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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



October/November 2007 - Issue 128

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

## CEF conducts three primary areas of research and training at NTS

The Criticality Experiments Facility (CEF) Project is the top priority for Fiscal Year 2008 for the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) and National Security Technologies (NSTec).

The project will relocate capabilities from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area (TA)-18 to the Device Assembly facility, located at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). This supports the NSO's key mission of stockpile stewardship and management in three vital areas:

- Experimentation
- Emergency response training
- By providing the technology to enable the nation to respond to the threat of nuclear weapons.

[Read full story >](#)

### In This Issue

- [NNSA official provides Complex Transformation update, distributes awards](#)
- [Nevada Test Site facility transition a collaborative process](#)
- [Advanced Radiation Detection course graduates first students](#)

Additional new articles can be found in the following locations:

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*Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family*  
*Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office*  
*Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs*  
Submit articles or ideas to NSTec Public Affairs at [PublicAffairs@nv.doe.gov](mailto:PublicAffairs@nv.doe.gov).

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Milestones

### Milestones

#### Air Resources Laboratory, Special Operations and Research Division

**10 years**

Phil Abbott

#### Client Network Services, Inc. and NCI Information Systems Inc.

**20 years**

Earlena Giddings-Hill

#### Desert Research Institute

**30 years**

Richard Purcell

**25 years**

Daniel Freeman, Linda Piehl

**20 years**

William Coulombe, Barbara Hinsvark, Lyle Pritchett

**15 years**

Saxon Sharpe

**10 years**

Ahmed Hassan

#### Environmental Protection Agency

**20 years**

Jeffrey Davidson, Jed Harrison

#### National Nuclear Security Administration

**35 years**

Deborah Monette

**25 years**

Darby Ann Dieterich, Kevin Thornton

**20 years**

Thomas Stephens

**15 years**

Linda Cohn, Craig Maki

**10 years**

Stephen Scott

**5 years**

Denise Ashurst

**National Security Technologies, LLC****40 years**

Jerome Richter, Julie Strahan

**35 years**

John Heck, Linda Jensen, Elmer Pineda, Hans Valja, Lawrence Woo

**30 years**

Debbie Mavros, Gary Skougard

**25 years**

Edwin Aquino, Gerald Chavez, Bruce Marshall

**20 years**

Lorraine Capitanelli, Dudley Emer, Pamela Haynes, Yvonne Hendricks, Dawn Starrett, Edward Zachman

**15 years**

Joe Keller, Rashelle Mahan

**10 years**

Harold Anderson, Steven Atkinson, Larry Bates, John Butler, Steele Coddington, Joey Falquez, Michael Flammini, Gary Gardner, Jerald Newman, Stanley Simons, Douglas Trone, Michael Young

**5 years**

Kathryn Baker, George Bardsley, Anindita Behnke, Margaret Cook, Charles Denson, Howard Dexter, Marvin Erwin, Joseph Hains, Steven Huber, David Isom, Rita Jennings, Dawnene Johnson-Gott, Leslie Kelley, Shawn Line, David Long, Richard Olson, Karen Powers, Francis Renk, Robin Richard, Judy Schachet, William Seddon Jr, Douglas Smith, Donald Thompson, James Wadley, Don Walton, Stanley Wroten, Dean Yeager, Robert Ziehm

**Sandia National Laboratories****5 years**

Eugene Ormond, Dwain Seppala

**WSI****20 years**

Janet Penny

## **New Hires**

Roberta Albritton, George Alcalde, Harry Bostick, Brett Brotherton, Cynthia Christensen, David Dixon, Sarah Flynn, Solomon Freeman, Ralph Hager Jr., Dena Huffman, John Istle, Ted Johnson, Rudolpha Jorgensen, James Kornell, Eric Machorro, Armen Nalband, John Nesor, Eric Schmidhuber, Douglas Seastrand, Shaw Takeuchi, Dorothy Wagner, William Wright

## **Retirees**

Vincent Cummings, David Duff

## **In Memory**

Dorothy Grijalva, Daniel Nelson, Bernard Reilly

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Partners in Education

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Face-to-Face

### Face-to-Face

**Name:** Ida Ann Montes

**Company:** National Security Technologies

**Title:** Administrative Staff

**Hometown:** Bisbee, Arizona

**Hobbies:** Working out, hosting large dinner parties, traveling, spending time at the beach, and with friends and family.



Ida Ann believes that her most significant contribution to the Nevada Site Office is that she has been a team player, which helps to provide a smooth work flow process. She has learned that communication and strong interpersonal skill make her better at what she does today. This helps her to quickly understand and complete assignment requirements. In her ideal job, Ida would be recognized for her ability, quality of work, and leadership. Most people wouldn't know Ida likes to ride on the back of her husband's custom chopper, and that she has a 24-year-old daughter.

**Name:** James Stover

**Company:** Stoller Navarro Joint Venture

**Title:** Public Involvement Manager

**Hometown:** Saratoga Springs, NY

**Hobbies:** Running, weightlifting, music, drawing.



James has 15 years of experience providing media production and media relations assistance to the private sector as an independent writer/producer, and as a senior television producer. Most recently, James worked as a public affairs manager for the City of Yuma, Ariz. He has learned that developing mutually beneficial partnerships among groups and businesses can often provide solutions to difficult problems. His dream job would be penning a novel. Most people wouldn't know James was vocalist and guitarist for a 1980s punk band.

**Name:** Tia Wirth

**Company:** WSI-Nevada

**Title:** HR Administrative Assistant – Labor Relations

**Hometown:** Milwaukee, WI

**Hobbies:** Reading, running, hiking, working out, writing, camping, baking, going to concerts, spending time outdoors, photography, and cooking





Tia believes her most significant contribution is helping to establish a new procedure for Bargaining Unit Performance Appraisal Reports. She is also self-motivated to complete projects efficiently and within deadlines. Something she has learned that has made her better at what she does today is how to approach the real work world after college. This job has given Tia experience working collaboratively to get things done. Her ideal job would be as a Congressional member so that she could vote on bills that effect America's future. Most people wouldn't know that Tia has played piano almost her entire life and that she loves math and calculus.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Calendar of Events

### Calendar of Events

#### November 12

Federal offices closed for Veterans Day.

#### November 22

Federal and contractor offices closed for Thanksgiving Day.

#### November 23

Contractor offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

#### December 24

Contractor offices closed for Christmas Eve.

#### December 25

Federal offices closed for Christmas holiday.

#### February 26, 2008

NTS Public Tour that includes Sedan Crater, Icecap and T-1 Training Area, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, and Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, NSTec**, at (702) 295-0944. Tours are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## To Your Health

### November is National Diabetes Prevention Month

An estimated 20.8 million Americans have diabetes. Each year about 1.3 million individuals between the ages of 20 and 65 are diagnosed with the disorder. Untreated, diabetes can cause long-term complications that impact almost every part of the body.

Individuals are at higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes if they are overweight, don't exercise and are over 30, or if they have close relatives with diabetes.

#### How diabetes develops

In healthy people, the process of eating signals the pancreas to produce the right amount of insulin. This hormone unlocks many cells in the body so glucose from food and drink can enter. If this process fails or doesn't work properly, diabetes develops.

The pancreas of diabetics produces little or no insulin, or the body's cells do not respond to the insulin that is produced. As a result, glucose builds up in the blood.

#### Types of diabetes

- In **type 1** (insulin-dependent) diabetes, the pancreas makes little or no insulin. Type 1 diabetes accounts for about five to 10 percent of diabetes cases.
- In **type 2** (non-insulin-dependent) diabetes, the pancreas makes insulin but the body does not respond to it properly (insulin resistance). In time, the pancreas can fail to produce enough of its own insulin and requires insulin replacement.
  - Type 2 diabetes most often occurs in overweight or obese adults after the age of 30, but it may also develop in children. This type of diabetes is rising in America due to the population's increased prevalence of obesity, low levels of physical exercise, and increasing age and ethnic diversity.

#### Management is key to living well with diabetes

Diabetes can be effectively controlled and managed once it has been accurately diagnosed. The goal of diabetes management is to prevent short- and long-term complications including blindness, kidney disease and nerve damage, as well as vascular disease that can lead to amputations, heart disease, and strokes.

Type 2 diabetes may be controlled initially by a planned diet, exercise, and daily monitoring of glucose levels. Frequently, oral drugs that lower blood glucose levels or insulin injections can be added to this regimen.

Comprehensive treatment also includes managing blood pressure and cholesterol levels, which help prevent heart attacks and stroke.

For more information, please contact NSTec nurses **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell** at **(702) 295-1474** (North Las Vegas), or **Nancy Newell** at **(702) 295-4736** (Nevada Test Site), or go to: <http://www.diabetes.org/home.jsp>.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Acronyms

### Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

<b>BEEF</b>	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
<b>CTOS</b>	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
<b>DAF</b>	Device Assembly Facility
<b>DOE</b>	Department of Energy
<b>EM</b>	Emergency Management
<b>EM</b>	Environmental Management
<b>ES&amp;H</b>	Environment, Safety, and Health
<b>FRMAC</b>	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
<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>NSTec</b>	National Security Technologies, LLC
<b>NTS</b>	Nevada Test Site
<b>PIP</b>	Process Improvement Project
<b>R-MAD</b>	Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility
<b>RSL-A</b>	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
<b>RSL-N</b>	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
<b>SC</b>	NNSA Service Center
<b>SCE</b>	Subcritical Experiment
<b>SNJV</b>	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
<b>SNL</b>	Sandia National Laboratories
<b>STL</b>	Special Technologies Laboratory
<b>WSI-NV</b>	Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Masthead

### Masthead

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## CEF conducts three primary areas of research and training at NTS

The Criticality Experiments Facility (CEF) Project is the top priority for Fiscal Year 2008 for the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) and National Security Technologies (NSTec).

The project will relocate capabilities from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area (TA)-18 to the Device Assembly facility, located at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). This supports the NSO's key mission of stockpile stewardship and management in three vital areas:

- Experimentation
- Emergency response training
- By providing the technology to enable the nation to respond to the threat of nuclear weapons.

CEF will fill that gap when it becomes the final destination for TA-18 missions and support logistics. The principle operation of TA-18 was research in the design, development, construction, and application of nuclear criticality experiments.

"The stockpile stewardship management mission involves working with nuclear materials in different concentrations and contexts than in the past. As a result, the existing database of knowledge is no longer adequate for conducting the evaluations or defining safe handling limits," explains **Scott Hood**, NSTec's Senior Manager of the Central Project Office for the CEF Project.

Hood has overall project authority and responsibility for the performance of the CEF project, and integrates budgets, schedules, and the other key players. In addition to NSTec and LANL, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Wackenhut Services, Inc. are project contributors.

"Safety is paramount when nuclear materials are involved," says Hood. "CEF will provide the facility and foundation that will allow a credible experimental database to conduct criticality safety evaluations for process operations," explains Hood.



*Planet, one of four CEF critical assemblies, is a vertical lift table-type critical assembly.*

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Once the CEF construction is complete and the machines are moved in and made operational, Los Alamos will manage the following programs within the DAF:

- Emergency response training
- Nonproliferation and safeguards
- Arms control.

### **Emergency response training**

The CEF program will provide emergency response training to support counterterrorism activities. Combining their expertise and nuclear material inventory, CEF staff will create realistic target devices used to develop, test, and validate emergency response equipment, methods, and diagnostic procedures. Facsimiles of U.S. weapons and theoretical foreign designs that might be used by terrorists will be supplied for instructional use.

### **Nonproliferation, safeguards and arms control**

Another key to countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons and terrorism is in developing and evaluating equipment for, and the training of, law enforcement and first responder teams. Training objectives often require the use of a range of actual nuclear materials in one location. This is where CEF enters the picture by assuming an integral role in nonproliferation, safeguards, and arms control to support national and international programs.

Part of the CEF mission is to provide the technology that enables the nation to respond to the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation. These technologies verify declarations made by other nations concerning their nuclear weapons.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## NNSA official provides Complex Transformation update, distributes awards

In October, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Operations **Marty Schoenbauer** conducted an all-hands meeting from North Las Vegas. His comments on Complex Transformation developments were broadcast to employees across the Nevada Site Office.

Additionally, Schoenbauer distributed awards to five federal employees for tenure and other outstanding efforts.

Schoenbauer noted that he has been making numerous presentations to discuss the end goals of Complex Transformation (formerly Complex 2030). The emphasis is on a collaborative approach for all facilities in the Nuclear Weapons Complex to achieve exemplary stockpile stewardship.

"While NNSA headquarters has established a bigger policy of what Complex Transformation looks like and how we're going to get there, we still need your vital input on how we can realize the goals we've identified," Schoenbauer told employees.

Site offices are being asked to weigh in on the best approach to successfully transition to a leaner, more efficient, less expensive complex that leverages the scientific and technical capabilities of the workforce. Ultimately, the proposed infrastructure planning scenario is designed to enable the NNSA and its contractors across the Nuclear Weapons Complex to more effectively meet the national security threats of the 21st century.

The process proposes the following specifically for the Nevada Test Site (NTS):

- Possible preferred site for High Explosives production and research and development, as well as testing.
- Potential location for consolidated plutonium center and consolidation of Category I/II Special Nuclear Materials.
- Possible alternate site to conduct flight test operations for NNSA.
- Transition of large scale hydrodynamic (hydro) testing to the NTS.

The final version of the draft *Preferred Alternative to the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (PEIS) regarding Complex Transformation will likely roll out by mid-November. Public hearings will follow early in 2008 to solicit additional feedback. The final PEIS is expected by Spring 2008 with a Record of Decision expected in Fall 2008.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Nevada Test Site facility transition a collaborative process

In a move to clarify roles and responsibilities, strengthen contractor assurance, and centralize oversight, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has authorized the NSO to direct NSTec to assume full responsibility for managing all nuclear, radiological and operational facilities at the Nevada Test Site. The decision was made in October, and NSO has created an integrated project team (EIPT) comprised of federal, laboratory and contractor leadership to oversee the transition.

**Steve Mellington**, NSO's Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, serves as the federal project director, and **Jim Holt**, NSTec's Director of Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship, is the contractor project manager. Rounding out the strategic team as liaison to the laboratories is **Rick Higgs**, Joint Nevada Test Site Program Office (JNPO) Program Leader.

Eight sub-teams have been formed to ensure a successful integration of projects and personnel, while minimizing the impact to the critical programmatic work being performed. They are as follows with partial accountabilities:

1. *Project Definition*: Establishes the end state, work authorization model, and multiple-user foundation.
2. *Project Planning*: Will deliver the Project Execution Plan that the Nevada Site Office will use to fully understand the resource loaded schedule required for the transition.
3. *Budget/Cost Baseline*: Pursuing baselines and estimates in the current (pre-transition) cost to operate the facilities and the cost of transition of facilities from the laboratories to NSTec.
4. *Nuclear Safety*: Identifying and documenting necessary activities for a cost-effective transfer of the nuclear safety management responsibilities and authorities to NSTec.
5. *Human Capital & Communications*: Determines the staffing requirements and transitions, and conveys updated information to multiple engaged audiences.
6. *Contracts/Legal*: Ensures that appropriate structure agreements and operating documents are in place.
7. *Requirements*
8. *Program Continuity*: Creates a framework for the efficient and safe operations of mission-critical programs and activities.

Mellington explains that a transition timeline is being built and the sub-teams are meeting weekly to establish a path forward. "All successful projects require a defined end state," he says. "The EIPT is examining the nature of work performed and the appropriate authorizations and controls to ensure that NTS facilities properly support the activities of multiple laboratory users both today and in the future. The actual process and planning steps involve

comprehensive, multi-level analysis that leads to the definition of what the transition is, and what it requires.”

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Advanced Radiation Detection course graduates first students *Nevada Site Office played key role in developing course material*

A group of 20 law enforcement officials and emergency responders from Las Vegas, New York, and New Jersey graduated from the Advanced Radiation Detection (ARD) course, where they gained vital new skills in this crucial area of national defense.

The five-day course was funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), and jointly developed with a team of Nevada Site Office (NSO) experts. These included National Security Technologies (NSTec) staff from the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL), Radiation Control (RADCON), as well as the Counterterrorism Operations Support Program (CTOS), which was accountable for curriculum.

"The Advanced Radiation Detection course is the capstone course in the national preventive radiological and nuclear detection curriculum," says DNDO's Tom Bourne. "This curriculum aids state and local jurisdictions in joining the national radiological and nuclear detection mission."

ARD course graduates learned skills in detecting radioactive material, assessing detection instrument alarms, and adjudicating radiological and nuclear alarms. In addition to the ARD course, the national preventive radiological and nuclear detection (PRND) curriculum consists of a seven-hour Personal Radiation Detector (PRD) course and a 24-hour Detection Equipment for Law Enforcement (DELE) course. The DELE course teaches law enforcement officers how to use and employ PRDs and Radioisotope Identification Devices (RIID).

CTOS Program Manager **Dennis Dugan** lauded the efforts of the ARD development team, especially the work of NSTec's **Jerry Troller**, a Senior Curriculum Developer at CTOS. Additionally, he noted that the coursework capitalized on RSL's expertise in radiation search and detection.

"This is a really unique course which takes a systematic approach to training in the radiological/nuclear detection arena," explains Dugan. "We identified the tasks and missions that students are required to meet and ensured the course addressed those areas. It is tailored to communities across the nation."



*From left to right is the NSO team that worked on the ARD curriculum: Conne Walton-Davison, Melody Cawthon, Russ Eberwein, Latrelle Smith, Cynthia Fuller, Walt Cain, Dave Colton, Rick Hansen, Jerry Troller, Manuel Torres, Debbie Davidson, Fred Davis, Steve Johnson. Not pictured: Bob Richmond, Lonnie Swindell, and Ed Roberts.*

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A distinctive element of the course is that it features training scenarios that allow participants to get hands-on training with radiation sources.

"We created realistic training scenarios that can be conducted in the local community," says Dugan. "The radiological sources used have very low activity levels and extensive safety precautions are taken. This allows participants to use detection equipment against 'suspected illicit radioactive materials' in a real-world setting."

The DNDO, as well as the NNSA and emergency responders from other communities, observed the first class. Up to six additional training sessions will be offered in 2008.

The DNDO focuses on a preventive radiological and nuclear detection (PRND) mission and provides state, local, and municipal jurisdictions with the necessary tools to detect and investigate the potential malicious use of radiological or nuclear material.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## NSTec Livermore team supporting LLNL toward 2010 Milestone

NSTec Livermore Operations (LO) employees continue to forge ahead in their quest to support the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) National Ignition Facility (NIF) 2010 milestone.

NIF is the world's largest and highest energy laser system, using cutting-edge construction, laser, and optics technologies to create conditions of extreme temperatures and pressures in small targets. Facility experiments play a key role in the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) critical mission to maintain and certify the safety, security, and reliability of the nation's nuclear deterrent and support stockpile stewardship.

In the coming year, NSTec LO project personnel will be working around the clock to ensure that the 2010 ignition goals are achieved to the highest standards. They will be supporting multi-dimensional 24/7 support in January 2008, devoted to full spectrum diagnostics and operations. Day-to-day milestones to achieve the longer-term objective have included preparatory shots, and reconfiguring the Precision Diagnostic System (PDS), a system that verifies optics operation.

"This process involved a complete overhaul in the configuration of the integrated optics module. Such a feat required seamless integration and collaboration between the NSTec, LO and LLNL teams," said **Jackie Meeker**, NSTec Manager, LO, NIF Target Area Operations.

**Ken Cooke**, NSTec Sr. Manager, LO, gives high praise to the project contributors. "Everyone at LO is committed and proud to be part of this phenomenal project. I'm confident the project will continue to surpass expectations," says Cooke.

Team members recently received the NIF Directorate Performance Awards and Letters of Appreciation. Additionally, **John Helton**, NSTec Supervisor for LO, NIF Target Area Operations, has been designated Senior Technician Lead for the NIF target area operations team. Helton, **John Duncan**, **Randall Rampke**, and **Kristopher Work** were also recognized individually for their efforts in the PDS re-configuration.

To learn more about the NIF project, please visit



*Team members from Livermore Operations (LO) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) received LLNL's National Ignition Facility Directorate Performance Awards and Letters of Appreciation. Back Row L-R – Kristopher Work, George "Bill" Bardsley, York Lee, Nicholas Orsi, Imants Reinbachs, Gary Morris, Arthur VanProoyen, David Hulsey, Robert Guyton, Robert Lewis, and Kathleen Garcia. Middle Row L-R – James R. Cox (LLNL), Steven Huber, John Duncan, John Helton, Randall Rampke, Jacqueline Meeker. Front Row L-R – Phillip Watts, Gustavo Villanueva, and Sky Marshall.*

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<http://www.llnl.gov/nif>.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Barrow achieves certification as Federal Project Director

After four years of intensive training, **Clayton Barrow** of the National Nuclear Security Administration has been certified as a Level 3 Federal Project Director.

The rigorous coursework, which includes more than 500 hours of formal training, is offered through the Department of Energy's Project Management Career Development Program. Requirements encompass intensive core project management courses, and experiential requirements in budgeting, scheduling, earned value systems, and strategic analyses.

Barrow, a General Engineer for the Infrastructure Management Group, says he will apply the certification in his current position as Project Director for the B3 Facility Project. The North Las Vegas-based facility is currently being remodeled to accommodate more than 300 employees now located at the Cheyenne Facility.

"The move back to Building B3 will result in cost savings and increased efficiency by allowing NSTec employees to work together in a more centralized location," says Barrow.



*Marty Schoenbauer, Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs (right), presents Clayton Barrow with the Level 3 Project Director plaque.*

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Higgs takes the helm for JNPO

**Richard Higgs** has been named Program Leader for the Joint Nevada Program Office (JNPO).

The organization allows joint, coordinated management of Nevada Test Site (NTS) facilities used by both Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Higgs has served the NTS from the national laboratory side for 16 years, starting with LANL in 1991 and then moving to LLNL in 1997.

“Rick brings a wealth of experience to the leadership of JNPO through his long and successful association with NTS programs. I look forward to working with him and our experimental partners to continue ‘getting the job done’ in Nevada,” says **Debbie Monette**, the NNSA Nevada Site Office Acting Deputy Manager.

A long-time Nevada resident, Higgs travels frequently between the two labs, NTS, and the JNPO office at the Nevada Support Facility complex in North Las Vegas. Higgs was a founding member of JNPO and previously managed the Site Operations side of JNPO. He possesses extensive experience in the field and in the lab/environment.

“The labs and the execution of their programs have changed the face of the NTS over the years,” says Higgs. “We’ve gone from underground nuclear testing to LANL’s Low-Yield Nuclear Experiments; from ABLE and Baker assembly compounds to the Device Assembly Facility; and from LLNL’s Remote Sensor Test Range to the current Non-Proliferation Test and Evaluation Complex.”

Higgs also notes that new facilities keep entering the picture, citing newer laboratory mission functions such as the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) Facility, the Large Bore Powder Gun (LBPG), and the Criticality Assembly Facility (CEF).



*Rick Higgs*

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## NTS first among DOE sites for commitment to energy savings

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) holds the number-one position for total employee pledges to the *Change a Light, Change the World* energy savings program, among the nation's Department of Energy sites.

With 663 total pledges, the NTS ranks third among more than 900 federal participants in the initiative, and is the only federal participant in Nevada. The program encourages participants to replace at least one standard light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb.

"Once again, our employees have stepped up and stepped out to make a difference in the communities where we live and work," says **Mike Butchko**, Chief Operating Officer for National Security Technologies, LLC. " Our goal was to replace 4,000 standard bulbs. We reached our goal in a matter of weeks and are now at 6,000-plus."

This fall, employees the National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office joined a national call-to-action by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. NSTec distributed one free, energy-efficient bulb to each participating employee to place in their homes. In partnership with Nevada Power Company, the company offered additional bulbs for purchase at a 77 percent discount.

NSTec's original goal to replace 4,000 standard bulbs:

- Saved roughly 1,504 kilowatts of power. This translates into enough power to support 144 houses for a full year.
- Provided more than \$165,440 dollars in energy costs as an ecologically savvy choice. Further, it will prevent 1.8 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, which is equivalent to removing 156 cars from the road for a year.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

## Bill Johnson leaving post as Atomic Testing Museum director

The Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation (NTSHF) has announced that Atomic Testing Museum Director Dr. William Johnson will resign his position effective Jan. 1, 2008.

"Bill has been involved with the museum almost since its inception in 1998, and his leadership has been a major factor in bringing the project to its current successful state," says **Troy Wade**, Chairman of the NTSHF Board of Directors.

Johnson will now pursue his first love, research. His accomplishments during his ATM tenure include opening the doors of the museum to the public in February 2005; bringing all of the museum's employees under one roof; and navigating the museum's first financial audit.

As a result of Johnson's departure, the NTSHF is seeking an individual to serve both as Director of the Atomic Testing Museum and Chief Administrator of the NTSHF. The Foundation was founded with a mission to document and interpret the unique history associated with 50-plus years of nuclear weapons research and testing conducted at the Nevada Test Site.

Wade notes that the successful candidate must work with the museum's staff and members of the Board of Trustees in a number of key areas. These include developing and implementing a long-range business and planning process; developing and executing policies for the museum's operation and management; and supervising museum staff and volunteers (who now number 22).

Additionally, the new director must strive to achieve the standards set forth in the American Association of Museums (AAM) Accreditation Program. These standards serve as the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. Developed and sustained by museum professionals, the program reflects, reinforces, and promotes best practices, institutional ethics, and the highest standards of museum operations.

For more information on the qualifications being



Bill Johnson

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sought for the position, direct questions to [info@ntshf.org](mailto:info@ntshf.org). A search committee and selection official will review applications by mid-November, and a selection should be announced in late December.

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## WSI supports literacy with donation of school supplies

Earlier this fall, the Wackenhut Services Inc.-Nevada (WSI-NV) team rallied to encourage literacy by donating supplies to support Quannah McCall (QM) Elementary School in Las Vegas.

The inner-city, at-risk school received a plethora of basic supplies, including backpacks and lunch boxes. QM Principal Dr. Maria Chairez recommended the donation and thanked everyone involved.

WSI-NV began to donate school supplies about 11 years ago, when the company joined the Clark County School District's School-Community Partnership Program. Since then, the Annual School Supplies Drive has become a tradition among the WSI-NV team and continues today to be a popular outreach effort among employees.



*From left to right, Genevieve Hines, Pat Jimenez, Paul Prunier and Edith Avila display just a handful of items donated by WSI Nevada Team employees to Quannah McCall Elementary School.*

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