NNSA reorganizes

by Nancy Tufano

In an effort to improve, strengthen, and better integrate the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), NNSA administrator **John Gordon** announced a restructuring of the administration and its field offices. The new organization model establishes roles and responsibilities for headquarters, field offices, and contractors. The reorganization, announced in February 2002, will eliminate two federal field management layers, resulting in contractors reporting to Gordon through site offices.

The reorganization provides site offices with decision making authority, such as contract and management oversight, formerly a responsibility of headquarters. This restructuring moves key decision-making closer to the field where the work is actually completed. Contractor expectations are tailored to each site, resulting in site-driven deliverables and milestones. Administrator Gordon commented, "Contractors will be given more clear

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The NNSA new organization field structure.

Beryllium sampling continues

by Kurt Arnold

After an employee, who currently works in the North Las Vegas B-1 building, revealed to management a diagnosis of chronic beryllium disease, the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Offices (NNSA/NV), Bechtel Nevada, and IT management took immediate steps to inform employees working in the B-1, B-2, and B-3 buildings and started an environmental sampling program.

Laboratory results from more than 1,400 samples confirm the initial belief that there is no risk to employees' health and safety. Ongoing air sampling results continue to indicate that there is **no** detectable beryllium in the air.

Approximately 3 percent of individuals who are exposed to beryllium dust ever develop chronic beryllium disease. For this reason, management felt it was prudent to take extra precautions with a sampling program and a voluntary medical screening option.

"We responded with prompt and thorough sampling to ensure that there were no safety and health risks to workers," said **Ken Powers**, NNSA/NV's deputy manager.

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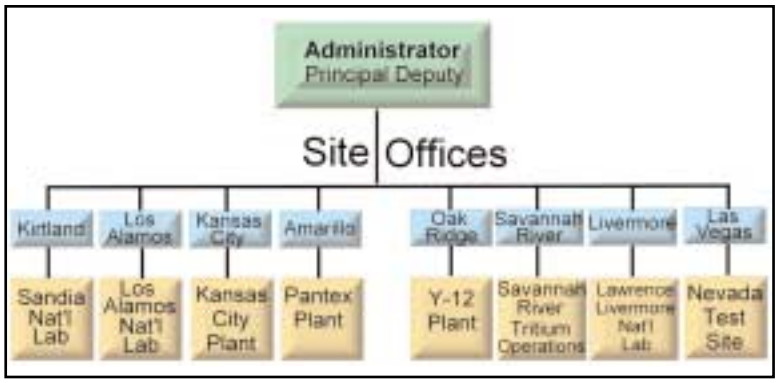
and consistent expectations and will be held accountable for achieving results in a manner that is consistent with our mission. They will also be expected to comply with all environment, safety, and health safeguards and security policies."

NNSA headquarters is now responsible for strategic and program planning, budgeting and oversight of research, development and nonproliferation activities.



The new NNSA contracting lines of accountability.

As a result of this restructuring, superfluous procedure, policy, guidance, orders and other unnecessary directions are eliminated in lieu of commercial standards and third-party certification. In addition, this reorganization clarifies NNSA's authority and responsibility in conjunction with the Department of Energy (DOE) to eliminate duplication of effort on the part of both entities.

NNSA employees are affected by the redefined core functions in several ways. In an effort to reduce duplication of effort, some employees can expect redeployment to other areas, and some employees will receive retraining to perform new core functions. NNSA encourages career development, training and retention of its skilled employees. Current grade levels are not expected to change.

On the reorganization, Gordon summarized, "These changes will help us achieve the goals set by Congress when it established NNSA. By clearly defining roles and responsibilities between NNSA employees at headquarters and in the field we will increase accountability and reduce duplication. We need to make sure that we have people doing the right jobs in the right places to be most effective in carrying out our important national security mission."

Kathy Carlson, NNSA Nevada Operations manager, commented, "I fully support the direction General Gordon is moving NNSA toward. We will have opportunities to continue to build on our future. The Nevada Operations Office is going to do its part to make this new organization a success."

NNSA became a functional organization on March 1, 2000, after Congress established the semi- autonomous administration within the U.S. Department of Energy. The NNSA mission is devoted to ensuring the quality of the national nuclear weapon's stockpile, ensuring international nuclear safety, reducing global danger from weapons of mass destruction, and supporting U.S. leadership in science and technology.

More information about the NNSA reorganization is available at www.nnsa.doe.gov.

Beryllium sampling continues

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"The health and welfare of employees are our top priority," said **Fred Tarantino**, president and general manager of Bechtel Nevada. "Our sampling indicates very trace amounts of beryllium are in B-1 and B-3 buildings, but none of it is detectable in the air and it is all well below occupational safety and Department of Energy action levels," added Tarantino.

"My first concern has been and will always be the health and safety of our associates," commented **Paul Gretsky,** program manager for IT Corporation Las Vegas. "We will continue to work as a team with NNSA/NV and Bechtel Nevada in addressing the concerns of our staff, conducting the near-term monitoring, and providing information on this matter as it becomes available. We encourage anyone who is concerned to speak to Dr. Collet and to take part in the voluntary medical screening program," added Getsky.

There is an area within the B-1 building which once housed a machine shop. Instruments used in diagnostics for weapons tests were fabricated in B-1 and then assembled in the B-3 building. Some of the components contained a copper alloy consisting of 2 percent beryllium. No beryllium is currently being used in the B building complex.

Meetings were held in the B-3 atrium to initially inform the workers of the diagnosis, to explain the sampling program, and to answer questions. Several informational meetings were hosted by **Ken Powers**, **Fred Tarantino**, **Paul Gretsky**, and Dr. **James Collet**, medical director, to

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Beryllium sampling continues

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provide information and answer questions. Employees who were concerned about possible exposure were authorized to use paid administrative leave while the initial samples were taken and the results were evaluated. Electronic messages were sent out to all employees with information similar to that presented in the meetings.

Beryllium awareness training sessions were held to inform employees on how beryllium affects human health. Bechtel Nevada's Occupational Medicine Clinic is offering a voluntary medical surveillance program for employees. If you want to participate in a free medical screening for beryllium, contact the Bechtel Nevada Occupational Medicine Clinic **(702-295-1473)** for an appointment.

Beryllium is a metal that is found in nature, especially in the southern Nevada soil. It is extremely lightweight and hard, is a good conductor of electricity and heat, and is nonmagnetic. These properties make beryllium suitable for many industrial uses, including:

- metal working (pure beryllium, copper and aluminum alloys, jet brake pads, aerospace components);
- ceramic manufacturing (semiconductor chips, ignition modules, crucibles, jet engine blades, rocket covers);
- electronic applications (transistors, heat sinks, x-ray windows);
- atomic energy applications (heat shields, nuclear reactors, nuclear weapons);
- laboratory work (research and development, metallurgy, chemistry);
- extraction (ore and scrap metal);
- dental alloys (crowns, bridges, dental plates);
- and sporting goods (golf clubs, bicycle frames).

Safety Focus

This article highlights the various components that comprise Bechtel Nevada's Construction Safety Program. Over the next several months, a new monthly article will address a different component of Bechtel Nevada's unique Construction Safety Program.

Bechtel Nevada's Construction Safety Program

by Kurt Arnold

Zero accidents. To some this may sound like an unreachable goal, but do not say that to Bechtel Nevada's construction department. To them, reducing accidents to zero is an obtainable goal.

In an aggressive effort to obtain zero accidents, **Cathi Tharin**, Bechtel Nevada's construction department manager, and the construction employees have created a unique safety program. Combining various components from other successful safety programs, Tharin has spearheaded the implementation of a customized safety program tailored to construction and craft workers. The program incorporates a mix of tools designed to heighten the awareness and the stress the importance of safety in every day-to-day work activity. Included in the program is Performance Based Safety Process (PBSP), operating procedures, customized training programs, toolbox text (weekly information packets), badge cards, surveys, and monthly and daily safety meetings.

Providing employees with information in a variety of different ways seems to have significant results. On February 28, 2002, Bechtel Nevada's construction department recognized 100 days without a recordable safety accident. This marks the longest span recorded without an incident in the history of Bechtel Nevada's construction department. As of March 19, 2002, Bechtel Nevada's construction department has worked 120 days without a recordable safety accident.

"This is a great first step in going to zero accidents," commented **Fred Tarantino**, Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager. "I am particularly impressed with the mutual commitment from everyone in construction to drive accidents out of Bechtel Nevada and made this a possibility. I appreciate all the efforts that made this record possible," added Tarantino.

Cathi Tharin attributed the record to "what happens when the entire workforce is committed to and participates in safety. The construction/crafts team is not only involved in safety in their groups, but everywhere. Everyone looks out for one another. Our team is a great example of the outstanding achievement that can result from safe work habits," said Tharin.

Look for next month's article which will highlight Bechtel Nevada's employee-directed Performance Based Safety Process program.

Beryllium experts visit North Las Vegas facility

by Kurt Arnold

Two nationally recognized beryllium experts from the National Jewish Medical and Research Center, met with senior managers from the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations, Bechtel Nevada, and IT Corporation for a full day of consultation. Dr. **John Martyny** and Dr. **Lee Newman** spent Thursday, March 28 reviewing the actions taken following a North Las Vegas facility employee's diagnosis of chronic beryllium disease.

Dr. **Lee Newman** is a medical doctor, pulmonologist, and professor of medicine, preventive medicine, and biometrics at the University of Medicine of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Newman has been involved in beryllium research since 1984; he is one of the leading experts on beryllium disease. He was instrumental in developing the beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test used as a screen for beryllium sensitization. Dr. Newman is following a group of more than 100 beryllium disease and beryllium-sensitized patients in his clinic to study the natural history of beryllium disease. He consults extensively with the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors and many large and small corporations in designing beryllium medical surveillance programs.

John Martyny, Ph.D. and a certified industrial hygienist, has extensive experience working with beryllium-using facilities and with state-of-the-art beryllium monitoring methods. Dr. Martyny has evaluated historical beryllium monitoring data in numerous plants, including Rocky Flats in Colorado. He provides ongoing industrial hygiene consultation to the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors, machining companies, and ceramics plants on their beryllium exposure issues. Dr. Martyny conducts research on beryllium particle size and its chemical properties.

During their visit to the North Las Vegas B Complex, Dr. Martyny and Dr. Newman spent some time with the *SiteLines* editorial staff and answered questions. Below is a transcript of that interview.

Can you tell us about your backgrounds?

Dr. Newman: I have spent the last 18 years of my professional life focusing exclusively on beryllium and its health hazards. I have been conducting research on beryllium for the last 18 years. I take care of more people with chronic beryllium disease than any other doctor, with the exception of one doctor in Kazakhstan. I have seen more patients with beryllium disease and beryllium sensitization than anyone else. I take care of them personally as well as research. These are my patients and they are what pushes me on to try to work with others to prevent disease from happening because I get to see the consequences.

Dr. Martyny: I started working with beryllium in the mid-1980s at Rocky Flats. As an industrial hygienist I have been in beryllium facilities, a lot of the big facilities and some "mom-and-pop" facilities throughout the United States and Canada, to try to reduce exposures. It has enabled me to look at a lot of different types of facilities, a lot of different types of uses for beryllium. It gives me a lot of information on things that can be done, things that should be done, and some cases, things that are not being done. This gives me a perspective that a lot of people do not have. Industrial hygienists usually are in one building or one facility.

Would you feel safe working in the B buildings?

Dr. Martyny: Yes.

Dr. Newman: Yes.

Do you think we used the right procedures in collecting the samples? Is it the best way?

Dr. Martyny: Yes. We were talking earlier about how the samples needed to be taken. I think how the samples have been taken are good. What you always do is quickly take as many samples that you can to give yourself an idea of what you have. Then you can step back and say "what about taking a few more samples here." I think that you are in that stage right now. We have a few other methodologies that we will suggest to help define the problem a little more.

Dr. Newman: The right first steps have been taken and they have been taken very quickly. We are going to make a few suggestions about some other things that you might want to do. Part of having us here is to get everyone together in a room and look at the data together and start talking about what is the next direction that ought to be taken.

Dr. Martyny: What you did is exactly what we would end up doing and what we would suggest in most facilities. I'm not sure that most facilities would have reacted as fast as you did, a lot of them would have spent more time on air samples. You were very appropriate in your swipe samples. I think that you can get more information that way (with swipe samples).

Dr. Newman: The elements were all there of what we would have done. We would have recommended that there were education sessions held right away, the collection of data, a medical surveillance program broadly offered, and ongoing communications about the results of the sampling. What we heard today was that all those elements were in place.

One of the things that both struck Dr. Newman and Dr. Martyny was how, in a relative short period of time, a large amount of effort went into getting sampling done. They were struck by how many samples were obtained in just a matter of a few weeks. They commented there were a few companies that even in six months time had as much information as we had in days. Most of our sampling started around March 7, so to get as many samples as we did they found to be very commendable.

Following Drs. Martyny and Newman discussions with senior management and tour of the B complex, they expect to have a written report returned to senior management in the next few weeks (mid-April). Employees can expect to hear the results of that report. In the meantime, Dr. Newman encourages employees in the B complex to participate in the medical surveillance program.

If you are interested in participating in the medical surveillance program, contact the **Bechtel Nevada Occupational Medicine Clinic (702-295-1473)** for an appointment.

Bechtel Nevada welcomes six new black belts

by Jennifer Morton

No, Bechtel Nevada does not have a martial arts team. "Black Belts" are leaders in a process improvement approach known as Six Sigma. The following individuals: **Jerry Bonn**, **Steve Cruz, Lorraine Marshall**, **Craig Mercadante**, **Amy Moore** and **Jan Renfro** were selected to become Bechtel Nevada's newest black belts.

These black belts, who were chosen from various disciplines, are receiving training to enable them to lead new project improvement programs (PIP). PIPs are estimated to save the company more than $100,000 by eliminating defects, reducing production and development costs, reducing cycle times and inventory levels — thus improving customer satisfaction.

These six individuals have begun an extensive five-month training process. During this time each new black belt will have an initial PIP project for the Six Sigma program. With the help of yellow belts, or process owners, they will map and measure the project and perform statistical analyses to monitor performance. Once the goals have been reached and sustained, the project is then turned over to the champion, or executer, who will continue to monitor the results.

Jerry Bonn has more than 14 years of environmental experience, with the last eight years at the Nevada Test Site. He is heading the Borehole Management PIP. The goal of this project is to increase the efficiency of the borehole management program by 10 percent. The PIP yellow belt is **Tom Fitzmaurice**; **Ken Ortego** and **Tom Mulkey** are the champions.

Stephen Cruz was a nuclear-trained officer with the U.S. Navy before joining Bechtel Nevada in 1990. Since 1989, he has worked as a project and design engineer. Cruz is heading the Personnel Dosimetry PIP. The goal of this project is to reduce the number of dosimeters issued to individuals from 2,187 per quarter to 500 per quarter by March 31, 2003. The PIP yellow belt is **Mark McMahon**; **Mike Sullivan** is the champion.

photo by Kurt Arnold

*Bechtel Nevada's newest black belts candidates discuss a project improvement program (PIP). Pictured from left to right are **Lorraine Marshall**, **Jerry Bonn**, **Steve Cruz, Jan Renfro, Amy Moore,** and **Craig Mercadante**.*

Lorraine Marshall, who has 18 years of experience in information services, is heading the Radiation Control Technicians (RCTs) Utilization PIP. The goal for this project is to increase the efficiency of providing RCT support to technical activities and projects by 70 percent. The PIP yellow belt is **Robert Augdahl; Gordon Macleod** is the champion.

Craig Mercadante has more than 18 years of experience in property management and is heading the Measuring and Test Equipment (M&TE) Utilization Process. The goal of this project is to determine and reduce the amount of duplicate and outdated M&TE by 50 percent. The PIP yellow belt is **Dick Schlueter**; **John Kamel** is the champion.

Amy Moore, who has more than 10 years of experience in project controls, cost and scheduling, waste management, defense and civil projects, and stockpile stewardship is heading the Software/ Hardware Utilization PIP. The goal of this project is to reduce the number of redundant instances of software and hardware among Bechtel Nevada computer users. The PIP yellow belts for her group are **Andy Ashbaugh** and **Cindy Mathews**; **David Belangia** is the champion.

Jan Renfro has been with Bechtel Nevada for more than 16 years working primarily in engineering and project management. She is heading the PC Leasing PIP. The goal of this project is to improve Bechtel Nevada's ability to control the PC environment by improving service to Bechtel Nevada PC clients, decreasing the amount of time to resolve trouble calls, and decreasing the overall cost of the current leasing program by 10 to 15 percent. The two yellow belts for this PIP are **Andy Ashbaugh** and **Karen Flurer**. The champion of the group is **David Belangia**.

Bechtel Nevada has participated in the Six Sigma program for more than a year now.

Steve Metta, the Six Sigma Site deployment champion, is very excited about building a strong program. "It takes every individual to help build this program," commended Metta. "Six Sigma provides efficiency to ensure the success of Nevada Test Site," he added.

Watch for a featured monthly article addressing the PIPs listed above.

If you have any questions about Six Sigma or have any suggestions for PIP improvement, contact **Steve Metta (702-295-2571)**.

NTS activities highlighted at Waste Management Conference

by Angela Ramsey

In late February, Tucson, Arizona hosted the 28th Annual Waste Management Symposium. The conference is organized in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the International Atomic Energy Agency and provides a unique opportunity for more than 2,000 international attendees to present papers, exchange ideas, and take advantage of a wide array of exhibits and information booths.

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) sponsored a booth featuring models of the Areas 3 and 5 Radioactive Waste Management Sites as well as displays depicting various Nevada Test Site (NTS) projects. The booth also featured project videos as well as an interactive CD-ROM tour of NTS radioactive waste management facilities.

More than 600 technical papers are typically presented at the conference. This year, NNSA/NV gave several papers describing both waste management and environmental restoration activities at the NTS. In one discussion, **Carl Gertz**, assistant manager for environmental management, highlighted the role that the NTS plays in the nation's approach to radioactive waste management and its commitment to continuing to serve as a resource to the DOE complex as a whole. He also touched on the success of the Industrial Sites Project as well as the work conducted on Amchitka Island, Alaska.

Remediation efforts on Amchitka Island were also the subject of a paper presented by **Mike Giblin**, NNSA/NV, and **Dave Stahl**, IT Corporation. Their paper provided details about the Amchitka project in a special lessons-learned approach entitled *Surface Remediation in the Aleutians: A Case Study of Amchitka Island.* In another briefing, NNSA/NV representatives discussed the importance of computer models and their value as time-predictive tools for radionuclide migration at low-level waste disposal sites.

For many NNSA/NV professionals, the annual symposium is a critical venue for exchanging current information regarding waste management and the waste management industry. The conference provides a forum to share successes as well as share lessons learned with other technical professionals.

Open House: Nevada Test Site Truck Driver School

by La Tomya Glass

For the second year the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Southern Nevada Teamster 631 Construction Industry Training Trust hosted an open house for the Nevada Test Site Truck Driver School. The open house included a demonstration behind the Free Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment Facility at the Nevada Test Site.

Established with a $1.2 million grant from U.S. Department of Energy to the Teamsters Local 631, a total of 46 students has passed the Commercial Driving Licence (CDL) exam and has gone on to hold jobs in the trucking industry. The goal of the training school is to provide new skills for workers to fill available certified driver jobs on the test site and in the private sector.

Training begins with a five-week course to prepare students to successfully pass the CDL. Additional one week courses consist of training skills on the water truck/water pull, truck mounted crane, and material haul and forklift.

photo by Mary Scodwell

Students along with their instructors from the Teamsters Local 631 demonstrate the hands-ons training taught at the school located at the Nevada Test Site.

Primary consideration for training is given to former test site employees. Union membership is not a requirement to receive this training. For more information, contact the **Southern Nevada Teamster 631 Training Center (702-651-0344)**.

Black History Essay Contest winners

by La Tomya Glass

"The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line-the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea." W.E.B. DuBois, 1903

In February, during the Black History Month celebration, high school students had an opportunity to discuss this issue and consider its relevance in the 21st century. The essay contest, "The Color Line Revisited, is Racism Dead?" was open to students at Cheyenne High School.

First place essay entitled "Racism: Will it Ever be Over?" by Victoria Zblewski won a $100 U.S. Savings Bond; placing second was Amanda Duplechin, who received a $50 U.S. Savings Bond, and a $25 U.S. Savings Bond went to third place winner, Marisela Alejandre.

The essay contest was sponsored by NNSA/NV's Black Employees Program and Sun City Desert Chapter of Blacks In Government.

photo by Vince Stern

The essay winners from Cheyenne High School (front row, from left,) Victoria Zblewski, Amanda Duplechin, and Marisela Alejandre pose with ***Carol Shelton*** *(back row, left), NNSA/NV's black employees program manager and* ***Annette Hill****, NNSA/NV's program manager, office of quality leadership and diversity.*

Lessons Learned

The nature of recurring accidents

by Dawn Starrett

Why don't we learn from our mistakes? Why do we see the same kinds of lessons learned over and over? The answer is that we are not learning our lesson. The real reasons are often more difficult to determine.

When an incident occurs, there is an initial interest. Following an incident, positive results are often the outcome of lessons learned. Mitigation efforts are often accomplished quickly in response to managerial concern. Procedures are changed and updated, portions of training courses modified to reflect changes in desirable behavior, and staff meeting topics may center on the incident and what steps are taken to prevent any recurrences.

Often with positive outcomes, follow some negative ones. As workers retire or transfer and are replaced with new workers there is a period of delay during which tribal knowledge is lost. A new worker or manager may not know the history of task requirements or may have been exposed to different techniques for accomplishing the task. Over time requirements may soften. Procedures that used to say "shall" now say "should." The effect is that safety issues put in place to mitigate recurrences have become optional.

Two lessons learned that continue to resurface include drum lids and cutting of underground cables. Drum lids continue to appear on the lessons learned submitted even though they have been a common theme in the last several years. The Department of Energy's EH Office of Performance Assessment and Analysis is also concerned that the frequency of cutting underground cables has not decreased in the past two years, and in fact the trend in late 2001 was one of increasing event frequency.

The challenge for organizations is how to preserve historical information to ensure it is used to continually improve operations. Using lesson learned in work plans, pre-job briefings, as part of an indoctrination process and in checklists are a few ways to accomplish this.

If you have other ideas for ensuring lessons learned in the past are used to plan a safer future, contact **Dawn Starrett**, Site Lessons Learned Coordinator **(702-295-4297)**.

Beyond the call

Two Livermore employees assist with local science fair

by Jann Bisterfeldt

Two Bechtel Nevada Livermore Operations employees helped make the 3rd Annual Pleasanton Science Fun Fair an overwhelming success. **Leisa Wyatt-Russell** and **Louis Ruocco** volunteered as interviewers and assisted as judges for the science fair entries.

"We reinforced the pride of students in their individual effort and allowed them to have fun as well as gain experience and confidence while presenting their projects," commended Ruocco. "We also provided feedback regarding items such as visual presentation, scientific proof of concept, and creativity. It was a very rewarding experience and I would not mind doing it again next year," he added.

The fair's interviewer contact, Linda Truax, praised the volunteer interviewers, "It's very exciting for these children to have professionals take the time to interview them and provide another positive role model in their life."

BN receives SBA award

by Kurt Arnold

The Small Business Administration recently presented Bechtel Nevada's procurement department with its second highest award, the Award of Distinction. **Fred Tarantino**, Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager, accepted the octagonal glass award on behalf of Bechtel Nevada.

photo by Kurt Arnold

Attending the award presentation is (back row, from left) ***Hank Ramirez****, Nevada Procurement Center representative,* ***Marv Wollin****, Bechtel Nevada's vice president and assistant manager, business systems;* ***Doris Burnett****, Bechtel Nevada's manager, procurement;* ***Fred Tarantino****, Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager;* ***John Scott****, Nevada district director, Small Business Administration; (front row)* ***Pat Gill****, Bechtel Nevada's small business liaison officer; and* ***Melody Bell****, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office's director, contracts management division.*

"Winning this award is truly an honor," said Tarantino after accepting the award. "This Award of Distinction clearly demonstrates Bechtel Nevada's procurement department's commitment and hard work to the small business subcontracting program. It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of Bechtel Nevada and the procurement department," said Tarantino.

The award recognizes large Federal contractors that have exceptional small business subcontracting programs. The award also commends **Pat Gill**, Bechtel Nevada's small business liaison officer, for her demonstrated exceptionally strong support of Bechtel Nevada's small business program and her significant role in promoting opportunities for small businesses with Bechtel Nevada. Businesses receiving the Award of Distinction are eligible for the Small Business Administration's prestigious Dwight D. Eisenhower Award of Excellence.

In the next issue of *SiteLines*...

* Field modifications can increase risk of injury
* Classification oversight review
* Which items are recycled?

Partnering for Education

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.

photo by Judith Ingham

***Tonja Patton**, Bechtel Nevada, reads to a class of Kit Carson Elementary School students during Nevada Reading Week.*

Nevada Reading Week at Kit Carson ES

by Judith Lacuadra

Nevada Reading Week was enjoyed by Bechtel Nevada volunteers and students at Kit Carson Elementary School, one of Bechtel Nevada's Focus School partners. Nevada Reading Week was started in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2. The program is designed to promote reading and literacy within local elementary schools. Schools invite special guests to tell or read stories to classes and allow students to ask questions about the significance of the book/story. Volunteer readers either bring along their favorite book or borrow one from the school's library.

Employees from Bechtel Nevada volunteered not only their time, but their enthusiasm, and their joy of reading. Volunteers read their books with the children gathered around them on the floor, listening eagerly to every word, laughing at all the funny parts, and completely enraptured in the stories. They contributed to the stories by asking questions and begged the readers to return and read to them again.

A big "thank you" to the employees who participated in this wonderful program and made it a very special week for the children. The readers included **Kurt Arnold, Carrie Booker-Johnson, Doug Clark, Patti Goin, Mike Izzard, Judith Lacuadra, Robert McCook, Tonja Patton** and **Alice Shillock**.

Nevada Reading Week promotes student literacy

by Kirsten Kellogg

Green Eggs and Ham
Cat in the Hat
How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Dr. Seuss books are always a favorite with children, and Nevada Reading Week honors the man behind those classics. Each year, the first week of March is designated as Nevada Reading Week to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The week is designed to promote reading and literacy in local elementary schools.

Employees from the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) and its contractor staff supported Nevada Reading Week by volunteering to read to classes at Quannah McCall Elementary School. **Denise Ashurst**, NNSA/NV; **Connie Barricks**, NNSA/NV; **Melody Bell**, NNSA/NV; **Elizabeth Donnelly**, NNSA/NV; **Angela Gilmer**, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, **Vicki Parker**, NNSA/NV; **Linda Schmith**, NNSA/NV; and **Lee Stevens**, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc., each spent half-an-hour reading at the school and were given certificates of appreciation for their time.

Which came first, "change" or "training?"

by Phil Worley

We have all heard the question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" This question will likely never have an answer. When asked the question which came first, "change" or "training" the answer becomes a little less complicated. For as long as you have worked, you have seen change.

Change is a constant in today's world. Whether at work or at home, there is always change. Although our jobs take up less than half of the day, changes at work can have the greatest affect on our lives. When changes occur at work, there always is some sort of training.

Regardless of your feeling toward training, it is a necessary part of our life. Training is nothing more than a communication tool, which if used properly, can provide important information to aid you in your job.

In the most recent years, radiological training has changed a lot. Training courses offered now include Radiological Worker (I and II), General Employee Radiological Training (GERT), Radiological Control Technician training, job specific, and area specific training. All of these training courses were a result of change due to changes in regulation, changes in understanding or knowledge, or change due to litigation. In order to comply with recent laws, such as Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 835, it is important to understand that the law has certain requirements associated with radiological training.

The foremost legal requirement is employees who are going to receive occupational exposure to ionizing radiation will have a certain level of radiological training commensurate with their work requirements. The level of training is associated with risk of and the potential for exposure to ionizing radiation. Bechtel Nevada's health physics department radiological staff has made it very simple to identify and determine.

Reading, understanding and complying with the radiological signs and postings will keep you safe, avert potential over-exposures, contamination issues, or possible fines. Radiological training is one is a result of regulation and/or litigation. To avoid violating one of the associated laws regarding training, it is important to understand several rules, a few

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MILESTONES

Bechtel Nevada

25 years	*Nevada Test Site* - **Calvin Townsend**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Robert Malone**
20 years	*Las Vegas* - **Maryetta Brewer, David Colton, Brenda Moore**; *Nevada Test Site* - **J. C. Bradshaw, Richard Cruise, Mary Drake, Michele Freevol**
15 years	*Las Vegas* - **Michelle Ashworth, Carolyn Logan**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Sharon Banta**; *Livermore Operations* - **Charles Cadwalader**
10 years	*Las Vegas* - **Angela Anderson, Vicki Baker, Kathleen Banninger, Thomas McKissack, Sally Perea, Carlos Ramirez, Fred Williams**
5 years	*Nevada Test Site* - **Glenn Hicks, Mark MacDonald, James Przybylski, Larry Segner**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Jesus Arellano**
New Hires	*Las Vegas* - **Russell Brill, Michael Canavan, Carol Hyman, Kurt Jahn, Donald Kuhl, David Lunder, Stephen Mitchell, Lance Strandboge, Joshua Wiklund**; *Nevada Test Site* - **David Cooper, James Reilly, Jr.**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Scott Borror, Morris Kaufman**; *Livermore Operations* - **Ruben Guzman, Gabriel Torres, Gary Work**; *RSL - Andrews* - **Peter Heimberg**

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operation Office

25 years	**Charles Montana**
15 years	**Ricky Honaker**
10 years	**Gricel Vega**

Desert Research Institute

10 years	**Anne Dubarton**
5 years	**Daniel Wermers**

IT Group

10 years	**Margaret Sullivan**
5 years	**Douglas Switzer**

SCI

20 years	**Mary Sue Browning, Margaret Taylor**

US Geological Survey, WRD

30 years	**Gary Russell**

— Compiled by Tamiko Brown

Which came first, "change" or "training?"

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signs and postings, and how they relate to training.

There are four levels of radiological training. They are from least to greatest:

- No Radiological Training – General Employee Training (GET)
- General Employee Radiological Training (GERT)
- Radiological Worker I
- Radiological Worker II

Each of these levels of training is commensurate with a distinct and legal limit of access to radiological areas. There are signs and postings associated with each level. Review the table below and compare the level of training with the associated sign and posting, familiarizing yourself with the areas that may are accessed with a particular level of training.

This is a very simple way to look at some of the aspects of radiological training. Noncompliance with these types of training and posting issues is the most violated training requirement across the NNSA and DOE complex. If you were to violate one of the requirements, potential Price Anderson Amendment Act (PAAA) action could result, and you may have inadvertently been exposed, at some level, to ionizing radiation.

When in doubt, **ask**! Contact one of the radiological professionals in your area (radiological control technicians or health physicists). Above all, remain safe, compliant with the law and our procedures, and not become the cause of "change" or more "training."

For additional information, contact **Phil Worley, BN (702-295-2704)**.

SIGN/POSTING	**MINIMUM TRAINING**	***KEEP OUT!* – NO ENTRY WITHOUT AN ESCORT* OR PROPER TRAINING**
Controlled Area, Radioactive Material Area, Underground Radioactive Material Area (< 100 mrem/year)	GERT or qualified Escort	None or expired Radiological Training
Radioactive Material Area, Underground Radioactive Material Area (> 100 mrem/year)	GERT & Radiological Worker I or qualified Escort	None or expired Radiological Training
Radiation Area	GERT & Radiological Worker I or qualified Escort	No/expired Radiological Training
High Radiation Area	GERT & Radiological Worker II, or (Radiological Worker I and High Radiation Training)	No/expired Radiological Training personnel with only GERT and/or Radiological Worker I without High Radiation Training
Any Contamination, Contaminated Soil, High Contamination or Airborne Radioactive Areas	GERT & Radiological Worker II	No/expired Radiological Training, personnel with only GERT and/or Radiological Worker I
Very High Radiation Area	No amount of training will allow access	NO ONE ALLOWED IN!

**Although there are various types of escorts, this escort is a person that has the appropriate level of training for a particular posted area and is willing to escort a person(s) that does not have the necessary level of training for entry. Escorts are an option and in some cases there are certain advantages. Knowledge of these requirements, as well as many others, will aid you in avoiding training violations and possibly becoming the cause of additional "change."*

Pollution Prevention: It is everyone's responsibility

by Al Karns

Pollution Prevention (P2) is the reduction or elimination of radioactive, hazardous, and solid waste through techniques like source reduction, recycling, and reuse. Most people have the attitude that P2 is a "feel good" program that we can choose to participate in or not. As employees at a federal facility, however, we are **all required** to participate in the P2 program … it is the law.

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable stated, "Adopting P2 practices and techniques often benefit industry by lowering a company's operational and environmental compliance costs. By preventing the generation of waste, P2 can reduce or eliminate long-term liabilities and clean- up costs. Disposal costs are reduced when the volume of waste is decreased. This can also lead to a reduction in workplace exposures to hazardous materials which can affect workers' health and hence, their productivity."

One of the main driving forces defining our responsibilities in P2 is Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS). The ISMS Program is the full inclusion and integration of Environment, Safety, and Health (ES&H) into the totality of work, such that it is an integral part of the whole – not a stand-alone program.

ISMS requires federal agencies and federal contractors/laboratories to "ensure that management of ES&H functions and activities becomes an integral but visible part of the work planning and execution processes." It also defines safety as "…encompassing environment, safety and health**,** including Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization." ISMS requires "…line management be responsible for the protection of employees, the public, and the environment," "…resources be allocated to address ES&H programmatic and operational considerations," and that "…protecting employees, the public, and the environment are a priority whenever activities are planned and performed."

Just as ISMS requires us to evaluate the safety hazards of our jobs, it also requires each of us to evaluate our jobs for potential P2/waste minimization possibilities. Examples of waste minimization include:

- If you work with hazardous or toxic chemicals, look for substitutes that are less/non hazardous. For instance, there are many nonhazardous citrus-based solvents on the market today that work just as well as the hazardous organic solvents we are used to working with.
- If you have usable items you no longer have a use for, contact the material exchange program representative, **Dodie Haworth (702-295-0656)**. Chances are that someone can use it.
- Recyclable paper makes up a very large percentage of the waste generated at all locations. There are numerous ways we can all reduce the waste paper we generate. Some examples are:
  - When copying, make double-sided copies.
  - Put two or more slides on each page of your presentation.
  - Read and edit the electronic file of your document rather than printing a hard copy.
  - Use the backs of used paper from your desktop recycle containers as scratch paper instead of using new sheets of paper.
- Reuse plastic water bottles instead of buying new ones each time.
- Bring lunches in reusable containers instead of paper or plastic bags.
- If you generate recyclable waste, make sure it is placed in the appropriate recycle bins, not the trash containers. Recycle Centers are conveniently located throughout most buildings. Desktop recycle containers are available by calling **702-295-0656** or **702-295-5689**.

If you have questions about the Pollution Prevention program, contact **Victoria Davis, NNSA/NV (702-295-2770)** or **Al Karns, BN (702-295-5689)**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10
University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Earth Day. This year's theme is "Keeping Our World Together." UNLV campus mall. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Earth Day is an environmental education event for children in grades kindergarten through 12th. Public is invited. Free admission. Contact **Marianne Carpenter, UNLV Chairperson (702-798-2510)**.

April 16 (11:30 a.m., repeated at 12:15 p.m.)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: " Teapot." Great Basin Room (A-107), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

April 18
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)**.

April 20
EcoJam 2002. Sunset Park, Area F (Sunset Road and Eastern Avenue). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EcoJam is a family event featuring environmental exhibits, children's' activities, and live entertainment. Free to the public. Contact **Clark County Parks and Recreation (702-455- 8200)**.

April 20-21
Challenge Cup Relay. The 120- mile 20 stage foot race is the largest and most unique law enforcement race in the world. Starting in Baker, Calif. and finishing in Las Vegas, Nev., this highly competitive event is to promote camaraderie, physical fitness, pride, and teamwork. Contact **Richard Gomez, WSI (702-295-6255).**

April 23
Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE) meeting. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Clark County Government Center, Pueblo Room, Las Vegas, Nev. Non-members are welcome. RSVP to **John Steiger (702-295-3804)** or via e-mail (john_steiger@ymp.gov).

April 25
Take/Bring Your Child(ren) to Work Day. Contact **Tamiko Brown, BN (702-295-2207)**, **Heather Emmons, IT (702-295-2928), Nancy Harkess, NNSA/NV (702-295-4652)**, or **Kristen Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821), Helen Stolz, Navarro & Associates (702-295-1873), Joyce Curlee, PAI (702-295-0710), Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552),** or **Tamara Collins-Culbertson, SCI (702-295-2732)**, or **Sheril Hamlin, WSI (702-295-0804).**

May 1
Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836)**.

May 29 (11:30 a.m., repeated at 12:15 p.m.)(DATE AND ROOM CHANGE)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: " Plumbbob." Sedan Room (A-110), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

May 29
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)**.

June 5
Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836)**.

June 20
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)**.

June 26 (11:30 a.m., repeated at 12:15 p.m.)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: " Hardtack." Great Basin Room (A-106), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

July 24 (11:30 a.m., repeated at 12:15 p.m.)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: " Buster - Jangle [Part I]." Great Basin Room (A-106), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

July 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)**.

August 21
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)**.

September 24
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

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

April 4-6
2002 ASCE Structures Congress & Exposition, "Performance of Structures, from Research to Design," Denver Marriott City Center Hotel, Denver, Colo. For additional information, contact Dr. **Finley Charney**, Chairman, Structures Congress 2002 (fcharney@schnabel-eng.com).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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April 29 - May 2
Ninth International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 2002). Co-hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and Bechtel Nevada's Special Technologies Laboratory. Radisson Hotel-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, Calif. For additional information, visit GPR 2002's web site (www.ece.ucsb.edu/gpr2002) or via e-mail (gpr2002@nv.doe.gov).

May 3-6
U.S. Department of Energy's 2002 National Science Bowl Competition. National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Md. For additional information visit www.scied.science.doe.gov/nsb/default.htm.

May 19-24
Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (CLEO)/Quantum Electronics and Laser Science (QELS) Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, Calif. For additional information, contact **Conference Manager (202-416-1907)** or visit www.osa.org/CLEO.

June 9-12
Safety 2002 "Advancing the EH&S Profession." Opryland Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn. For additional information, visit American Society of Safety Engineers' (ASSE) web site (www.asse.org/annual_conf_main_text.html).

June 9-13
American Nuclear Society's 2002 Annual Meeting, "The Revival of the Nuclear Power Option." The Westin Diplomat Hotel, Hollywood, Fla. For additional information visit ANS's web-site (www.ans.org/meetings/annual/).

June 16-20
Health Physics Society's 47th Annual Meeting. Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Fla. For additional information visit HPS' website (www.hps.org/newsandevents/hpsconferences.html).

May is:

SITELINES

Published monthly for all members of the NNSA/NV family.
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Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs
Submit articles or ideas to the editor at 702-295-5792 or M/S NLV 106.

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