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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



May/June 2008 - Issue 131

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

Criticality Experiments Facility Construction Passes Halfway Point

Some of the Nevada Test Site's (NTS) most important experiments are closer to being consolidated under one roof.

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The CEF project is made up of a consortium of team members representing Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI) and the Nevada Site Office (NSO). Each partner has a key part in the overall success of the project. "Due to the outstanding teamwork and efforts of everyone involved, the project has made substantial progress this year. The entire team is aggressively working to complete the project on schedule," says Robert Bangerter, Federal Project Director.

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A worker works on flattop reflectors in the Criticality Experiments Facility.

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Submit articles or ideas to NSTec Public Affairs at PublicAffairs@nv.doe.gov.*

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National Security Technologies, LLC

40 years

Douglas Tichenor

30 years

Elaine Solzano, Helen Johnson, Nancy Ashbaugh, Sigmund Drellack, Timothy Parson

25 years

Fred Zajac, Mark Tefft, Robert Hilko, Robert Schuette

20 years

Darlene Smith, Stuart Rawlinson

10 years

Matthew J. Becker, Christopher Hersh, Eliseo Pizano, Geroge Corrow, Jack Meeker, Jean Palmieri, Joseph Merritt, Joy Cotter, Kenneth Watts, Leonard Gene, Patrick Hull, Timothy Sinclair, Tom Champion

5 years

Christopher Cimitini, Anthony Montoya, Bart Briggs, Cynthia Fuller, David Glass, Elizabeth Palagi, Gricel Vega, Lawrence Robbins, Manuel Contreras, Marlana Murray, Michelle Miller, Nathan Sipe, Peter Torres, Richard Yount, Ryan Bellow, Ryan Emmitt, Sharon Hamer, Shawn Spendlove, Troy Leonard

New Hires

Diana Abbas (March 31) NSTec engineer, Special Technologies Laboratory
John McKenna (March 31) Special Operations Manager, NSTec

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Temperatures Rising: Avoiding Heat Stress

The summer season is approaching and a key concern as desert temperatures rise is heat stress. Contributing factors include high temperature, direct sunlight, limited air movement, physical exertion, poor physical condition, and lack of tolerance for hot workplaces.

People generally require two weeks to become acclimated to high temperatures. As evidenced by recent temperature swings, Nevada can go from 60 to over 90 degrees in a day or two, so there is no opportunity to become acclimated. Particular attention is important during this time of year to prevent heat stress.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Headaches, dizziness, lightheaded or fainting
- Weakness and moist skin
- Mood changes including irritability or confusion
- Upset stomach or vomiting.

Symptoms of heat stroke include:

- Dry, hot skin with no sweating
- Mental confusion or loss of consciousness
- Seizures.

To prevent heat stress:

- Know the signs and symptoms
- Be alert to heat stress in others
- Block direct sunlight
- Drink lots of water
- Avoid caffeinated drinks
- Use fans/air conditioning and follow the work/rest cycle for the activity.

If a heat-related injury should occur, request immediate emergency assistance. While the total number of heat stress cases for the last three years has been small, there were nine incidents where heat played a role in the event. This can be as simple as being distracted by the heat and then becoming injured by some other hazard.

In addition to heat-related injuries, the following hazards increase in the summer months:

- Bug bites/stings—There were nine cases in three years where employees went to the clinic for treatment.
- Wind—This is a significant contributor to injury and property

damage. Wind-blown dust is a common eye injury and there were 10 injury cases in the last three years. The wind also causes vehicle accidents where door hinges are sprung when caught in high winds.

- Chemical exposure—Spring and summer months are also the time when most insect and weed spraying occurs. Remain aware of the inhalation and skin contact hazards of these chemicals.
- Fatigue—More outdoor work means more strains and sprains to many people. Know your limits and reach out for help when needed.

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Acronyms

Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
CTOS	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
DOE	Department of Energy
EM	Emergency Management
EM	Environmental Management
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
FRMAC	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
JASPER	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NSO	Nevada Site Office
NSTec	National Security Technologies, LLC
NTS	Nevada Test Site
PIP	Process Improvement Project
R-MAD	Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
SC	NNSA Service Center
SCE	Subcritical Experiment
SNJV	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI-NV	Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

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The CEF project is made up of a consortium of team members representing Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI) and the Nevada Site Office (NSO). Each partner has a key part in the overall success of the project. "Due to the outstanding teamwork and efforts of everyone involved, the project has made substantial progress this year. The entire team is aggressively working to complete the project on schedule," says Robert Bangerter, Federal Project Director.

The project calls for retrofitting and upgrading a section of the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) to be able to receive and operate four critical assembly machines and related components from LANL. The machines are being relocated from the former Technical Area 18 (TA-18) Facility. The machines and their respective components had to be dismantled, and then reassembled with many of the older parts being redesigned to meet current requirements. The LANL project team has reached all of their performance milestones, on or ahead of schedule, and has developed a pathway to successfully bring the equipment to the NTS and place into it operation.

Later this year, the machines will be packaged up and sent to the DAF for installation and a rigorous start-up process. Once approved for operation, these machines will perform valuable experiments vital to national security.



A worker works on flattop reflectors in the Criticality Experiments Facility.



Conduit and cable trays are installed in the Round Room at the Criticality Experiments Facility.

NSTec has the engineering, procurement and construction piece of the project and accounts for over half of the entire budget. "Every day presents challenges to getting the work done," says Bill Parson, NSTec's Project Manager. "Those challenges are met head-on by the project team and that teamwork is what is going to make us successful."

One of the challenges is the transitioning of the management of DAF from LLNL to NSTec. "With any transition there are always issues that crop up, and it is up to all of us to communicate and minimize those impacts to the project," says Parson.

"All of the respective CEF project teams are doing an incredible job especially having to work in the requirements of today's nuclear safety environment," says Scott Hood, NSTec Manager, CEF Central Project Office. "When all is said and done, this project will be completed on schedule, within budget and will have successfully brought a new capability to the NTS and a much needed capability for the nation."

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

NNSA Green Construction Project Brought in on Time and Under Budget

The first *green building* in the Nevada federal system was recently launched in an event that attracted top state and Congressional involvement. The March 25 ribbon cutting celebration signaled the official end of an extensive 14-month remodel to remedy legacy beryllium issues in building B3 at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO).

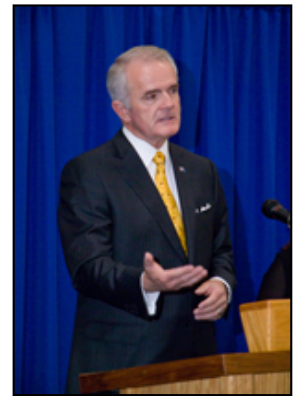
Event speaker State of Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons extended his congratulations, as did Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, and City of North Las Vegas Mayor Michael Montandon. Representatives from all Nevada Congressional and Senate members were in attendance.

"We made a choice to exceed expectations," explains NSTec Chief Operating Officer Mike Butchko. "An extensive assessment showed that it would be more cost effective to remodel than invest in new construction. Plus, this approach gave our federal customer an energy conscious building that better supported their national conservation initiatives. Maloy Construction, the subcontractor responsible for implementing the remodel, helped bring this project in on time and under budget."

The resulting facility is considered a landmark achievement, and is expected to receive a Silver LEED Certification by the Green Building Council. "This is a remarkable example of a 1980s building strategically converted into an energy efficient structure for the 2000s," said Laura Tomlinson, acting Deputy Manager NNSA/NSO. "Further, it is an effective demonstration of the efficiency our contractor-government team can achieve."

Offering more than 71,000 square feet of usable space, the B3 building incorporates state-of-the-art automation to monitor and control lighting, heating, cooling and air quality. Additional green features include an insulated roof which reduces heating and what is known as the *heat island effect*, enhanced refrigeration management, and desert-friendly landscaping.

Energy performance is expected to be optimized by



In his remarks State of Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons applauded the state's first federal green building. He noted, "The key that was just presented was not just for this building, but for our future. I congratulate you on this tremendous accomplishment."



NNSA/NSO recently re-opened the B3 after an extensive remodel. Now a green building, the structure received national Department of Energy recognition for its conservation-oriented improvements.

17.5 percent. In addition to purchasing goods locally, where possible, construction waste management was utilized to recycle construction debris.

In total, conservation improvements in water and energy use will save more than 35 percent in building energy consumption levels. Approximately 14,000 gallons of water will be saved annually. B3 energy efficiency is further enhanced by adding interior and exterior lighting to the existing power management system.

The building now has the capacity to house 400 workers, which is a 70-person increase over the previous configuration. This will allow the consolidation of NSTec workers currently housed 10 miles away, saving fuel and reducing a corresponding amount of exhaust emissions. The savings generated through the move of employees from that distant facility to B3 results in a total return on the construction investment in only three years.

Tomlinson called the project “a strong example of innovation and efficiency.” She noted that B3 is already generating favorable attention and has been recognized by the Department of Energy’s Pollution Prevention Award Program with an Environmental Stewardship honor.

“Clearly, B3 is a significant improvement to the Nevada Site Office complex. This structure provides a safe home for our employees, and serves as a model of progressive thinking,” Tomlinson says. “Currently, increased efficiency is the cheapest, cleanest, most accessible source of energy. That said, whatever industry can do to extend—and improve—the life durability, and environmentally sound nature of a building, we must do.”



The B3 dedication ceremony featured a symbolic passing of the key, which signaled the building was ready for occupancy. From left to right, NSTec President Steve Younger; National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office acting Deputy Manager Laura Tomlinson; and contractors Ken Rowland and Rebecca Maloy of Maloy Construction.

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U1A Facility Transition Completed

The first major Nevada Test Site (NTS) facility to transfer management and operating responsibilities to National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) has been completed ahead of schedule. The U1A underground complex has fully shifted from Joint Nevada Test Site Program Office (JNPO) management to NSTec, effective March 31, 2008. The team of NSTec and JNPO personnel worked diligently to align the facility processes, procedures and documents to allow the transition. The transition at U1A included reviewing and transferring some 54 safety and operational procedures.

The transition of the first of five major facilities was completed 30 days ahead of schedule, and more than \$100,000 under budget, according to Patrick Morris, Division Manager, Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities. "The significance of the project is to consolidate facility management responsibilities under one management and operational contractor," says Morris. "It is intended to enhance the prioritization of facility operations, maintenance, and repair by applying consistent application of facility management requirements and authorization basis implementation."

As part of a transition plan announced September 2007, the Device Assembly Facility (DAF), the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) Facility, the Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF), Baker Site, and numerous logistical facilities also will have their facility management responsibilities consolidated under NSTec management.

Historically, the National Laboratories have managed the major NTS facilities using established home laboratory practices, principles, and health and safety requirements. As such, implementation of health and safety, security, and compliance requirements would vary among the NTS facilities.

Citing a shift over the years to "authorization basis-driven activities" and the need for a consistent application of basis requirements and potentially more efficient uses of resources. Martin Schoenbauer, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Operations, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), issued a directive that makes NSTec assume full responsibility and accountability for managing and operating all facilities on the NTS.

A detailed Project Execution Plan was prepared last year by a team consisting of representatives from the Nevada Site Office (NSO), JNPO, and NSTec, and approved on January 4, 2008. The National Laboratory presence in Nevada manages JNPO. The transition of the final facility is expected to be completed by August 13, 2008, Morris says.

Morris attributed the success of the transition at U1A to the coordinated partnership between NNSA/NSO, NSTec and JNPO, as well as the leadership of Stuart Rawlinson, the U1A Facility Transition Lead and new U1A Facility Manager, who spearheaded the efforts there. Also recognized was Richard Ziegenbein, the outgoing U1A Facility Manager.

“This project has been fully embraced by the Executive Management of NSO, the JNPO, NSTec and everyone on the project team– and we couldn’t ask for a better group,” Morris says. “ The success of U1A shows that we have established a defined process, and that our team is dedicated to ensuring success as all facilities are transitioned.”

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NREP Conference Comes to Las Vegas

The 18th Annual National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference (NREP) was held recently in Las Vegas. Distinguished, highly reputable guest speakers imparted advice to organizations responsible for preparing for radiological emergencies.

In addition to speeches, a federal and industrial panel facilitated a question and answer discussion with the audience. The U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration's Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center displayed its technology and provided hands-on demonstrations as to the gathering of data, its assessment, and how it is used to mitigate radiological emergencies. On the last day of the conference, participants were offered a tour of the Nevada Test Site.

The 300 participants heard from Dr. Vincent Covello, who explained effective techniques for successfully communicating during high stress situations. This content introduced participants to key principles and techniques developed for responders and government officials interacting with the public and the media during the critical stages of a radiological emergency.

Melvyn Leach, Director, Division of Preparedness and Response for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, discussed changes and innovations in radiological emergency preparedness exercise scenarios. Dr. Judith Baker, National Institute of Health, introduced a new innovative web portal tool kit to assist clinicians, healthcare providers and planners in responding to radiological and/or nuclear emergencies.

A contingent of French scientists addressed dosimetric management during a criticality accident and demonstrated the ability of rapidly providing neutron dose estimates after an accident. Dr. Craig Marianno, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) discussed the qualitative uncertainty in contamination mapping and the techniques being investigated to convey information to the public.

"The NREP conference is always a great opportunity for professionals in the Nuclear Emergency Response community to network and exchange experiences, professional resources, and lessons learned," Marianno says. "The 2008 conference was no exception. This year's conference had the largest attendance ever. The talks were stimulating and I really enjoyed my time there. The planners at RSL did a great job."

The National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference is a non-profit organization providing individuals involved with the Offsite Radiological Emergency Preparedness programs an opportunity for continuous self-improvement. It provides an annual forum to share program experiences, develop solutions to common challenges, and create innovative planning, exercising and training methodologies.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

NNSA/NSO Wins Two OPSEC Awards

The Operations Security (OPSEC) program at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) recently won two more national OPSEC awards. The recognitions were presented on April 8 at the National OPSEC Conference in Denver, Colorado and accepted by Ray Phifer, Assistant Manager for Safeguards and Security, on behalf of Steve Mellington, Acting NSO Manager. The honors were the 19th and 20th national OPSEC awards that the NNSA/NSO OPSEC Program Office has garnered since 1994.

Competing against 54 other organizations, the NSO took first place in the national OPSEC Organizational Award category. The Organizational Award is presented to organizations who have established a strong OPSEC culture within the workforce and who have initiated solid OPSEC practices. This is the second time NSO has taken first place in the category, in addition to two second place finishes.

The NSO also took second place in the Electronic Multimedia category with its video submission, OPSEC 24/7. This locally-written and produced video is a take-off of the hit TV series *24*, featuring Jack Bauer. In the video, Jack makes many OPSEC mistakes in his desire to get the job done. He eventually receives OPSEC awareness training to prevent the inadvertent release of sensitive information.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Classification Award Presented

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Classification has recognized Greg Spencer, NSTec Classification Officer with this year's Classification Award of Excellence. Spencer received the honor on April 29 in Germantown at the annual Classification Officers' Award of Excellence Banquet.

Spencer is the fourth Classification Officer from Nevada to win the award since 1990. The award is given annually to the classification officer within DOE or the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) who has demonstrated superior performance, made exceptional contributions to national security, and provided unique or innovative resolutions to classification issues.

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