

NNSA reorganization update

by Nancy Tufano

In February 2002, then National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) administrator **John Gordon** announced an effort to improve, strengthen, and better integrate the NNSA through a restructuring of the agency and its field offices. The new organizational model establishes roles and responsibilities for headquarters (HQ), site offices, and service centers. In July, NNSA began phase one of the organizational transformation. Phase one of this transformation identifies which element within NNSA is responsible for which function, and which responsibilities are shared when the new organization goes into effect in December 2002.

In most areas, site offices and service centers will maintain separate responsibilities. Site offices are primarily responsible for day-to-day program and contract administration for its assigned facility, including:

- Functions requiring interaction between federal staff and contractors.
- Federal employees with full-time meaningful work.
- Authority over the Management and Operations (M&O) contracts at the sites.
- Site office managers will have program direction budget allocation and accountability authority.
- Site offices will reduce use of support service contractors. The goal is no reliance on support contractors, but any need for contractors will continue under special circumstances.

Service centers are responsible for maintaining capabilities, based on requirements, to support the NNSA enterprise and organiza-

tion sites. Implementation is fully integrated with organizational needs and requirements related to establishing strengthened site offices at NNSA's eight major contractor sites and meeting NNSA corporate service demands, including:

- Provide full service business and technical support to site offices, HQ, and among service centers.
- Maintain capability based on broadly defined customer needs.
- Support sites by interfacing with contractors within prescribed limits.
- Maintain functions across entire NNSA organization as needed to support sites.
- Seek effectiveness, efficiency and use of best practices in all service center functions.
- Promote consistency and standardization of operations within and among service center(s).

Each NNSA unit prepared mission and function statements, a delegation of authority, and staffing plans for review to the NNSA Leadership Council, currently in the process of reviewing all submission and making final recommendations to meet the December 2002 deadline.

To obtain additional information about the reorganization, visit NNSA's web site visit at www.nnsa.doe.gov

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A PUBLICATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE NNSA/NV FAMILY

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	<u>Head Quarters</u>	<u>Site Offices</u>	<u>Service Centers</u>
Human Capital Management	human capital policy and systems	position classification staffing & recruiting	employee relations benefits, records, training
Contractor/ Human Resources Oversight	policy, critical skills initiative	Davis Bacon/ SCA determinations	compensation, diversity, equal opportunity, labor realtions
Procurement and Contracting	head of contract authority, planning, policy	contracting officers on site	priorities and allocation program, cost/pricing support, indirect rates
Real and Property Management	property and real property policy	property system approvals, maintenance mgt., M&O maintenance, utilities infrastructure oversight	property system approvals, review and maintenance; utilities, energy mgt, acquisition, controls, disposition
Finance and Accounting	audit liaison, GAO/IOG coordination	indirect sizing for indirect cost management	practices and procedural instructions, accounting and fiscal operations
Budget and Resource Management	policy and procedures, guidance, reporting and oversight		funds control distribution, integration
Program/ Technical Support	strategic planning, weapons program support, infrastructure and facilities mgt.	Defense Programs, National Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs (M&O)	Defense Programs, National Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs (non M&O)
Public Affairs, Information, and Intergovernmental Relations	policy, coordination, Freedom of Information Act	external relations, community programs	external relations, community programs
Environmental Health & Safety	policy, guidance, lessons learned, PAAA, safety research	environmental planning, compliance, monitoring, permitting	facility representative program administration and maintenance
Construction Project Management	policy, planning, training, development, review	project mgt., value engineering, construction services	
Information Technology	planning, design,	records management for site and technical information	support services, contract administration, reports
Legal	litigation policy		litigation
Security and Counter-intelligence	safeguards and security, program integration, counterintelligence program	material control accountability and reporting, foreign visits	safeguards and security training, personnel processing, classification authority

Safety Focus

This article is the last in a series that highlighted a different component of Bechtel Nevada's unique Construction Safety Program.

Surveys help ensure safety

by Jennifer Morton

The Bechtel Nevada construction department utilizes surveys as a communicative way for the workforce to voice job-related safety concerns. This in turn helps Bechtel Nevada minimize safety incidents at the Nevada Test Site.

Surveys are derived by the department manager, general superintendent, and safety team. The form is based on concerns and possible trends developing in the construction department and is tailored to the needs of current operations.

Survey questions range from compiling forms to improving safety on the job.



An example of a safety question might ask what type of glove is best suited for a particular task. Survey responders are then tasked to identify precautions that will decrease exposure to heat stress.

After a survey is completed and the data is processed, the results are then communicated to the workforce through toolbox text (tailgate meeting), manpower meetings, steward meetings, and monthly department safety meetings. The feedback from these meetings is then used to improve department procedures.

Surveys allow direct input from all employees including craft and supervisors and enable managers to retrieve feedback and ideas from the field without shutting down operations for a meeting.

"It's tough to have a conversation in a department with more than 400 employees who are spread across the test site," said **Cathi Tharin**, construction department manager. "Surveys are one way we can pulse our workgroup, start a dialogue, and provoke some new ideas on a subject," said Tharin.

"This forum has proven to be a positive tool of teamwork and open communication to meet today's fast-paced and changing work environment," said **Kevin Cooke**, a Bechtel Nevada superintendent who utilizes surveys for safety improvement processes.

This Six Sigma feature focuses on the Process Improvement Projects (PIPs) at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations complex. A different article will detail each PIP; the team associated with the PIP; and the anticipated benefits and cost savings involved with implementing the recommendations of the PIP team.

Six Sigma roundtables refresh yellow belts

by Jennifer Morton

Bechtel Nevada's Six Sigma team has initiated roundtable refreshers for trained yellow belts. The focus of the roundtables is to provide a forum for tool refreshers, process presentations, and to discuss topics integral to yellow belts' responsibilities.

Yellow belts are an essential component to the Six Sigma process. They are typically assigned within a program where they identify key internal processes to map, collect data, and measure programmatic impacts. They typically complete Process Improvement Projects (PIPs) that do not require significant statistical analysis and that have a cost benefit of less than \$50,000.

Currently, there are approximately 70 employees that have gone through the yellow belt training at Bechtel Nevada; however, not all 70 employees have been given the opportunity to utilize the training received. Roundtables are

intended to serve as a refresher for both experienced and new yellow belts. The emphasis of the roundtable topics will vary based on yellow belt feedback from previous roundtables. This will ensure that the time is spent on the appropriate areas that will provide the most benefit to the attendees.

"Yellow belt roundtables are intended to get yellow belts re-engaged to renew what they learned during training," said **Ron Wallace**, Bechtel Nevada's new Six Sigma manager. Wallace replaces **Steve Metta**, who accepted a position with Bechtel at the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site.

Besides covering refresher topics, roundtables also allow yellow belts an opportunity to share their PIP efforts, barriers encountered, and lessons learned with other yellow belts. It provides an open forum for feedback and support. While only three roundtables have been conducted so far at Bechtel Nevada, Six Sigma personnel would like to see these become a monthly routine. Two roundtables will take place each month; one held in North Las Vegas and the other one at the Nevada Test Site.

NEWS BRIEFS



WATUSI experiment: largest ever at BEEF

Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) WATUSI experiment was the largest aboveground detonation of high explosives to date at the Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF). The experiment was successfully fired at approximately 2:20 p.m. on Saturday, September 28.

"The experiment provided information on blast effects and will help improve seismic and infrasound diagnostics detection capabilities," said **Barbara Yoerg**, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office's WATUSI project manager.

Equal to 40,000 pounds of TNT, the experiment provided a measurable explosive signature for a gamut of diagnostics gathering data for the national laboratories and other government agencies. Diagnostics fielded for the experiment included seismic arrays, infrasound arrays, geophones, blast and overpressure measurements, and an array to detect harmful substances during the re-entry process. Preparation of the WATUSI test bed was integral to the experiment and the diagnostics associated with it.

"We were provided a limited budget and had to be creative," said **Fred Root**, Bechtel Nevada BEEF operations manager. "Bechtel Nevada supported the WATUSI experiment's arming and firing operations. From the BEEF Bunker 4-300, we digitized and recorded capacitor discharge unit output from the Sandia National Laboratory (SNL)'red rack.' We installed all electrical, signal, and communications cables to execute the experiment. We also operated the CP-9 Control Room, which, in turn, controlled arming, timing, and firing. Additionally, we provided program support, logistics in terms of fire and emergency response, respirator and re-entry team support, aerial photography and videography, and Bechtel Nevada's construction department built ground zero," said Root.

"Through their efforts, the dedicated Bechtel Nevada workers at BEEF, known as "BEEF Bandits," were able to provide LANL a test bed that met the needs of the experiment," said **Harry Jenkins**, LANL's WATUSI test director. "The Bandits did a superb job and were exceptionally responsive on many occasions to the needs of

the experiment."

The WATUSI is a breed of cattle from Africa. It's a small-bodied cow with huge horns. The WATUSI name was chosen by Yoerg, because of the impressive horns "being able to reach out and touch," analogous to the explosive force of the experiment.



Photo by Mary Scodwell

The WATUSI experiment, equal to 40,000 pounds of TNT, provided a measurable explosive signature for a gamut of diagnostics gathering data for the national laboratories and other government agencies.



Photo by Mary Scodwell

The WATUSI experiment was the largest aboveground detonation of high explosives to date at the Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF).

A missing treasure finds its way home

by Kirsten Kellogg

After almost 35 years, a collection of artifacts found on the Nevada Test Site in the late 1960s was returned to the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) on September 24. **Troy Wade**, chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation, presented the collection to **Ken Powers**, NNSA/NV deputy manager, in a small ceremony.

“This is a real treasure,” Powers said. “The Nevada Operations Office supports preserving this collection.”

In 1968, as part of the Plowshare Program, a portion of the Nevada Test Site’s Area 30 was set aside for a canal digging experiment named “Project Buggy.” As preparations for the experiment began, a large presence of Native American archaeology was discovered by **William McKinnis** of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory. Two other men,

John M. Townley of the Atomic Energy Commission Nevada Operations Office and **Donald G. McGuffin** of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, also collected artifacts from the site.

The collection McGuffin accumulated consists of various projectile points, commonly known as arrowheads. Many of the points were also used as knives or other all-purpose tools. McGuffin’s Indian point collection is very valuable because it includes a partial Clovis point, the earliest style of projectile points found in North America. The test site Clovis point date back 10,000 to 15,000 years and gets its name from Clovis, New Mexico, a city near the archaeological site where the first points of this type were discovered.

After the collection was documented in 1969 by an archaeologist from Los Alamos National Laboratory, it seemed to disappear. It reappeared in early 2002 when it was given to Troy Wade for placement in the Nevada Atomic Testing History Institute.

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Photo by Darwin Morgan

(left to right) Dr. Colleen Beck, Desert Research Institute; Troy Wade, Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation Board of Trustees chairman; Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute Tribe chairperson; and Ken Powers, NNSA/NV deputy manager, pose with the McGuffin Indian Point Collection.

Face-to-Face



Name: Bernadine (Bernie) Bailey

Company: Shaw E&I

Job Title: Engineering Scientist

Hometown: Belleville, Illinois

Hobbies/

Interests: Love playing darts and pool, bowling on a league with co-workers, scrapbooking, and a new favorite - camping/fishing!

The “Desert Drill”: two new wells this past summer

by Angela Ramsey

The Underground Test Area (UGTA) Project is in the midst of a rigorous six-well drilling program at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) that began this summer and extends into 2003. These wells are part of a larger network of wells designed to provide scientists data relating to the subsurface geology of the NTS.

will also provide additional information related to hydrologic properties below the earth’s surface.

Yucca Flat

The second well installed this summer, with a depth of 3,200 feet, was drilled in Yucca Flat. This well is part of a “tracer” test conducted in the lower carbonate aquifer. Materials that are harmless to the environment are injected into the groundwater and then “traced” to get a better picture of the time it takes for materials to move through the carbonate aquifer.



Frenchman Flat

In mid-July, drilling began on a monitoring well in the Frenchman Flat area of the NTS. This well (the last of five wells in this location) was drilled in response to an earlier peer review focusing on the approach to work in the Frenchman Flat region. One of the challenges faced by the groundwater team was the required depth for monitoring wells. As an example, the proposed depth of this well was 6,200 feet - more than a mile deep. The immediate scientific objective was to determine the depth to the lower carbonate aquifer, which provides valuable data regarding the geology, hydrology, and water chemistry of the area. Since it is likely that the majority of potential contaminants would move through the carbonate aquifer, findings from this test assist the project team in studies related to contaminant migration.

The UGTA Project collects data to define groundwater flow rates and direction to determine the nature and location of aquifers (geologic formation of permeable rock containing or conducting groundwater). In addition, project team members gather information regarding the hydrology and geology of the area under investigation.

Within the next year, technicians will pump the well at specified rates and durations to learn how quickly it returns to its original water level. A multiple well test will reveal how water moves between two wells, which

From 1962 to 1992, 921 underground nuclear detonations took place at the Nevada Test Site as part of the United States’ nuclear weapons testing program. Many of these devices were detonated at depths near or below the water table, creating the potential for groundwater contamination. The Underground Test Area (UGTA) Project drills wells to collect information to develop groundwater models. The models will estimate the maximum extent of contaminant migration. Through drilling, scientists can determine how fast the water moves and in what direction.



In the next issue of *SiteLines*...

- Holiday messages
- Major accomplishments for 2002
- Habitat for Humanity house becomes a home

BEYOND THE CALL

Bechtel Nevada team honored with NOVA Award

by Kurt Arnold

Members of Bechtel Nevada's Homeland Security Response Team were recently honored at a black-tie ceremony held at the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C. with Lockheed Martin's highest corporate recognition award for individual or team achievements, the NOVA Award.

Team members **Michael Howard, Rory McCarthy, Michael McWhirter, Kevin Phoenix, Robert Swindell, and Alan Will** were recognized for providing motion-detection equipment and working long hours under stressful conditions to assist emergency operations following the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. They were nominated and recognized under the NOVA Award "teamwork" category.

Lockheed Martin's NOVA Award program, established in 1995, recognizes outstanding contributions to the corporation's mission and business objectives. Awards are

made annually in four categories - Exceptional Service, Leadership, Teamwork and Technical Excellence. The NOVA Awards program recognizes those "stars" - from Lockheed Martin's 140,000 employees - who contribute their own creativity to the overall success of Lockheed Martin.

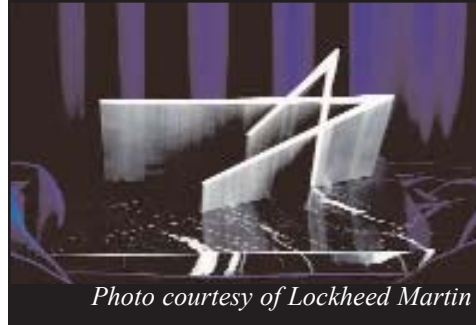


Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin

The NOVA Award derives its name from the Latin word for "new," and its astronomical definition as "a stellar outburst of creative power," with the star motif building on the Lockheed Martin symbol.

ABCD Award winners

by Sheril Hamlin

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (ABCD) Awards are presented to WSI-NV employees to acknowledge and encourage outstanding performance and contributions to the organization. The following WSI employees have received ABCD Awards:

Kimberly Clark, Connie Ripa, Theresa Jefferson and Gayle Humes received ABCD Awards for processing a total of 960 case submissions with a 100 percent accuracy rate during FY2002. There are as many as 140 checkpoints on each Questionnaire for National Security Position submitted. Every case was submitted to the appropriate investigative agency and not one was rejected due to errors.

Brian Musick went Above and Beyond the Call of Duty to assist a fellow employee who was having problems

with his computer. Apparently, a small connector from the Local Area Network system had been broken during preparation of the room for painting. Thanks to Musick's perseverance the system was back up and running within the hour, instead of the projected week due to work schedules.

An ABCD Award was presented to **Richard Mollus** for "rescuing" a stranded co-worker. After a long, hard day, the last thing anyone wants to find when they jump in their car to go home is a dead battery. This is what one employee found and Mollus was there to help. After finishing his duties for the day, deactivating his station, retrieving the necessary tools, he then replaced the dead battery. Mollus' kindness and assistance helped reduce the employee's anxiety throughout the stressful ordeal.

Montes wins humanitarian award

by Linda Middaugh

Fran Montes, a diversity practitioner and workforce specialist with Bechtel Nevada, has received the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Community Council Board of Directors' Humanitarian Award. Montes was honored with the award at the 2002 Community Achievement Awards dinner, held on September 20 at the MGM Grand Conference Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"This event offers us a wonderful opportunity to recognize those members of our community who are truly making a difference, both professionally and personally" writes **Jay Kornmayer**, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce chairman of the board of trustees.

Montes describes her role as "working with managers and employees to ensure that they fully appreciate and understand each other and what they individually contribute to the organization."

She is vice president and chairperson of the scholarship committee of the Southern Nevada Hispanic Employment Program Council, and active member in the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce, and the president of Hispanics in Politics.

"It was like the Academy Awards" said Montes holding her

solid glass trophy, "a man from a certified public accounting firm arrived with a locked metal briefcase, no one had any idea who had won until the awards were announced."

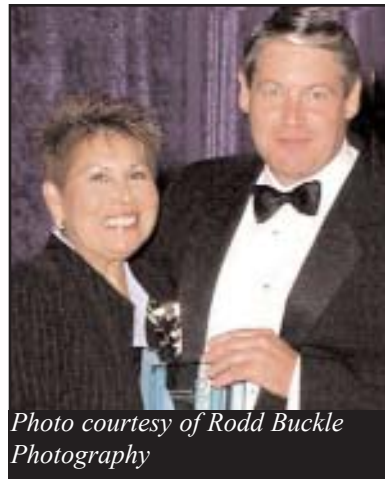


Photo courtesy of Rodd Buckle Photography

Fran Montes, Bechtel Nevada workforce specialist, is presented with the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Community Council Board of Directors' Humanitarian Award by **John Pots**, Howard Hughes Corporation senior vice president.

Face-to-Face



Name: Jeff Sanchez

Company: GeoTrans Inc.

Job Title: Project Environmental Scientist

Hometown: Los Alamos, New Mexico

Hobbies/
Interests: Boating and snowboarding



MILESTONES

Bechtel Nevada

35 years *Las Vegas* - **Julie Strahan**

30 years *Las Vegas* - **Hans Valja**

25 years *Las Vegas* - **Robert Arnold, Richard Saval**

20 years *Las Vegas* - **Judith Chaney**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Gerald Chavez**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **Bruce Marshall**

15 years *Las Vegas* - **Lorraine Capitanelli, John Soderstrum, Dawn Starrett, Edward Zachman, Jr.**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Dudley Emer, Yvonne Hendricks**

10 years *Las Vegas* - **Joe Keller, Jr., Rashelle Mahan**

5 years *Las Vegas* - **Steven Atkinson, Steele Coddington, Jr., David Frandin**; *Nevada Test Site* - **James Dinkfeld, Joey Falquez, Michael Flammini, Gary Gardner, Rodney Hudson, Steven Llewelyn, Daniel Salaiz, Timothy Sinclair, Eldon Stringfellow**

New Hires *Las Vegas* - **Wayne Bearden, Jr., John Boufford, Heather Childers, Debra Cook, Ernest Davidson, Laurien Ehrhard, Keith Hogge, Michael Jenkins, Dhiren Khona, Therese Kowalczyk, Sean Moe, Jeffrey Morrison, Jerry Owens, Michelle Ross, James Russell, Frank Saponaro, Susan Schnars, Christopher Schultz,**

David Sheffield, Jesse Taylor, Rodney Thompson; *Nevada Test Site* - **Brian Berg, Larry Eystad, Winson Fong, Charles Garrett, Robert Hand, Terry McDermott, Galy Schumacher, Cheryl Shoemaker, Johnson Watts, Steven Worthington, Kenneth Zubka**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **David D'Anna**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Michael Berninger, Ivan Pegram**; *Livermore Operations* - **William Brackney, Kristopher Work**

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operation Office

15 years **Timothy McEvoy**

10 years **Craig Maki**

Environmental Protection Agency/R&IE

30 years **Paulette Hennessey**

15 years **Jeffrey Davidson, Jed Harrison**

IT Corporation

15 years **Bob Sobocinski**

Los Alamos National Laboratory

30 years **Ronald Olivier**

Desert Research Institute

20 years **Daniel Freeman, Linda Piehl**

15 years **William Coulombe, Lyle Pritchett, Barbara Hinsvark**

5 years **Kiemmy Boc, Ahmed Hassan, Mary Moran**

Wackenhut Services Inc.

10 years *Nevada Test Site* - **Teresa Rogers**

— *Compiled by Tamiko Brown*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 11

NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 12

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821)**.

November 19

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)**.

November 28

NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

November 29

Bechtel Nevada offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

December 10

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821)**.

December 12

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 25

NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Christmas

holiday.

January 1, 2003

NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of New Year's holiday.

January 8

Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington, Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836)**.

January 15

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)**.

January 20

NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Dr. Martin King Jr.'s birthday.

February 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)**.

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

November 3-7

Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. For additional information, visit www.asce.org/conferences/annual02/conference_facts.html.

November 11-12

The International Society for Optical Engineering's Optics and Photonics in Homeland Security Conference. Hilton Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia. For additional information, visit www.spie.org/conferences/calls/02/ose/.

December 2-4

Southwest Labor Management Conference. Circus Circus Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Stacey Freitas, BN (702-295-2303)**.

December is:

**National
Drunk and
Drugged
Driving
Prevention
Month**

Indoor air pollution

by *Dodie Haworth*

Have you ever experienced the following symptoms: headaches; muscle aches; dizziness and nausea; eye, nose, or throat irritation; dry cough; dry or itchy skin; difficulty in concentrating; fatigue? Think you're catching a cold or the flu? Think again. You might suffer from allergic reactions to indoor air pollution.

Many people are being made ill each day by chemicals in the air they breathe. Indoor air pollution in the workplace can arise from the release of toxic chemicals from carpets, wall coverings, ceiling tiles, cleaning agents, copy machines, computers and personal care products such as perfumes and after shave. The ventilation systems of many buildings are not able to extract these chemicals from the air, and instead recirculate them, resulting in indoor air pollution levels far greater than the levels outdoors.

Some of the worst offenders of indoor air pollution in the workplace are the fragrances arising from personal care products. Personal care products include perfumes, colognes, after shaves, bath soaps, shampoos, deodorants, moisturizers, hand creams, hair sprays, hair gels, etc., all containing different fragrances. These personal care products are very potent because they are used repeatedly in high doses.

The use of fragrances originated in an era when bathing was done once or twice a year and masked the body's natural odors. These perfumes were made from natural ingredients derived directly from plants and animals. In the late 1880s, the first fragrance containing synthetic ingredients was introduced. Since then, people have used chemicals extensively to mimic scents from nature. According to The Fragrance Foundation, there are more than 1,000 body fragrances on the

market today and scents are now added to many commercial products ranging from cleaning products and tissues to candles and diapers. More than 4,000 chemicals are used in fragrances.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, 95 percent of the chemicals used in fragrances today are synthetic compounds derived from petroleum. Some toxic chemicals found in fragrances include: toluene, ethanol acetone, formaldehyde, limonene, benzene derivatives, methylene chloride, and many more which have been shown to cause serious health problems and death in animals. A number of these chemicals are classified as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are found on the EPA and CERCLA hazardous waste lists. (Volatile means to "vaporize or evaporate quickly; to pass off as vapor.") In other words, these chemicals quickly become airborne. As people

inhale more and more of these airborne chemicals each day, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people made sick by fragrances. Many people have developed a severe intolerance to chemicals which they previously tolerated.

Most employees believe the use of fragrances and scented personal care products is a personal choice which has no affect on those around them. However, imagine how many volatile chemicals there are in the air you breath if each employee in your building is wearing perfume or cologne, has washed their body with scented soap and their hair with scented shampoo, has applied a scented deodorant, has sprayed their hair with a scented hair spray, has moisturized their skin with a scented moisturizer, and rubs scented hand cream onto their hands all day. As all these

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Face-to-Face



Name: Dawn Arnold
 Employer: Science Applications International Corporation
 Title: Scientist/Engineer for the Offsites Projects
 Hometown: Albertville, Minnesota
 Hobbies/
 Interests: After attending the 2002 Winter Olympic games, my family and I have caught the Olympic fever and plan on traveling to as many Olympic games as possible starting with the 2004 Summer games in Athens, Greece. I also enjoy attending rock, jazz, and classical concerts with my teenage son who is a talented electric and string bass player.

A Missing Treasure

continued from page 5

“It is my duty and honor to present this collection to the federal government on behalf of the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation,” Wade said.

continued on page Following the ceremony, the Indian points were given to the Desert Research Institute curation facility for preservation and safe keeping.

Richard Arnold, chairperson

of the Pahrump Paiute Tribe, was also present at the ceremony. He commented on the great meaning of the Indian points and how much the tribes truly appreciate their preservation. This collection represents a melding of two cultures – it is very special to the Native American culture as well as to the men who held it for almost 35 years.

“These artifacts have come full circle and are now where they belong,” said Arnold.

Indoor air pollution

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volatile fragrances become airborne, they are easily inhaled by others, and can create severe allergies and other health problems similar to second hand cigarette smoke.

Due to the health problems arising from indoor air pollution, employers are faced with losing skilled employees, filing Workers Compensation claims, accommodation issues, loss of productivity and increased health care costs.

In the workplace it is difficult to avoid scents without sometimes offending co-workers. The issue of individual rights becomes a major consideration. Chemical sensitive individuals have tried techniques such as medications, using fans, and even going so far as to place signs in their work area asking those wearing perfumes not to enter. Unfortunately, these methods

have very little impact due to the intimate environment we work in, i.e., cubicles, buses. A bus ride is equally torturous for those with chemical sensitivities.

If you feel you must use a favorite scent, remain aware and have consideration for those around you who may have a chemical sensitivity. If you must wear a fragrance, then try to use as little as possible. As a courtesy to the people around you, it is wise to carefully consider how your fragrance might impact others. Even though **you** may not smell a fragrance or experience bothered by a fragrance, that fragrance may cause many symptoms in others.

If someone asks you to refrain from wearing fragrances around them, try to understand that they are not attempting to violate your personal rights or offend you. Respect their request and do your part to help make our working environment a place where all employees are comfortable.

Face-to-Face



Name: Sherman Wu
 Employer: Bechtel Nevada
 Title: Principal Scientist
 Hometown: China
 Hobbies/
 Interests: Research for cutting-edge new technologies

Face-to-Face



Name: Ronnie Alderson
 Company: NNSA/NV
 Job Title: Program Manager for Los Alamos National Laboratory Subcritical Experiment Program
 Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada
 Hobbies/
 Interests: Enjoys playing sports, bike riding, and spending time with his family

This new feature will highlight the programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office and Bechtel Nevada's partnership with the Clark County School District's Focus School Program.



Focus School supply drive a success

by Judith Lacuadra

This year's back to school supply drive, benefitting Bechtel Nevada's Focus School partners, was a success. Employees generously donated much needed school supplies to students at Kit Carson Elementary School and Jim Bridger Junior High School.

Collection bins were loaded with backpacks, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, binders, scissors, calculators, dictionaries, and paper. Employees donated 22,500 sheets of paper, 1,572 crayons, 804 pencils, 700 sheets of construction paper, 576 pens, 480 colored pencils, 420 colored markers, 240 erasers, 96 glue sticks, 80 water color sets, 74 notebooks, 58 rulers, 30 protractors, 28 pocket folders, 28 new

binders, 16 composition books, 15 pack backs, 12 pairs of scissors, and 5 calculators. The collected supplies were delivered to the schools and presented to the schools' administrators, who distributed them to awaiting students.

A big "thank you" to the employees who generously donated school supplies to this year's drive. The principals, teachers, and students at both schools greatly appreciate the supplies and continued support provided by Bechtel Nevada employees.

There is always a need for school supplies. As new students enroll at both schools, school supplies needed are throughout the school year. If you want to donate school supplies and/or backpacks, contact **Linda Middaugh, Bechtel Nevada (702-295-6489)**.

Retirements

Bobbie McClure, NNSA/NV
Robert Henning, Bechtel Nevada
Andres Veloso, NNSA/NV

In Memory

Larry Hatcher, Bechtel Nevada

Simple changes in work briefings for maximum benefit

by Dawn Starrett

Sometimes the best lessons to learn are those that require a simple shift in your thinking to increase safety.

The Duane Arnold Energy Center has a rather unique approach they call "reverse pre-job briefings." This approach is a role-reversal exercise where the worker is held responsible for ensuring that all preparations are made (e.g., reading and understanding the work order, ensuring equipment tags are hung, tools gathered, and even gathering previous operating experiences). The worker then leads the pre-job briefing to describe their understanding of the assigned work to their supervisor who is in a position to assess the readiness of the worker on such issues as potential stumbling blocks, exit strategies if a problem develops, etc.

The process puts the worker in an active rather than passive role and ensures their engagement in the assigned work. The process is not labor intensive and results in an overall improvement in human performance.

If you have an example of when a simple change was used to make a big difference in the safety culture of your organization, submit a lessons learned to your organization's lessons learned point of contact or **Dawn Starrett, the site lessons learned coordinator (702-295-4297)**.

Face-to-Face



Name: Spencer Bush

Company: WSI-Nevada

Job Title: Fitness Coordinator

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SITELINES

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