, there are more than 120 million cell phone users in the United States, up from 46 million five years ago. People are talking in the supermarket, during dinner at a restaurant, at the movies, in churches, and while they are driving, and safety and etiquette are sometimes the last things on their minds.

More than 85 percent of cell phone users regularly talk on the phone while driving, making them four times more likely to be in an accident than other drivers. Whenever you are driving a vehicle and your attention is not on the road, you are putting yourself, your passengers, other vehicles, and pedestrians in danger. Dialing, discussing, and doing deals all affect your ability to properly respond to typical road hazards. If you **must** talk on a cellular phone while you are driving, here are some tips from smartmotorist.com you might want to consider:

- Get to know your phone. Most phones have a speed dial or memory dial that will help keep your attention on the road instead of on the phone.
- Use hands-free devices. Keeping both hands on the wheel makes it easier to turn or maneuver your vehicle.
- Position your phone within easy reach. Make sure you place your wireless phone within easy reach and where you can grab it without removing your eyes from the road. If you get an incoming call at an inconvenient time, then let your voice mail answer the incoming call.
- Suspend conversation during hazardous situations. Heavy traffic, rain, sleet, and snow are reasons to stay off the phone and keep your eyes on the road.
- Pay attention to the road. Do not take notes, look up phone numbers, write a "to do" list, or try and read something while you are driving.
- Avoid intense conversations while driving. Stressful or emotional conversations and driving do not mix. They are distracting and even dangerous when behind the wheel.
- Use your phone to help others. If you see an accident or other emergency, be a good Samaritan

and call 9-1-1.

In addition to using your cell phone safely, you should not abuse the privileges that come with cell phone ownership. Many Americans are cell phone abusers and are becoming a large part of the growing epidemic. Everywhere you go, cell phones are ringing, and people are sharing their conversations with everyone around them. A 2001 USA Today poll found that cell phone chatter annoys almost two-thirds of all Americans and the backlash against yackers have reached critical levels. Businesses around the country have begun putting up "No Cell Phone" signs to deter disrespectful behavior, and Amtrak even put a ban on cell phones in some of their cars to keep the chatter to a minimum.

The lack of cell phone courtesy has prompted etiquette expert Jacqueline Whitmore to come up with some tips for ill-mannered users:

- Turn off your cell phone – or set it to vibrate – in public places such as theaters, restaurants, and places of worship. If you must take a call, move outside or to a secluded area.
- Alert others at social or business gatherings if you are expecting a call. Excuse yourself when you receive the call and make sure the call is brief. It is rude to give the phone call precedence over the people you are with.
- Consider using two-way messaging or short messaging services when you are with others.
- Speak softly, in a conversational tone. "Cell yell" is alarmingly widespread and unnecessary.
- Be courteous and not angry if you are asking a cell phone user to lower his or her voice or to end a call.
- Utilize your phone's caller ID feature. Screen incoming calls and let the voice mail take them if they are not urgent.
- Keep your phone close at hand for first ring answering.

Cell phones are a big part of life in the United States, but they do not have to be a nuisance. Make an effort to be a respectful cell phone user. Cell phone courtesy is everyone's responsibility.

# Lessons Learned

## Meeting the intent of procedures

by Dawn Starrett

Integrated Safety Management (ISM) requires that work be performed according to work controls. Procedures are an important work control mechanism. Several recent events at the Nevada Test Site demonstrate the importance of following procedures.

Workers encountered situations that were not addressed by procedures, yet completed, or attempted to complete the tasks by attempting to meet what they thought to be the intent of the procedures, e.g. to complete the assigned task. As workers attempted to complete tasks and meet dead-

lines, they encountered situations that were not covered by procedures or exceeded the work scope. The results of their efforts were negative impacts to cost, schedule, and safety.

If procedure requirements cannot be met, ISM requires the worker to suspend work, contact a supervisor, and determine how planning documents are revised to address situations currently not covered by the procedures. Revise procedures to ensure tasks can be completed by workers without interpretation of what the “intent of the procedure” might be.

If you have a lessons learned to share, contact your organization’s lessons learned point of contact or **Dawn Starrett, site lessons learned coordinator (702-295-4297)**.

## Far East visits the Southwest



Photo by Steve Carragher

A delegation of Japanese officials tours the Remote Sensing Laboratory-Nellis to learn about National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office’s emergency response capabilities. **Carson Riland** (left), Bechtel Nevada’s manager of technical operations, briefs officials on search equipment. The delegation is interested in incorporating similar emergency response capabilities into their new emergency response center. While in southern Nevada, the Japanese officials also toured the Nevada Test Site and Yucca Mountain.

## Material exchange program salvages reusable items

by Dodie Haworth

The Pollution Prevention Material Exchange Program took action after the North Las Vegas B buildings were vacated due to beryllium concerns. Employees from these buildings packed and moved only items which were deemed by industrial hygiene (IH) to be free of any potential beryllium contamination. Many items were left behind, including: desk trays and files, bookends, fans, binders, staplers, clocks, and many other office supplies and equip-

ment. All of these items were potentially earmarked for landfill disposal.

The Pollution Prevention (P2) group knew that the building contained reusable items, so they contacted IH to discuss the possibilities of salvaging the left behind items. Industrial hygiene was in the process of sampling the buildings to determine if and where contamination existed. After several months of sampling and interpreting the collected sampling data, IH determined that cleaning the non-porous items in the buildings would allow their reuse and redistribution among employees.

cont. on page 14

### In the Next Issue of SiteLines ...

- *Piano*
- **Frank H. Rogers Science and Technology Building Grand Opening**
- **Chlorestrol: The good, the bad, and the controllable**

### Material exchange program salvages reusable items

cont. from page 13

The P2 group began the task of collecting all the non-porous items from offices, cubicles, desks, filing cabinets, and cupboards. These items were cleaned, inventoried, segregated, and entered into the new material exchange database. Within minutes of notifying employees about the new the material exchange program, the P2 staff had received more than 300 requests for items.

Requests for the salvaged items were received from all locations and even the Desert Research Institute and the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office. The old cliché “one mans trash, is another mans treasure” proved true in this case. By using these “recycled” items, employees helped save funds by reusing materials which were still in good condition, rather than purchase new ones.

More than 4,000 pounds of materials were collected from the B buildings, amounting to a cost savings of more than \$50,000 dollars by reusing the salvaged items rather than

purchasing new items. More important, more than two tons of materials were kept out of the landfill.

The P2 program has received many positive remarks about the Material Exchange Database:

“I am so glad there is this program. It has saved us a considerable amount of money so far.”

“...educated me on using the Mat. Exchange over the Intranet. It’s very user-friendly!”

“Thank you for the Material Exchange program database. I just read about it in the latest edition of *SiteLines* and tried it out to request an item. It is user friendly and a great resource to obtain items that would otherwise collect dust or get thrown away.”

The Material Exchange Database is available through the Bechtel Nevada Homepage. The P2 staff wants to thank everyone who continues to supports the program. You have made it a success!If you have any questions about the Material Exchange program or the database, contact **Dodie Haworth, BN (702-295-0656)** or **Al Karns, BN (702-295-5689)**.

### Retirements

Ronny Tseu - Bechtel Nevada  
James Wallace - Bechtel Nevada

### In Memory

John J. Potter - Bechtel Nevada

### Face-to-Face



Name: Robert “Bob” DeBerry  
Employer: Bechtel Nevada  
Title: Senior Information Technology Support - Cyber Security  
Hometown: Sumter, South Carolina  
Hobbies/  
Interests: Racquetball/squash, my wife, cats, history, and the outdoors

### Face-to-Face



Name: Mia Shelton  
Employer: Shaw Environmental, Inc.  
Title: Buyer  
Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada  
Hobbies/  
Interests: Reading, working out, and spending time with my husband and son



<u>Bechtel Nevada</u>		15 years	<b>Charlotte Carter, Larry Warner</b>
40 years	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Roosevelt Rogers Jr.;</b> Nevada Test Site - <b>Maxwell Taylor</b></i>		<u>Desert Research Institute</u>
35 years	<i>Nevada Test Site - <b>Lee Kapit</b></i>	25 years	<b>Mary Miller</b>
30 years	<i>Nevada Test Site - <b>Aaron Francis, Susan Parks</b></i>	20 years	<b>Gail Lucas, Kendrick Taylor</b>
25 years	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Edward Hohman, Anna Lissor, Laurel Sholing, Nevada Test Site - Stanley Durrett</b></i>		<u>Shaw E&amp;I</u>
20 years	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Lauree Ogiela; Nevada Test Site - James Cleveland, Dean Fore, Michael Horn, Richard Jasa, Horace Smith Jr.</b></i>	15 years	<b>Samuel Bonilla</b>
15 years	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Stuart Dean, Barbara Johnsen, Michael Kimberlain; RSL- Andrews Operations - Richard Maurer; Special Technologies Laboratory - Fred Wilms; Hawaii Operations - Lance Yamaguchi</b></i>	10 years	<b>Kimberly Hunsinger, David Stahl</b>
10 years	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Michael Howard; Nevada Test Site - Heather Huckins-Gang, Lynn Jaussi, Charles Lohrstorfer</b></i>	5 years	<b>Danny Bradford</b>
5 years	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Virginia Mayville, Billy Parson, Ricky Reiger, Alma Vela-Belmonte, Damone Williams; Nevada Test Site - Cindy Dillman, Keith Kaczay, Jeanne Martin, Juan Martinez, Donna Metcalf, Clinton Walker, Gregory Wandtke; Speical Technologies Laboratories - Roderick Tiangco</b></i>		<u>Los Alamos National Laboratory</u>
New Hires	<i>Las Vegas - <b>Pamela Allen, Rogelio De La Paz, Judy Hawkins, Vicki Tong; Nevada Test Site - Eric Amarescu, Pat Lorenz, Sarah Martin, John Rynes</b></i>	5 years	<b>Stephen Barnard, Abel De La Rosa</b>
			<u>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory</u>
		20 years	<b>C. P. Williams</b>
			<u>Ruchman and Associates, Incorporated</u>
		10 years	<b>Mary Richard</b>
		5 years	<b>Kathi Wood</b>
			<u>NOAA ARL/SORD - Las Vegas</u>
		40 years	<b>Douglas Soule</b>
		35 years	<b>Darryl Randerson</b>
		10 years	<b>Shawn Byrne</b>
			— <i>Compiled by Tamiko Brown</i>

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office

30 years	<b>John Robertson</b>
20 years	<b>Joseph Ginanni, Marla Libidinsky</b>

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 23**

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Alice Shillock, BN (702-295-5581)**.

**September 24**

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

**October 4**

Grand Opening of Frank H. Rogers Science and Technology Building. Open to the public. 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. For a complete listing of the day's events or additional information, visit [www.nevadatestsite.com](http://www.nevadatestsite.com).

**October 14**

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Alice Shillock, BN (702-295-5581)**.

**October 22**

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste

Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

**October 28**

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Alice Shillock, BN (702-295-5581)**.

**November 4**

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Alice Shillock, BN (702-295-5581)**.

**November 18**

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Alice Shillock, BN (702-295-5581)**.

**November 25**

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

**December 9**

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Last meeting of the year. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Alice Shillock, BN (702-295-5581)**.

**December 16**

NTS Public Tour - CAN-CELLED

**February 18, 2004**

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

**Declassified Film Showings**

For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, contact **Denise Langendorf (702-295-4015)**. For information on declassified film showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702-295-5825)**.

**Upcoming Conferences and Trade Shows**

**September 13-16**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene. Rancho La Palmas Marriott, Rancho Mirage, California. For additional information, visit [www.aiha.org/TheAcademy/html/pcih-b.htm](http://www.aiha.org/TheAcademy/html/pcih-b.htm).

**September 14-17**

The Academy of Certified Hazardous Material Managers 2003 National Conference. The Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

For additional information, visit [www.achmm.org/achmmnew](http://www.achmm.org/achmmnew).

**September 21-23**

PMI Global Congress 2003 - North America. The Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. For additional information, visit [www.pmiglobal-congresses.fusionproductions.com](http://www.pmiglobal-congresses.fusionproductions.com).

**November 12-15**

Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition. Gaylord Opryland™ Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee. For additional information, visit [www.asce.org/conferences/annual03/](http://www.asce.org/conferences/annual03/).

**November 15-19**

International Association of Emergency Managers' 2003 Mid-Year Meeting. The Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida. For additional information, visit [www.iaem.com/conferences.html](http://www.iaem.com/conferences.html).

**November 16-20**

2003 ANS/ENS International Winter Meeting, "Nuclear Technology: Achieving Global Economic Growth While Safeguarding the Environment." Hyatt Regency New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. For additional information, visit [www.ans.org/meetings/winter/](http://www.ans.org/meetings/winter/).



*Published monthly for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family.*

*Kathleen A. Carlson, Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office.*

*Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs.*

*Submit articles or ideas to the editor at M/S NLV106, [arnoldkp@nv.doe.gov](mailto:arnoldkp@nv.doe.gov), or 702-295-5792.*

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