

ON THE



Plateau

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CHPRC's **ON THE Plateau** makes every effort to minimize its effect on the environment while sharing the latest project accomplishments. It is produced to be viewed online, but when printing is desired, the costs are minimized by sharing project and organization news in page-sized blocks.

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Mark Hughey (above), the GOAL program director and manager of Occupational Safety and Industrial Hygiene, talks about driving safely to a packed house at one of April's All-Hands meetings.

Safety Updates Shared at Recent All-Hands Meetings

In April, CHPRC employees attended All-Hands meetings with the vice presidents of their projects. The meetings included videos and presentations on project-wide progress and safety concerns, such as electrical hazards, driving safely and cultural

land awareness and sensitivity. The meetings also included discussions about the new employee incentive program, safety programs and the company's plans for the future.

“The meetings were a great opportunity to share what is going on at our project and company overall and to share our accomplishments and challenges in safety,” said David Del Vecchio, the vice president of the Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project.

To learn more about the safety messages and videos that were presented, visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/Communications/index.cfm?PageNum=78>. ■



CHPRC appreciates the contributions made by the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades

Council (HAMTC) and the Central Washington Building Trades Council and the role played by their safety representatives. This month's safety message – from Mark Whitten – is on page 6.



Dan Cartmell, the vice president of Business Services and Project Controls, describes the incentive program at one of April's All-Hands meetings.

New Incentive Program – Another Way to Share Success

In March, a new employee incentive program was announced. It gives all CHPRC employees and all full-time staff augmentation employees of our 11 pre-selected subcontractors the opportunity to benefit from a job well done.

“The program is intended to encourage employees to continue working safely and efficiently as we continue making progress on cleanup,” said CHPRC President John Lehew. “It’s our employees’ efforts that make our team a success. This program provides a compensable way to link individual and team successes with our safety, environmental and project performance objectives.”

Details about the plan were rolled out at the All-Hands meetings in April. The new program is an extension of the existing CHPRC Rewards and Recognition Program. It will be reviewed and approved by DOE on an annual basis. ■

Employee Incentive Program – More Information

Who can participate in the new employee incentive program?

Employees will share equally in the program whether their job category is Exempt, Salaried Non-Exempt, or Bargaining Unit. Each employee is eligible to earn up to \$4,000, if employed for the entire 12 months of the given fiscal year. Employees who move from one company to another within the PRC maintain full eligibility.

The program has a provision to provide a pro-rata payout to full-time employees employed less than 12 months. The pro-rata provision includes employees on an approved leave of absence; senior management-approved employees who transfer at the request of the company; employees who may become part of a voluntary or involuntary separations program; and employees whose employment may

end due to death, disability, plant injury or retirement.

How does the incentive program work?

The incentive program is self-funded through project efficiencies. Payments will be based on fiscal year company performance and evaluated against 42 performance metrics rated on a green/yellow/red scale established in conjunction with DOE and based on fiscal year activities. To view the FY 2010 performance metrics criteria as well as a summary of our fiscal year-to-date performance and the projected payout, visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/HR/index.cfm?PageNum=165>.

What is your role in the incentive program?

The incentive payments are based on achievements of CHPRC performance:

- Working safely
- Working environmentally compliantly
- Exceeding customer expectations for completing performance goals
- Achieving overall project objectives, such as Integrated Safety Management System/Environmental Management System, Voluntary Protection Program, cost performance and schedule performance.

When will employees receive their rewards?

Award payments, if any, will be included in an eligible employee’s pay no later than the last pay period of the month of December of the year following the annual program performance period.

Nominate Safe Zone Acts Online

Thanks to an online form, it's even easier to make sure coworkers earn the recognition they deserve. Visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/SHSQ/safezone/nominate.cfm>. Then choose from a list of safe acts that have predetermined Safe Zone awards, such as:

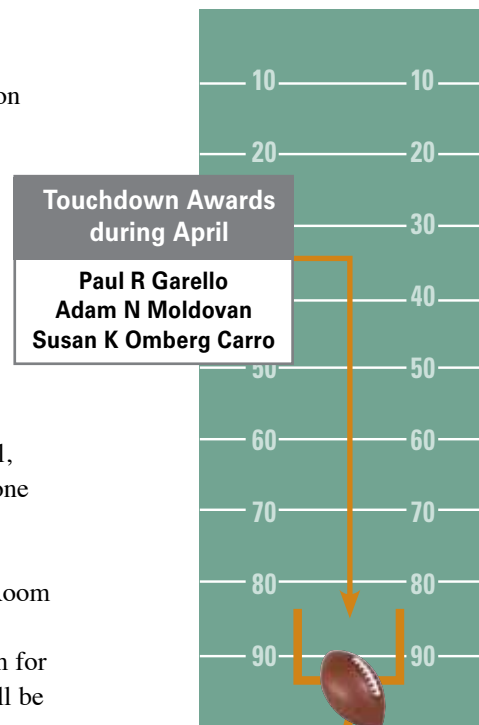
- Attending a monthly safety meeting
- Suggesting a safety topic for a Thinking Target Zero
- Finding a GOAL magnet on your vehicle

If you want to recognize someone for a safe act that is not listed, select "Other" and add your own description. The Safe Zone committee will review the entries to determine the yards awarded.



*Look for it...
You'll soon be able to
check your yards
online!*

Safe acts add up quickly. In April, 409 employees were awarded Safe Zone yards and altogether earned 4,313 yards. If you have accumulated yards, remember to visit the Locker Room at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/SHSQ/index.cfm?pagenum=6> to redeem them for items. New items will be available soon. ■



Environment

EMS Program

New Pollution Prevention Program Kicks Off at Hanford

Earth Day, April 22, marked the first day of a new Pollution Prevention Program at the Hanford Site. A team of Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization workers have placed 230 bins in high traffic areas around the site so workers can begin recycling type 1 (PEET) plastics, especially plastic bottles. Daily collection is planned.

There are two different styles of bins; some look similar to the CI Shred bins and some are slightly smaller, steel-framed units. The bins have been placed in kitchens at numerous buildings and mobile units, often near CI Shred bins.

To learn more, contact your facility representative or call Diane Garrison, Mission Support Alliance Environmental Integration, at 376.5344 or Brian Bergum, Mission Support Alliance Teamsters, at 376.6373. ■

*Let's minimize our plastic waste
by collecting and
recycling our type 1 plastics.*

New bins for recycling plastic bottles and other type 1 plastics are displayed in front of the Stevens Center complex. Since then, workers have moved them to high-traffic areas across the Hanford Site.



The League of American Bicyclists answers some arguments for not riding:

I'm out of shape.

- Ride at an easy pace. In a few months, you'll be in great shape.

It takes too long.

- Trips that are less than three miles are quicker by bike. In the city, five-to-seven mile trips can be shorter or equal to driving.

It's too far.

- Ride to a central location then carpool to work.

My bike is out of shape.

- Take your bike to a reputable bike shop and have it tuned up for commuting.

There aren't any showers at work.

- Ride to work at an easy pace, so you don't have to shower. When you ride home, you can ride at a faster pace.

I have to dress up for work.

- Pack clothes so you can change at work. Or, keep multiple sets of clothing at work.

It's raining.

- Keep dry with fenders for your bike and rain gear for your body.

For more information, visit <http://www.bikeleague.org/>



Green Gazette and Green Team monthly posters are

posted across CHPRC projects to remind workers about biking safety and to encourage participation in the bike-to-work challenge. Learn more about EMS tips and activities at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/EMS/index.cfm?PageNum=1>.

Get Ready to Ride!

It's National Bike-to-Work Month

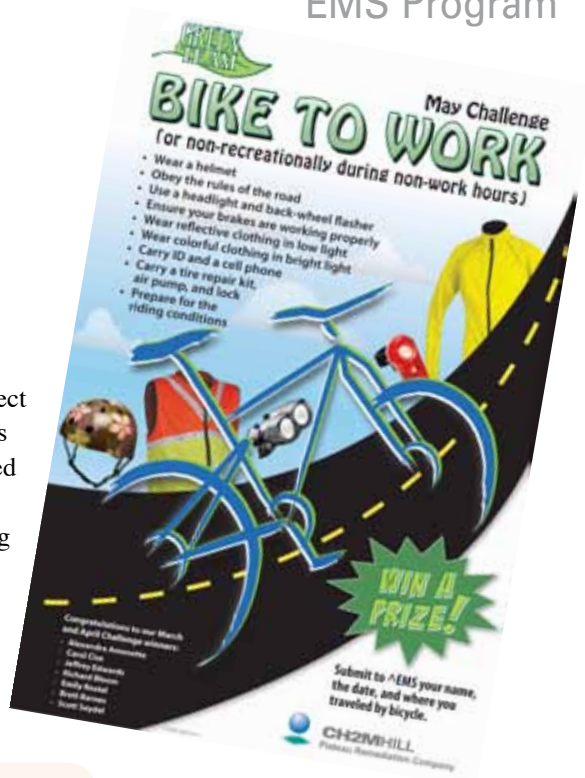
May is more than just the perfect time to begin the biking season. It's also National Bike Month, promoted by the League of American Bicyclists, who encourage bicycling as a fun and useful way to travel.

Here at Hanford, it's a great time to participate in a month-long Bike-to-Work challenge led by attorney Stan Bensussen. You can participate whether you work in town or north of the Wye Barricade. If you work in town, try to ride your bike to work as much as possible; aim for a minimum of three days a week. If you work north of the Wye Barricade, ride your bike instead of driving during non-work hours. For example, ride to the store, the salon or to rent a video.

"Biking is a great way to get in shape and stay in shape," said Bensussen. "As a physical fitness trainer once told me, investing in your health account is just as important as investing in your bank account. You can have all the money in the world, but you won't be able to enjoy it if you don't have your health."

Riding a bike saves fossil fuel and reduces your carbon footprint.

Find Tri-Cities biking maps on the EMS website at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/EMS/index.cfm?pagenum=1>



Bike-to-Work Week
May 17-21

Bike-to-Work Day
Friday, May 21

If you want to participate in Bensussen's Most Miles Ridden competition, visit <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/challenge/cycling> and enter the miles you have traveled. For participants, Bensussen hopes to order biking jerseys with the company logo. To purchase a jersey, contact Bensussen at Stanley.J.Bensussen@rl.gov.

Biking safely is vital. According to Bensussen, wearing a helmet is the single most important thing you can do to remain safe. There are other safety tips to remember too:

- Obey the rules of the road. Review Washington State bicycling laws at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/laws.htm>
- Make sure your bike is in good working condition with your tires properly inflated
- Use a headlight and back-wheel "flasher" and wear reflective clothing when riding in low light
- Wear bright clothing
- Carry a fanny pack repair kit, identification and a cell phone
- Don't drink alcoholic beverages and ride. ■

Patrice McEahern,
Vice President of Safety,
Health, Security and Quality



"It is important that as each of us performs the duties that are assigned to us, we maintain our respect for our fellow workers."

CHPRC has accomplished a great deal in the first 18 months of our contract. Our safety statistics are trending downward, which means work is going well.

I would like to remind workers that we each bring unique experience to the job. It is important that as each of us performs the duties that are assigned to us, we maintain our respect for our fellow workers.

I think of our project as a machine. All of the parts need to work together properly to produce results. This entails planning our work carefully, thoughtfully and with a willingness to listen to our team members. They have had different experiences, so they have new ideas to contribute. We need to plan our work together and follow the directions or work instructions as planned. When it doesn't go as planned, we need to stop.

This is especially true when it comes to safety. Safety personnel, programs and procedures can be like brakes on a vehicle. Using them keeps work moving at a safe and deliberate

"I challenge you to stay vigilant. Don't become complacent. We need to maintain a questioning attitude and learn from everything we do so we can do the next activity better.

The more care and attention we pay to the details, the better we'll perform and our efficiencies will increase."

speed, and when something goes wrong, they help stop work. How would you like to operate a vehicle without brakes?

I challenge you to stay vigilant. Don't become complacent. We need to maintain a questioning attitude and learn from everything we do so we can do the next activity better. The more care and attention we pay to the details, the better we'll perform and our efficiencies will increase. ■

*Previous issues of
On the Plateau are
available online.*

*To view them, visit
[http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/
Communications/index.
cfm?PageNum=16](http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/Communications/index.cfm?PageNum=16).*



Workers Observing Workers

WOW Launches Company-Wide

With the recent CHPRC-wide launch of the Workers Observing Workers (WOW) program, employees can now use one-on-one feedback to identify both good and at-risk work practices through a “no name, no blame” employee-driven observation and feedback process. The projects have program facilitators and administrators who can guide observers through the process. Individuals who are willing to be observed remain completely anonymous.

“The program’s overall benefits are twofold,” said Dennis Wiatrak, a safety specialist and facilitator for the development of the WOW program. “Besides emphasizing the human involvement aspect of safety, which in turn generates a higher level of safety awareness in all that we do, the program also will help us trend behaviors collectively, so we can focus our money and energy in areas where we can achieve the most safety improvements.”



The WOW committee members include (standing left to right): Kris Stave, Karin Flannery, Joe Estey, Willie Smith, Jillian Theriault, Don Zahn, Barbara Williams and Buddy Rust; (kneeling left to right) Frank Vargas, Theresa Poston and Dennis Wiatrak. Not pictured: Greg Prindiville, Cheryle Brasker, Ike Spivey, Greg Herrin and Howard Rew.

Employees are already learning how to become trained safety observers. The training (Course No. 600020) teaches simple, effective techniques for observing others as they work and methods for providing tactful one-on-one feedback about the safety aspects of the observed work.

“WOW benefits everyone,” said Wiatrak. “Managers and supervisors get to see progress in accident prevention and employees get extra reassurance from having another tool for achieving safe work outcomes.”

If you are interested in receiving training and becoming a part of the program, please contact your local Employee Zero Accident Council representative or the WOW point-of-contact for your project. ■

How Will WOW Affect Me?

One-on-one feedback from an observer can change at-risk work practices by providing information about safety concerns that may not be readily apparent to you. The goal is to minimize the potential for injury.

The feedback process offers two benefits. It is not just an opportunity to point out a work performance practice that could be modified, but also a chance to reinforce noteworthy and positive work practices.

The information that is gathered from the observations — which will be completely anonymous, without any names attached — will be entered into an electronic database so trends can be monitored and responded to as needed. ■

WOW Point-of-Contacts	100K Area	Greg Prindiville Frank Vargas Karin Flannery	373.3272 373.0610 373.0532
	Soil & Groundwater Remediation Project	Cheryle Brasker	376.9146
	Engineering, Projects and Construction	Ike Spivey	528.8655
	Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project	Buddy Rust	373.5239
	Waste and Fuels Management Project	Greg Herrin Theresa Poston	372.0657 373.5933
	Decommissioning and Demolition Project	Barbara Williams Howard Rew	376.2518 372.3952
	Support Services	Dennis Wiatrak	373.8805

After months of hard work by dedicated volunteers and feedback on our pilot program, the Workers Observing Workers (WOW) program has begun. As an employee-driven management-supported program, WOW can be a great tool to help identify circumstances or habits that could place us — our self and others — in a dangerous situation. I encourage everyone to take advantage of it.

When a coworker volunteers to be an observer, try to remember that a fresh set of eyes can help us see something we may not have seen before. Identifying safety concerns can be challenging, which is why observers must be trained before they can make observations in the field. The training reinforces the idea that WOW is not a snitch program, but if you have questions



or concerns, please feel free to contact your steward, HAMTC safety representative or the WOW committee. They have been working very hard to make sure that “No Name, No Blame” means just what it says!

If we are open to new ideas in our work environment, WOW could be yet another achievement that we can pass on to the next generation of Hanford workers. If you are interested in getting involved with WOW, contact your Employee Zero Accident Committee representative for more information. ■



Mark Whitten, HAMTC Safety Representative for Soil & Groundwater Remediation Project, WOW Committee Member



CHPRC Safety Representatives

Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC)

Lead Safety Representative	Jill Molnaa	509.373.1803	Jill_M_Molnaa@rl.gov
100K Area	Hans Showalter Frank Vargas	509.308.8913 509.373.0610	Hans_A_Showalter@rl.gov Frank_J_Vargas@rl.gov
Soil and Groundwater Remediation Project	Mark Whitten	509.528.5789	Mark_E_Whitten@rl.gov
Waste and Fuels Management Project / T Plant	Jack Griffith	509.539.7728	Jack_E_Griffith@rl.gov
CWC / TRU Retrieval / IDF / LLB / LEF / 310 / 340 / CSB / WESF	Krista (Kriss) Weeks	509.308.7240	Krista_E_Weeks@rl.gov
D4 Projects (FFTF / Balance of Site)	Dale Ulvin Sherry White	509.373.2230 509.438.2216	Dale_M_Ulvin@rl.gov Sherry_A_White@rl.gov
Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project	John Hendry Buddy Rust	509.373.2441 509.438.4258	John_D_Hendry@rl.gov Carroll_W_Rust@rl.gov

Central Washington Building Trades Council

Engineering, Projects and Construction Project	Steve Maki Chris Tannahill	509.372.0916 509.308.6789	Steven_J_Maki@rl.gov Christopher_L_Tannahill@rl.gov
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Workers at the Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project load a shipment of low-level waste onto a truck (*left and middle*) so it can be transported (*right*) to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. So far, more than 1,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste has been removed from the Plutonium Finishing Plant facilities.

Waste and Equipment Removal Continue

Throughout the Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex facilities, workers are continuing to remove contaminated gloveboxes, laboratory hoods and other contaminated equipment and hazardous materials, such as asbestos. From October 2008 through April 2010, workers have removed 75 gloveboxes and hoods. Of these, five are awaiting size reduction and 70 have been shipped, or are packaged and awaiting shipment, for treatment and disposal. The removal process is part of the ongoing effort to prepare the Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex for demolition ahead of the Tri-Party Agreement milestone date of September 2016. ■

Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project workers Ron Green (*below left*) and David Kaiser (*below right*) practice techniques that will improve safety and efficiency when they remove more than a mile of highly contaminated process vacuum piping from the 234-5Z and 291-Z buildings. The removal effort is scheduled to begin this spring.



Piping that is ready for asbestos abatement is identified with pink paint (*below top*). Workers place sealed glove bags around the piping (*middle*) and use protective gloves to remove the asbestos (*completed abatement at bottom*).

Since the CHPRC contract began in October 2008, workers have removed asbestos from 9,500 feet of piping and ductwork. Work accelerated in 2009 with support from Recovery Act funds. The expanded work teams surpassed their second quarter goal of 1,300 feet by nearly 50 percent, removing asbestos from approximately 1,950 feet during the quarter ending March 31.



Team Effort Completes Decision Documents

DOE's 2015 Vision is One Step Closer to Reality

Completing just one set of Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) work plans and Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) is a major accomplishment. Working together, CHPRC and Washington Closure Hanford have completed five sets and an overarching integrated RI/FS work plan for the 100 Area.

Jane Borghese, who is a document lead for the River Corridor Area, praised the authors and the technical publications groups.

"This is what everybody sees – a quality, finished product," said Borghese, who held a set of neatly bound documents. Borghese, who has led the effort to produce the documents since July 2009, followed Ron Brunke, who led the effort when the CHPRC contract started.

"People don't know what it takes to get here," said Borghese. "We absolutely couldn't have met the challenges and accomplished this feat without teamwork and the hard work of the authors and the tech pubs group."

"This is an important step toward achieving final Records of Decision

"We appreciate the effort that CHPRC and Washington Closure have made to keep things progressing on schedule."

*— Briant Charboneau,
DOE-RL Federal Project Director for
Groundwater and Vadose Zone
Remediation*

and our 2015 vision," said Briant Charboneau, the DOE-RL Federal Project Director for Groundwater and Vadose Zone Remediation. "We appreciate the effort that CHPRC and Washington Closure have made to keep things progressing on schedule." ■

Accomplishments

- **100 Area Integrated RI/FS work plan** (signed Jan. 19 by all parties — DOE-RL; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Ecology)
- **100K Decision Unit RI/FS work plan addendum and SAP** (signed Jan. 19 by DOE-RL and EPA)
- **100BC RI/FS work plan addendum and SAP** (signed March 24 by DOE-RL and EPA)
- **100D/H RI/FS work plan addendum and SAP** (signed March 25 by DOE-RL and Washington State Department of Ecology)
- **300 Area RI/FS work plan and SAP** (signed April 8 by DOE-RL and EPA)
- **100F/IU-2 and -6 RI/FS work plan addendum and SAP** (signed Apr. 12 by all parties)

(From left): CHPRC team members — Jane Borghese, document lead for the River Corridor Area, Trish McNary, a technical publications group document processor, Kris Iverson, document lead for 100-BC-OU, and Jean Koch, a technical publications group lead editor — worked with Washington Closure Hanford to complete five sets of Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and Sampling and Analysis documents and an overarching integrated RI/FS work plan, a total of more than 2,800 pages. The documents are also available online and on disc.



Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) —

the process for determining the nature and extent of the contamination and for developing, screening and evaluating remedial alternatives

Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) —
a plan that details the type, quantity and quality of data to collect

RI/FS work plans and SAPs are the first steps in the formal process toward a Record of Decision. A Record of Decision is required before a final cleanup remedy can begin, a site closed and the land returned to an agreed-upon end state.



Backfilling Nearly Completes 212-N/P/R Building Removal

It took only a year for three buildings in the 200 North Area to disappear as though they never existed. The 212-N, -P and -R buildings, originally used as temporary storage for irradiated fuel rods, were still standing a year ago, though they had been out of service for a long time.

Last fall, workers removed the large concrete structures and their below-grade basins — 9,707 square feet for each building and its basin for a total of more than 29,000 square feet — leaving large excavations that awaited the results of sampling.

In April, the last sign that the buildings once existed disappeared as workers backfilled and contoured the excavations. The only step remaining is completing the final closure documentation.

The 212-N, -P and -R buildings were removed with Recovery Act funding and is another example showing how CHPRC is helping DOE achieve its goal of shrinking the Hanford cleanup footprint and reducing mortgage and surveillance and maintenance costs. ■



Debi Abramson (*above at right*), a field work supervisor, and Kevin Wells, a Decommissioning and Demolition Project worker, watch as workers backfill the sites where the 212-N/P/R buildings once stood (*right*). Behind Abramson are seven of 15 railroad cars that are staged in the area. Of the total, 11 are cask cars that once transported spent nuclear fuel from the 100 Area reactor basins to processing facilities on the Central Plateau, two are tank cars that once transported various radioactive liquids and two are diesel electric locomotives. Workers are evaluating alternatives for their disposal.



Just a year ago, in spring 2009, three large concrete buildings, the 212-N, -P and -R buildings, were still standing in the 200 North Area (*below left*). Today (*below right*), with the buildings removed and backfilling completed, there is little sign of where they once stood.



100K Area Mechanical Isolation Team Exemplifies High Performance

For a prime example that effective work planning and safety innovations lead a CHPRC Project to success, workers can look at the 100K Area Cold and Dark Mechanical Isolation team.

“When we reorganized the Decommissioning and Demolition Project to form the team, we identified a group of pipefitters who could support cold and dark mechanical isolations as well as provide support for demolition preparation activities,” said Chris Lucas, director of the Cold and Dark program. “Since then, they have developed into a high-performance work team who fully embrace the core functions and guiding principles of the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and are energized and excited about the work they perform.”

Since it was formed in October 2009, the team has worked together with the electrical isolation team to place more than a dozen 100K Area facilities into "cold and dark" status.

“Even though each facility or system presents unique challenges, this team has gelled into a cohesive unit that



Members of the 100K Area Cold and Dark Mechanical Isolation team include (from left to right): Nicholas Muir; Todd Dirks; Jim Butler, field work supervisor; Daniel Wright; Tammy Harrison; and John Mitchell, all pipefitters except where noted.

“This team ... has been innovative in developing safe, comprehensive work packages for every project.”

has been innovative in developing safe, comprehensive work packages for every project,” said Lucas. “They have shown they are involved in each step of the ISMS process.”

The Mechanical Isolation team is also actively using the principles of the Environmental Management System to make sure their activities protect the environment. For example, while draining 20,000 gallons of glycol from systems that once supported the K reactors, an effort currently in

progress, the team is actively working to identify sources of potential spills to control hazards and increase protection for the workers and the environment. They understand that the combination of safety, environmental awareness and worker involvement is a valuable objective for success.

“This team is genuinely positive about their work and their pride is evident in how they discuss it,” said Lucas. “They are quick to credit their supervisor, Jim Butler, and his leadership for creating the atmosphere for them to excel and also quick to recognize everyone in the project. It’s great to have a team that is so involved and so positive about the work we’re doing on this project.” ■



Mechanical isolation — a term that describes the effort to isolate a facility from all hazardous energy sources.

“Cold and Dark” — a process and status that is required before demolition activities can begin. The Cold and Dark process is designed to methodically identify and disposition all hazardous energy sources. Typically, this involves

severing or “air gapping” lines, conductors and other mechanical connections, so there is visual evidence that the energy sources are removed within the boundary of the facility to be demolished.

CHPRC’s Cold and Dark process is governed by PRC-PRO-DD-40013, *Electrical and Mechanical Isolation of*

Facilities to Support D&D Work, which was revised in December 2009 to clarify parts of the existing procedure and incorporate environmental aspects of facility isolations, such as process sewers, which are not a hazardous energy source but could impact the environment if not addressed properly before demolition.

Newly Trained NCOs Join CHPRC Team

The Waste and Fuels Management Project will soon have 18 new nuclear chemical operators (NCOs) who have spent the past few months learning how to handle waste containers and properly perform waste removal, packaging, inspection and transport. During the first six to eight weeks of their training, NCOs learn about hazardous waste, container waste management and criticality; radiological worker safety, including first-aid, respiratory and heat stress, lockout/tagout, ladder, electrical and liquid propane gas safety; the occupational safety and health administration; and forklift, crane and rigging operations. Then the trainees move to various facilities, such as the Waste Retrieval Project and T Plant, for on-the-job training where they can learn more about waste management and retrieval, drum venting and assaying, and surveillance and process areas.

When their training is finished, the new NCOs will join 15 others who are already retrieving suspect transuranic waste containers in the 218-W-4B, 218-W-3A and 218-E-12B low-level burial grounds. NCO training is never complete though; it continues throughout a worker's career to ensure they are up-to-date and knowledgeable about safe practices and safety basis requirements.

"These new NCOs bring prior experience and enthusiasm, which allows the Waste Retrieval Project to open new trenches and develop new technologies for suspect transuranic retrieval activities," said Rick Boarder, an operations first line manager.



Nuclear Chemical Operators, like those shown above, are skilled in supporting transuranic waste retrieval as well as having other waste management skills.

In the near future, 19 more workers will begin NCO training. Since the CHPRC contract began in October 2008, 193 workers have been hired and trained to become NCOs. Of those, 83 were hired thanks to the Recovery Act funding. ■

"These new NCOs bring prior experience and enthusiasm, which allows the Waste Retrieval Project to open new trenches and develop new technologies for suspect transuranic retrieval activities."



Nuclear Chemical Operator (NCO) Responsibilities:

- Monitoring computer instrumentation panels
- Repackaging waste
- Moving waste containers to process areas
- Hand-shoveling in contaminated areas
- Labeling and preparing waste containers for shipment
- Performing inspections to ensure compliance with permits
- Monitoring activities for safety basis requirements
- Serving at dispatch/control facilities
- Issuing personal protective equipment and masks, such as powered air-purified respirators.

The Container Maintenance Facility project moved quickly from site preparation to completed construction and installation of equipment and containers (top to bottom below).

Container Maintenance Facility Constructed and In Service

On March 15, the newly completed Container Maintenance Facility, which is located in the 200 West area, was turned over to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility “Self-Perform” project. The Engineering, Projects and Construction project team used fast-track design and construction to build the facility and complete the work on schedule despite inclement weather and the team's expanded work scope.

Workers began the construction project in November 2009. The first task was to haul in 12,000 yards of soil and base material and to build a new access road. In December, work crews began site excavation, then poured more than 600 yards of concrete to construct utility trenches and 14 “hot start” block heaters that will be used for starting vehicles during cold weather. The construction project, funded by the Recovery Act, was completed in the first quarter of 2010. ■

The Container Maintenance Facility (below) is surrounded by some of the newly purchased roll-on/roll-off containers. Four hundred containers were purchased with Recovery Act funds. The facility is already in use by workers at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility “Self-Perform” project, who are handling the increased waste that is generated by the accelerated cleanup and demolition activities funded by the Recovery Act. Container maintenance includes any necessary repairs for the containers — replacing seals, welding and repainting, as well as regularly scheduled maintenance activities every six months.





CHPRC Hero Randy May (above), a Stationary Operating Engineer at the Plutonium Finishing Plant, stands in front of the mountains he loves to climb. This year, May plans to climb Mount Rainier in the 23rd Annual Climb for Clean Air.

Uphill Climbs Are Challenge for CHPRC Hero

Making a difference is sometimes an uphill climb, but it is the literal truth for Randy May, a Stationary Operating Engineer at the Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex. He is planning to climb Mount Rainier, Washington's most prominent landmark, during the 23rd Annual Climb for Clean Air, held July 22-25. Three 15-member teams are registered for the climb, a fundraising event that supports the American Lung Association. This year, May is the only climber who is from east of the Cascade Mountains.

"Not only will I raise money to help others for a cause I care about, but also I'll be doing something I love — mountaineering," said May.

The annual climb is held to support a cause that is important to May. "Very few people go through life without

"I have seen what lung cancer can do to a person. This event is helping me get the word out while also doing something good for my own health."

feeling the effects of some form of lung disease, me included," said May. "In 1992, my father was diagnosed with lung cancer and three months later we buried him, so I have seen what lung cancer can do to a person. For most of my life, I have been a recovering smoker. This event is helping me get the word out while also doing something good for my own health."

May said it takes hours of endurance training to prepare for a 14,000+-foot peak like Mount Rainier. "During lunch breaks, I've been

Climb for Clean Air

Each year, climbers attempt the most difficult climb in the lower 48 states to help the American Lung Association in its mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. The American Lung Association in Alaska, Idaho and Washington holds the fundraising climb to "stem the tide of Big Tobacco money that is pushing young people to start a lifelong habit that kills 8,200 Washingtonians every year," help nearly 200,000 children with asthma, fund research to find cures for all kinds of lung disease and advocate for clean air. Learn more about Climb for Clean Air at <http://www.mrsnv.com/evt/home.jsp?id=2755>.



climbing stairs in our office building while wearing a weighted vest, and running 12 to 15 miles a week after work. I also have several training climbs in the Cascades planned for the months before the climb."

Each climber is required to raise a minimum of \$3,500 to qualify for a summit attempt of Mount Rainier, so May has hosted lunchtime events to help raise awareness and support for his effort. With his discipline and dedication to a challenge that will make a difference in others lives, May shows why he is a CHPRC Hero. ■

Editor's Note: Each month, On the Plateau will feature a CHPRC Hero, someone in an unusual or significant challenge at home or at work. If you know someone worthy of recognition, contact CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov.

Events on the Plateau

May Event

- 8 **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (American Cancer Society);** Howard Amon Park. Registration-8:30 am; opening ceremony-9:30 am; walk begins-10 am. To learn more, visit http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCFY10GreatWest?pg=entry&fr_id=25973.
- 11 **Project Management Institute monthly dinner meeting; Speaker Frank Russo, Bechtel National, Inc. "Supply Chain Quality";** Red Lion, Richland. Register/social hour-5:30 pm; dinner-6:30 pm; presentation-7 pm. With meal: \$20-members; \$24-non-members. Program only: \$5-non-members. \$320-corporate sponsorship. Register online at www.crb-pmi.org. Call Bert Day at 539.0232 for more information.
- 14 **Hanford Day Off**
- 15 **MCLDA Golf Scrambler, benefit for Community Service Program;** Horn Rapids golf course. Shotgun start at 8 am. Four-person teams; \$60/player for double-occupancy carts; \$20/player for members with carts. Includes balls, breakfast, lunch and prizes. Sponsorships available. Mail fees to NMA Chapter 395, MS H1-27 by May 7. To learn more, contact Ed Schwier at 372.0176.
- 17-21 **National Bike-to-Work Week and Bike-to-Work Day (May 21).** Contact Stan Bensussen at Stanley_J_Bensussen@rl.gov to learn more.
- 18-19 **16th Annual Health & Safety EXPO;** 7 am-7 pm, TRAC Center, Pasco. Attendance and parking are free.
- 28 **Hanford Day Off**
- 31 **Memorial Day Holiday**

June Event

- 5 **CHPRC Annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefit for Meals on Wheels of Mid-Columbia;** Sun Willows golf course. Shotgun start at 8 am. Open to CHPRC employees and pre-selected subcontractors. Cost: \$75/player, includes range balls, cart, lunch, games and prizes. Register by May 20 at http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/Communications/docs/25/docs/CHPRC1002-44_Golf_flyer_poster.pdf. To learn more, contact Jenni Morris at 373.2112.
- 11 **Hanford Day Off**
- 11-12 **Columbia River Relay for Life (American Cancer Society);** 3520 S. Southridge Blvd. from 6 pm Friday to noon Saturday. Learn more at <http://www.relayforlife.org/columbiariverwa>
- 25 **Hanford Day Off**

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- Hanford Day Off
- Official Holiday
- Activity/Event

JUNE						
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JULY						
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July Event

- 4 **Independence Day**
- 9 **Hanford Day Off**
- 23 **Hanford Day Off**
- 23-25 **Tri-City Water Follies Hydroplane Racing;** Columbia Park, Kennewick.

Two CHPRC Workers Earn President's Awards

Rich Howard

Liquid Waste and Fuels
Maintenance

Rich Howard was enjoying a George Strait concert with his wife at the Tacoma Dome. For Strait's encore, he and his wife decided to dance and headed down to an area in front of the stage.

While they were on their way, Howard saw someone silently sink to the floor. He had already noted where the EMTs were sitting and noticed one of them had a stethoscope, so he immediately ran to the EMTs. He had to grab one of them by the shoulders to shout that a man was down; it was too loud to simply talk to them. The EMTs asked him to bring their gear and follow behind as they ran to offer help.

In recognition of his efforts to pay attention to his surroundings and respond in an emergency, Howard was honored with a President's Award. ■

Randy Bunch

Liquid Waste and Fuels
Maintenance

Early on the morning of April 5, sometime before 4:00 a.m., Randy Bunch was driving toward Richland when he saw a vehicle that had rolled off the road. With no one else on the scene, Bunch immediately stopped to call 373.0911, the Hanford Patrol Operations Center. A Hanford Patrol car arrived while he was still on the phone, so Bunch turned over communications and ran over to look at the driver.

The passenger was sitting upright, still in his seatbelt, and appeared dazed even though he had no visible injuries.

Bunch knew the limits of his training, so he did not try to enter the car or treat the driver. Instead, he walked around the car to see if there was danger of a fire and saw heavy smoke coming out of the exhaust system. Bunch thought that the smoke might be caused by oil in the engine's cylinders because the engine was still running, so he tried to ask the driver if he was able to turn the engine off. The car's doors were locked so one of the patrolmen broke the front window and turned off the car's engine.

In the meantime, another response team arrived and began stabilizing the victim so he could be removed from the vehicle. The entire incident, from the moment Bunch stopped to call for help to the victim's removal from the vehicle, took less than five minutes.

In recognition of his emergency response efforts in notifying Hanford Patrol and the attention he paid to potential hazards at the accident site, Bunch was honored with a President's Award. ■



CHPRC President John Lehew congratulates Rich Howard (*top*) and Randy Bunch (*bottom*) as they accept the President's Award.



Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

The Information
You Need to Know

Mosquito Control Programs

If you see standing water or suspect there are mosquitoes at Hanford, contact Pest Control at Mission Support Alliance to have the area treated.

Pest Control
at Mission Support Alliance
Call 509.376.7378
509.376.PEST
or 509.396.1113



When dealing with West Nile virus, prevention is your best protection. Avoiding mosquito bites reduces your risk of infection with West Nile virus, along with other diseases that mosquitoes may carry.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours

Mosquitoes can bite at any time, but the hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many species of mosquitoes. During evening and early morning, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times. If possible, stay inside when mosquitoes are biting.

Keep Your Skin Covered

Long sleeves, long pants and socks that are light in color can help prevent mosquito bites. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with insect repellent will give extra protection. Do not spray repellent on the skin under your clothing.

Use Insect Repellent

Even a short time spent outdoors can be long enough to get a mosquito

bite. Apply insect repellent on exposed skin before you go outdoors. Use an EPA-registered insect repellent, such as those with DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus, or a sunscreen that contains repellent. Only adults should apply repellent on children. Make sure to wash your hands before you eat. Wash the repellent off when you come inside. For details on when and how to apply repellent, visit the Insect Repellent Use and Safety page on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm. Also, read the Insect Repellent brochure published by the Benton-Franklin Health District at <http://www.bfhealth.org/Publications/brochures/Using%20insect%20repellents%20brochure.pdf>.

Treatment

If you are ill from West Nile virus, visit your health provider as soon as possible. Supportive treatment is available for the more serious cases. Call 509.376.3333, the main clinic of AdvanceMed Hanford, or 509.373.2314 at 200 West. ■

Hanford Skills Shared at Local Middle School Career Day

Career Day at Highlands Middle School featured presentations by Don Panther, an operations specialist in surveillance and maintenance.

“My presentations focused on the different skills involved in the Hanford cleanup,” said Panther. “The classes seemed to enjoy it. Some of the students offered to try on a set of protective equipment, other than a respirator, so everyone could better understand what is necessary to prevent personal contamination.”

Panther's presentation included a video that showed the numerous craft specialties involved in a single demolition activity. More than 250 students attended Career Day where the presenters challenged them to stay in school and work hard to prepare for future opportunities. ■



Don Panther, an operations specialist in surveillance and maintenance, helps a student volunteer try on a set of personal protective equipment during a recent Career Day presentation at Highlands Middle School.



Personal Time Bank Cash-out Opportunity

CHPRC is pleased to announce a Personal Time Bank (PTB) cash-out opportunity for exempt and non-exempt employees, including incumbents of the pre-selected subcontractors: Babcock

Remember ... PTB hours can be donated to eligible employees by completing a Personal Time Bank (PTB) Transfer Request form, A-6004-681. Time must be donated in one-hour increments and employees must have at least 50 hours remaining in their own PTB balance after time has been donated. The list of employees approved for PTB transfer is available at <http://prc.rl.gov/rapidweb/HR/index.cfm?PageNum=1>.

Services; Cavanagh Services; EnRep; GEM Technology; and Materials and Energy Corporation. Through December 2010, employees can cash out a maximum of 120 hours of accumulated PTB hours, as long as a minimum of 120 hours remains in their account. To learn more, review Site Form A-6005-518.

HAMTC employees have a similar opportunity with the 2007 HAMTC Collective Bargaining Agreement, in Article IX, Section 11, Time Off With Pay Cash-Out.

To learn more, review Site Form A-6005-484. Details of the calendar year 2011 PTB cash-out program will be shared at a later date. To learn more, contact your Human Resources Field Representative. ■

Rooms Needed for CHPRC Summer Interns

Nearly 100 interns will be arriving soon, a sign of heightened interest in CHPRC's summer intern program for the Hanford Site. Some interns are from out of state. If anyone has one or more rooms for rent during the summer months, or knows someone with rooms, contact from Marie Lathim at CI Intern and Staffing at mariel@columbiaindustries.com. ■



Noted in Events on the Plateau calendar on page 15.



American Cancer Society "Relay For Life" Teams Forming Now

Join a team for the Columbia River Relay For Life, an American Cancer Society signature fundraising event. The walk will take place June 11 and 12 at the Southridge High School track in Kennewick.

Visit the Columbia River Relay for Life website at www.relayforlife.org/columbiariverwa to:

- Form or join a team
- Buy a luminaria for a friend or loved one
- Donate to a team member
- Register as a survivor
- Learn more about the American Cancer Society. ■



Friends and loved ones are honored by luminarias that light up the night as Relay for Life team members walk for the American Cancer Society in Richland.

Vanpool Openings

Four openings — 15-person Vanpool (#239)	Two openings — six-person Minivan Pool from Yakima
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8x9 schedule • Pickup/drop-offs: Ben Franklin Transit parking lot, Richland Y and 7-11 at corner of Duportail and Wright St. (Richland) • Destinations: Around 2750E Area and Rigging Loft, 6290 and 2025E; will work around 200E Area • Contact: Bill Schneider at 736.2313 or 373.2992 or Bill_R_Schneider@rl.gov or Rod Gillespie at 373.2645 or Rodney_J_Gillespie@rl.gov 	<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em; transform: rotate(-15deg); opacity: 0.8;"> All current openings have been filled. Thank you! Let's keep making our community a great place to live and work. </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8x9 schedule • Pickup/drop-offs: Parking lot on Vashon Hill and 28th St. near Red Robin parking lot at Beaudry Road and Hwy. 24 in Moses • Destinations: 240HV (Smurf building) and M0720 (200 West near Dayton and 19th St.) • Contact: Ray Schwach at 373.20190 or Dennis Fine at 373.7226
One opening — Vanpool 310	<p><i>To advertise a vanpool opening, send the following information to CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Van number and schedule</i> • <i>Departure time(s) and location(s)</i> • <i>Destination(s)</i> • <i>Contact name/e-mail/phone number(s)</i> <p><i>Work with other interested employees to establish schedules and locations.</i></p> <p><i>For more information, contact Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) at 943.5442 or visit http://www.bft.org/vanpool.html.</i></p>

Employees have a duty to report possible fraud, waste, abuse, misuse, corruption, criminal acts, or mismanagement relating to DOE programs, operations, facilities, contracts or information technology systems, and to report possible reprisals against employees who report such information. Allegations should be reported to an appropriate authority, such as the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at:

800.541.1625 • 202.586.4073
(OIG Hotline numbers)

Visit www.ig.energy.gov/hotline.htm to learn more or call the Director of Internal Audit at 372.0779.

On the Plateau is published monthly for CHPRC employees. Contributions and comments are welcome. E-mail CHPRC Communications at chprcc@rl.gov.

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