

ON THE PLATEAU



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PLUTONIUM FINISHING PLANT CLOSURE TEAM ACHIEVES SAFETY MILESTONES

The Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) Closure Project team is making progress each day and doing it safely. The team of more than 700 people recently achieved 1 million hours without a days-away/restricted-time injury. They also hit another milestone in their project safety challenge by working 120 days without a recordable injury or Occurrence Reporting and Processing System reportable event in several categories.

In total, the PFP team has worked:

- ✓ 1.5 million hours without a lost-time injury
- ✓ 1.2 million hours without a days-away/restricted-time injury
- ✓ 1 million hours without a recordable injury.

But safety isn't the only thing the PFP team does well. They have removed 152 gloveboxes from the facility, more than 1,200 feet of process vacuum piping, nearly 500 feet of process transfer line and nearly three miles of asbestos. For more on PFP's accomplishments, see page 5.



Plutonium Finishing Plant Team
CONGRATULATIONS!
1 MILLION
 HOURS WITHOUT
 A DART INJURY!

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Shipments reducing on-site waste inventory

The Waste and Fuels Management Project (W&FMP) is progressing in the removal of legacy waste and fuels from the Hanford Site, completing two important shipping targets during the past two months.

FY11 goal met for remote-handled transuranic waste

In March, the W&FMP waste retrieval team achieved and surpassed the Recovery Act Key Performance Parameter to retrieve 50 cubic meters of “remote-handled transuranic” waste by the end of fiscal year 2011. The team has retrieved and shipped 72 cubic meters of the waste to a treatment, storage or disposal facility.

The waste was removed from underground storage trenches, where it has resided — in boxes, drums and other configurations — since the 1970s. Transuranic, or TRU, refers to elements with higher atomic numbers than uranium on the periodic table and is waste that requires specific treatment and disposal. Remote-handled TRU waste has a higher dose rate and requires additional

radiation controls such as time, distance and shielding for worker protection.

“Out here in the trenches, we follow stringent safety requirements for removing any waste from the trenches.



This waste in particular requires more controls and precautions to remove. We used shielding around the waste containers during the retrieval and shipping processes as well as limiting worker exposure by managing time in proximity,” said Todd Pierce, project engineer.

Reactive waste shipments complete

In April, the W&FMP completed shipments of reactive waste for recycling. The waste was shipped from the Central Waste Complex (CWC) to IMPACT Services in Tennessee. The shipments were the last of this legacy mixed low-level waste stream from CWC inventory. Historically, the U.S. Department of Energy Complex has had limited treatment capacity for the reactive waste (i.e., sodium metal). Hanford’s contract with IMPACT Services for the recycling of the sodium metal resulted in a cost effective and innovative disposition option. Once the sodium metal is recovered and recycled, the remaining low-level waste residues will be disposed of in Hanford’s Mixed Waste Disposal Units in the low-level burial grounds.

ALARA in action at W&FMP

Waste Retrieval Project personnel are successfully implementing practices to minimize dose to personnel during their work to remove waste from storage at the Hanford Site. In planning and executing work, significant attention is placed on the ALARA basics - time, distance and shielding - in order to get the job done with doses that are As Low As Reasonably Achievable, or ALARA. Applying ALARA principles is part of the Integrated Safety Management System to help reduce potential hazards while performing work. The Waste Retrieval Project’s practices (such as the use of temporary shielding, a low-dose standby area and supplemental electronic dosimetry) will allow W&FMP to reduce its calendar year 2011 ALARA goal and increase worker protection. To find out more about ALARA, visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/RADCON/index.cfm?PageNum=9>.



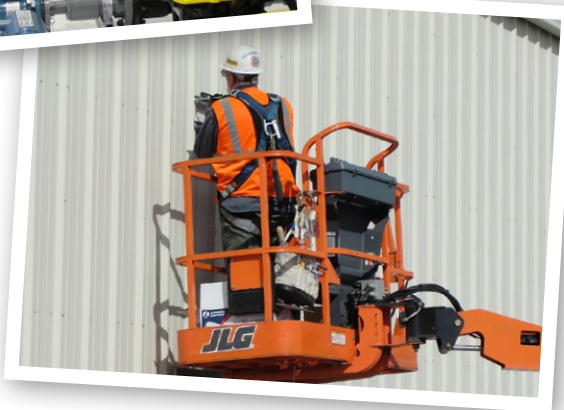
100-HX pump-and-treat construction nears completion

Engineering, Projects and Construction (EPC) forces are putting the finishing touches on the 100-HX pump-and-treat facility in preparation for plant acceptance testing this summer.

A near-replica of the 100-DX pump-and-treat plant that went online at year's end 2010, 100-HX will treat groundwater drawn from 31 extraction wells. After the water is treated

to drinking water quality, it will be returned into the ground through 15 injection wells. The process not only cleans up contaminated groundwater, the injected water forms a barrier that prevents contaminated groundwater from reaching the Columbia River.

“We learned a lot from building 100-DX last year that helped us speed construction of this new facility,” said Marie Bachand, EPC project construction manager. “It’s hard to believe that we were pouring the concrete slab for the plant late last summer and will be turning the facility over for acceptance testing less than a year later.”



Project treats record amount of groundwater

The Soil and Groundwater Remediation Project (S&GRP) is seeing the benefits of the groundwork it’s laid the past year. Now the team is celebrating a project milestone.

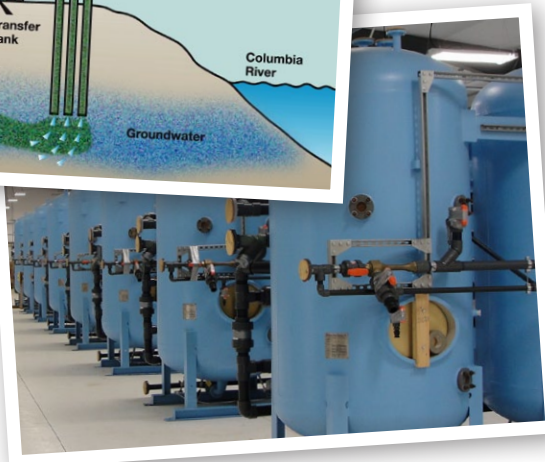
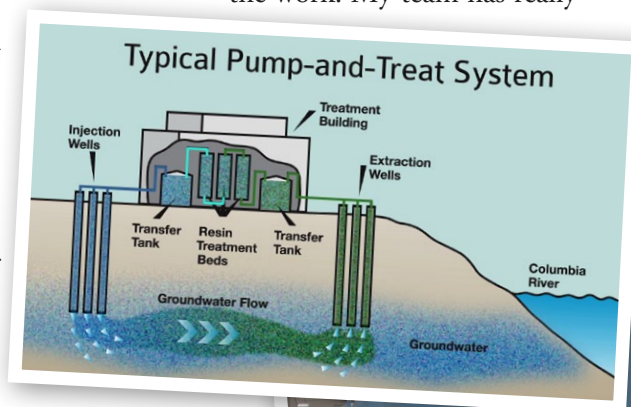
All the pump-and-treat systems combined have treated more than 450 million gallons of contaminated groundwater through March, more than halfway to CHPRC’s fiscal year 2011 goal of treating 700 million gallons by the end of September 2011.

“It’s great to know the amount of treated groundwater is increasing. We are meeting our goals, which means we are protecting the Columbia River,” says Bill Barrett, director of pump-and-treat operations and maintenance.

Last year, S&GRP treated 600 million gallons and as more pump-and-treat facilities go online this year, millions of gallons more will be treated per year. “It’s not only the systems that are doing the work. My team has really

stepped up to the plate to make sure the pump and treats are operating at maximum capacity so I thank my team,” said Barrett.

The number of pump-and-treat systems isn’t the only enhancement to groundwater treatment; S&GRP is also implementing cost savings. At the 100-DX pump-and-treat system a new type of resin is being used that is lasting longer and requiring fewer resin changes. Resin helps remove contaminants from the groundwater. Since the 100-DX pump-and-treat system went online in December of 2010 the system has pumped more than 75 million gallons of groundwater without a single resin change. The system would typically have had to be changed about 36 times.



Glovebox work complete in PFP's Analytical Laboratory

Workers on the PFP Closure Project finished all glovebox removal work in the Analytical Laboratory section of the plant. The laboratory, which once contained 76 gloveboxes and hoods, was used to sample the plutonium product created by the facility's various plutonium process lines.

A total of 75 of the gloveboxes were removed from the facility. One glovebox, which is too tall to move through the doors and corridors, remains inside the laboratory. It has been cleaned out, disconnected from the facility and is ready for removal. When PFP is declared operationally clean, meaning nuclear safety controls can be reduced, the exterior door of the laboratory will be opened to allow its removal.

The 27-room laboratory was operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The PFP team used base funding to remove the first 19 gloveboxes and Recovery Act funding to remove the remaining 57.



100K Area gets new water treatment, ventilation systems

Building new facilities on a project where Job One is tearing the old ones down

It may have seemed counterintuitive — building new facilities on a project where Job One is tearing the old ones down. But from the beginning, the 100K Area Infrastructure Project — a Decommissioning and Demolition (D&D) construction project paid for with Recovery Act funds — was an investment in accelerating the pace of demolition and cleanup along the Columbia River. And for CHPRC’s 100K D&D Project, that investment has been paying off.

A new ventilation system installed in September 2010 has enabled the nuclear chemical operators dispositioning sludge in the 105-KW Spent Fuel Storage Basins to do a large part of their work “off-mask,” increasing productivity while maintaining worker safety.



A new water treatment facility and piping network is now providing fire-protection and potable water for workers at the 100K Area. The capacity of the new system is just 750,000 gallons, just large enough to support current demolition work and the ongoing sludge treatment work that will continue at the K West fuel basins until 2015. Compare that to the 80 million gallons of water-storage capacity that 100K once used for its two fuel-irradiation reactors — that’s footprint reduction!

“It’s just the right size for what we have left to do here,” said D&D Engineering Director Mike Koch. “And the difference in size between the two systems really says it all about where 100K is heading.”

Infrastructure project facilitates demolition and cleanup

The new infrastructure – including a new substation, currently energized and awaiting switchover by site utilities – has allowed demolition to begin this spring on the original 100K water-treatment structures and storage facilities the new infrastructure has replaced, completing the 100K Area’s transformation from a massive production-reactor complex to a rapidly shrinking de-construction site. “Ultimately, it’s been a successful project for one simple reason,” said 100K Manager Max Edington. “It’s allowed us to move forward taking these obsolete facilities down.”



181-KE River Pump House



183-KE Sedimentation Basins
(290,000 square feet or six football fields)



K East and K West Clearwells
(120,000 square feet each)



Workforce Restructuring: Bargaining Unit Self-Select

Bill Engel, Director, Labor Relations

CHPRC and the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) recently reached an agreement allowing some Bargaining Unit members to “self select” from May 16 – June 6.

For those whose applications are approved, separation pay is available. That amounts to one week’s pay for every full year of continuous Hanford service, plus one-quarter of a week’s pay for each additional three months of continuous service at the time of layoff, for a maximum of 20 weeks (Article XXII of the Collective Bargaining Agreement).

The things to note about the self-select program include:

- Applications will be approved by management case-by-case
- Requests won’t be honored if an individual has specialized skills, training, security clearances or some other attribute critical to the CHPRC mission
- Self-selects cannot be granted where “backfills” are necessary
- Approved self-select applications are firm commitments and may not be withdrawn
- HAMTC will not process grievances for self-select applications that are not approved
- Those who self-select will forfeit all seniority and recall rights.

Involuntary force reductions for represented members will take place within each classification based on seniority and ability to do available work (Article XII of the Collective Bargaining Agreement). HAMTC-represented workers will be able to accept available work in a lower-rated classification within their own seniority groups. Those with least seniority will be laid off. Rehiring will be in “reverse order.” If re-employment becomes available, Bargaining Unit members will receive a letter in the mail with a “return receipt” requested. They must report or give satisfactory explanation within two weeks of receiving the letter — otherwise, they will lose their seniority.

Upcoming Events

June 6	Self-Select Program window closes.
June 13	Update - Approved Self-Selects CHPRC announces number of additional reductions
August 1	Worker Adjustment & Retraining Notifications (WARN) are issued. (HAMTC receives notifications as required by the WARN Act.)
August 2-5	Vanguard Educational Seminars
September 19	Involuntary Reduction of Force (IROF) notifications are issued. (For HAMTC, notification of impact is based on Seniority.)
September 29	Involuntary Reduction of Force employees are released

For more information about workforce restructuring, visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/HR/index.cfm?PageNum=10>.

Riders accept challenge to bike to work



From left, a team of riders from CHPRC: Scott Seydel, Al Cawrse, Kris Payne, Stan Bensussen, Karin Nickola, Doug Wertz, Rita Magnaghi, Bill McMahon, Bruce Williams and Alexandra Amonette.

Last month, CHPRC Attorney Stan Bensussen once again issued a Bike-to-Work Challenge for CHPRC employees. "Biking is an investment in your health," said Bensussen. "It's a great way to get in shape and stay in shape."

Read more about the CHPRC Bike-to-Work Challenge, register and log miles at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/Challenge/index.cfm?PageNum=1>. Although the challenge ended May 31, the website will remain active throughout the summer for bikers to track miles. At summer's end, a total amount of greenhouse gas emissions saved will be announced. Information about the June EMS Challenge, "Sharing a government vehicle," will be online at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/EMS/index.cfm?PageNum=29>.

Build with bio-based products

Why not help protect the environment while you build? Green construction products range from paneling and tiles to building finishes. You can purchase bio-based and Energy Star certified finishes that protect your roof and decks from water, mold and ultraviolet rays while limiting your carbon footprint. To find out about these and other bio-based products, visit the Green Catalogue at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/ems/index.cfm?PageNum=30>.

W&FMP safety manager recognized as a local Safety Professional of the Year



Congratulations to Denise Pitts, W&FMP Occupational Safety and Health manager, who was recently named the Safety Professional of the Year for 2011 by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Lower Columbia Basin Chapter. Pitts serves as a secretary on the chapter's executive board. She was nominated by

her manager, Dave Mobley, for her efforts to help keep workers safe on the Waste Retrieval Project. The ASSE is a non-profit professional safety organization committed to occupational safety, health and environmental protection. To find out more about the ASSE Lower Columbia Basin Chapter, visit <http://lowercolumbiabasin.asse.org/index.php>.

YOU'RE INVITED!
TO THE **CH2MHILL** Plateau Remediation Company
2011 3RD ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

PICK UP YOUR TICKETS AT THESE LOCATIONS June 1 - June 17

100 Area		
Kathy Culley	105KW/81	373-0473
Cassy Guinn	MO293/A103B	373-2933
Lora Ketter	MO500/119	373-4467
200 West		
Kristi Morrell	2702/56	373-2268
Judi Bierman	2717/210	373-0941
Chelsea Pardini	2740/D113	373-0130
Melinda Wurz	MO2155/102	373-0034
Lori Derryberry	MO273/1-A	376-6841
Jhannie Tea	MO281/107	373-1205
Jill Blacker	MO644/8	942-6575
200 East		
Lynn Spicer	2753E/A133	373-2068
Marci Venohr	272HV/100A	373-2726
Downtown		
Niki Solis	24205TVCN/Lobby	376-5417
Amanda Roberts	24205TVCN/454	376-3019
Nancy Petersen	24255TVCN/253	376-3165
Mary Cole	Fed Bldg/352D	372-8711

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
June 25, 2011 (11:00 am - 3:00 pm)

- 11:00 Picnic Begins
Fun Zone Open 11-3
- 11:30 John Lehev - Welcome
Food Lines Open
Clowns 11:30-1:30
- 12:30 Prize Drawing
Ice Cream Truck Opens
- 1:00 Prize Drawing
Old-Fashioned Picnic Games Begin 1:00-2:30
Musical Chairs
Hula Hoop Contest
- 1:30 Prize Drawing
- 2:00 FOOD LINES CLOSE
Prize Drawing
- 2:30 Final Prize Drawing
- 3:00 Clean Up

Health & Safety Expo

TRAC Center Pasco



JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June Events

- Hanford Day Off
- Activity, event or deadline
- Holiday

- 8 *Mid-Columbia Leadership Development Association meets Wednesday June 8 at Richland Clarion Hotel. Program includes annual recognition awards banquet and runs 5-8 pm. RSVP to www.mclda.org.*
- 10 *American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Southridge High School Track Contact Lee Finney at rflcolumbiariver@gmail.com for more information.*
- 23 *Hogs & Dogs at 4 pm, Bombing Range Sport Complex, West Richland Contact the West Richland Area Chamber at 509-967-0521 for more info.*
- 25 *3rd Annual CHPRC Family Picnic - Columbia Park Band shell (Kennewick) 11 am – 3 pm with barbecue, raffles, prizes and fun activities for the entire family. Shuttle service available from parking area to the picnic area via The J&S Dreamland Express Train. To volunteer or learn more, contact Monica Daniels at 372.1863 or Monica_J_Daniels@rl.gov.*

July Events

- 4 *Independence Day*



Visit **INSITE** each week for the latest news about the work we are doing at the Hanford Site.



<http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/Communications/index.cfm?PageNum=88>

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