

# River Corridor Project News

Publication for River Corridor Closure Employees and Subcontractors

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## Greetings from Pat

Welcome to the first issue of the RCC Project News – one of the many ways we will be communicating with each other throughout the life of the River Corridor Closure Project.

In the last several months, I've had a chance to meet and talk with employees, regulators, our customer, as well as members of the community and news media. Now that we've completed our first month, I want to share with you some of my impressions so far.

First, transition went very well. We completed it as scheduled and under budget. The transition team basically sacrificed their entire summer to make that happen as smoothly as possible, and I can't thank them enough for their work.

I also appreciate the fact that those who continued to work on the project, remained focused on the job at hand. I can see that this is a dedicated, high-performance team that wants to get the job done. Everyone I've met so far wants to do a good job and wants to make the project a success.

So does our client. DOE appears to be very pleased with the job we are doing, the way we are organized and is confident that we have the right people in the right jobs.

We're continuing to enhance relationships with regulators, and we're getting positive feedback from them as well.

I also have received positive feedback on the new 4-10 schedule, and so far, production is being maintained and even increasing in some areas.

However, we did incur two recordable injuries within the first month of the contract. My expectation is that we can and will do better than that. Zero accidents and injuries is the only goal.

As for the future, we have important work ahead. Demolition has begun in the 300 Area on the 314 Building. Remediation has resumed at 100 B/C. We're starting engineering on the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds. We have started negotiations with HAMTC on the collective bargaining agreement. H Reactor cocooning will be completed in October. All of these milestones are significant for our client, stakeholders and Washington Closure, as well.

I'm excited about the opportunities ahead, and I look forward to meeting every one of you in the coming months.

Remember to work safely here and at home, and watch out for your coworkers as well.



*Project General Manager Pat Pettiette and Greg Meyer, ESH&Q director, discuss progress in the 300 Area during a recent walking tour.*

## Alert system upgrade

The Hanford Site Emergency Alerting System is being upgraded to improve the Hanford Site 530 AM radio station's coverage. The radio station will be out of service from about September 21 through October 7 to make the upgrades.

In an actual event, emergency instructions will be communicated via crash phones and sirens. If you have any questions, please call Lanette Adams at 373-9669, or Yvonne Sherman at 376-6216.

## Change in the Central Badging Office hours

Effective September 26, 2005, the Central Badging Office (CBO), located in the 3790 Building, 300 Area, will be closed on the Hanford Site Friday off. The office will open 30 minutes earlier on each regular office day to assist employees, contractors and visitors with site access badges. These changes are being made based on the current demand for work activity on the site.

The new CBO hours are 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed on the Hanford Site Friday off). For emergency badging on the Hanford Site Friday off, please contact the Patrol Operations Center at 373-3800.

For additional information, please contact Bernadine Nelson at 376-3912.

## 2005 and 2006 holidays

The recent change in work hours necessitates a change in the designated holidays. In advance of the release of the revised Paid Time Off policy, the following information is provided to assist employees in planning for the remainder of 2005 and 2006.

The new policy will reflect the nine company-sponsored holidays and the days that will be observed if the holiday falls on a scheduled days off. For example, if the holiday falls on a Friday or Saturday, the holiday will be observed on the preceding regularly scheduled day of work. If the holiday falls on a

## Zero injuries is the only goal

Washington Closure Hanford intends to build on the existing safety program and continue working to achieve VPP Star status.

"Washington Closure's goal is zero injuries," said Greg Meyer, Environmental, Health, Safety and Quality director. "We believe that all injuries are preventable. Many of our corporate projects demonstrate that every day, and we intend to join that group of safe projects as soon as possible.

"It's important for each employee to work toward zero injuries for the River Corridor Closure Project to be successful. This takes a continuous commitment, at work and at home, a continual focus on your task at hand and a questioning attitude," Greg continued. "If you have any questions, take a 'safety timeout' to resolve those doubts before proceeding."

Greg said safety committees will emphasize employee involvement. "We recognize that employees must be involved to maximize the effectiveness of our safety program," he said. "To encourage that involvement, smaller safety committees, focused on issues pertinent to the work group, will be used rather than a single large, company-level committee."

Washington Closure will establish Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSIT) throughout the company. The LSIT is an employee-run safety committee supported by management. Management can create as many LSITs as needed for their work groups.

The LSIT will meet monthly to review specific safety issues and recommend safety improvements that are applicable to their work group. LSIT chairpersons will meet quarterly to ensure lessons from one LSIT are shared across Washington Closure.

Greg said monthly safety meetings will continue. "Work groups can train on safety topics suggested by ESH&Q or they can train on a topic that the LSIT considers more relevant to their job scope," he noted.

Washington Closure will have a VPP core team that will guide efforts to achieve STAR status. "Our safety program is based on Integrated Safety Management, and it includes the five tenets of VPP. If we are running our safety program properly, attaining VPP Star Status is a natural outcome," Greg said.

Every year, Washington Group International conducts an annual safety slogan contest. "Building Our Future – Safely" is the 2005 slogan, which was selected from nearly 300 entries.

Employees can each submit one nomination. Corporate business unit safety directors review entries and select 10 to submit to the chairman's office for the final selection. The employee whose slogan is selected receives a Seiko watch with a Washington Group International logo.

Washington Closure employees may use the form at [http://www.washingtonclosure.com/news/WCH\\_Newsletter1/Vol\\_01\\_Issue\\_01/docs/slogan-2006.pdf](http://www.washingtonclosure.com/news/WCH_Newsletter1/Vol_01_Issue_01/docs/slogan-2006.pdf) to enter this year's contest. Send slogan entries to Margaret Phelps by mail, fax or e-mail to

Washington Group International  
P.O. Box 73  
Boise, ID 83729  
208-386-7264 Phone  
208-386-7925 Fax  
[margaret.phelps@wgint.com](mailto:margaret.phelps@wgint.com)

Entries must be received by close of business October 28. The 2006 slogan will be announced November 14. If more than one entry of the winning slogan is received, the first entry received will be the winner.



Sunday, the holiday will be observed on the next regularly scheduled day of work.

### 2005

Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 23 & 24

Christmas Holiday, Dec. 22 & 26

### 2006

New Year's Day, Jan. 2

Presidents' Day, Feb. 20

Memorial Day, May 29

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day, Sept. 4

Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 22 & 23

Christmas Holiday, Dec. 25 & 26

## CHIP Program planned

The Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) is a five-week, community-based lifestyle intervention program aimed at substantially decreasing the risk of coronary artery disease and chronic diseases, such as Type-II diabetes, hypertension and obesity. Since its inception in 1988, more than 50,000 people from four continents and 250 cities have graduated from the program.

The program's goal is to provide participants with an understanding of the cause/effect relationship among diet, exercise and disease so they can become increasingly motivated to make lifestyle changes. CHIP informs, motivates and then supports the necessary changes for cardiovascular health.

Beginning October 3, the 15-session CHIP program will be offered by Kadlec Medical Center and Washington State University-Tri-Cities. The sessions will be held in the WSU-TC CIC, room 120, in Richland. The cost is \$250/person or \$350/couple. Enrollment is limited.

For more information or to register call 942-2600.

## "Foster parents" needed

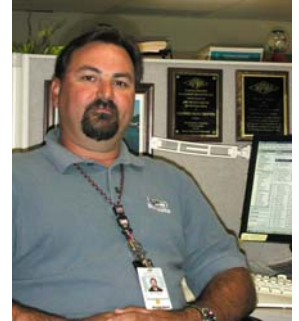
Pet Over Population Prevention (POPP) is seeking people who would like to "foster" dogs that are waiting for permanent adoption.

## Mike Kalinowski earns NPMA award

Mike Kalinowski, Property Management, received the 2005 Outstanding Member Award from the National Property Management Association (NPMA) for his outstanding contributions to the 4,500-member organization. Mike joined the NPMA in 1992 and is serving his second term as president of the Columbia Basin Chapter

In addition, the Columbia Basin Chapter earned the 2005 Western Region Medium Size Chapter Of The Year Award and the 2005 National Medium Chapter Of The Year Award. The NPMA is a professional organization established in 1970 dedicated to assisting managers with educational, certification and networking opportunities within the property profession.

The NPMA Outstanding Member Award was created in 1991 and is given for exceptional service at the chapter level. "Mike has worked tirelessly to instill motivation within the membership and inspires others to follow his lead ... Mike is a committed property professional who exemplifies the definition of outstanding member," the award noted.



Mike Kalinowski is the recipient of the 2005 NPMA Outstanding Member Award.

## Washington Closure Hanford aids Hurricane Katrina victims



*Washington Closure Hanford employees help load medical and infant supplies into a semi-trailer that was transported to Louisiana to aid hurricane victims.*

Thanks to Washington Closure Hanford, the first shipment of medical and infant supplies to leave the Tri-Cities dedicated to aid Hurricane Katrina victims were transported to Baton Rouge, LA.

Washington Closure employees and other members of the community collected enough medical and infant supplies to fill a semi-trailer. Washington Closure workers from the D4 Project Closure Project then volunteered their time to help load the semi.

The goods were delivered to a make-shift medical center at Louisiana State University that was serving more than 3,000 Hurricane Katrina victims daily. Many of the supplies were dispersed to shelters in neighboring parishes.

Donations were collected to pay for the transport of the semi-trailer to the Louisiana State University medical center. Washington Closure employees donated \$1,100 toward this effort. Washington Closure has committed to pay the difference.

Donations are still being accepted. If you wish to donate, please contact Jennifer Ollero (372-9620) for more information.

## First supplier forum held

Washington Closure Hanford held its first Supplier Forum on September 16. Nearly 300 people attended the free event where they learned about the work that will be performed over the life of the project. They also had the opportunity to meet with buyers and technical representatives about specific requests for proposals for work that will be issued in the next several months.

Washington Closure plans to subcontract at least 60 percent of value of the contract with 50 percent of that work earmarked for small businesses. Included in the scope of work for the project is to decommission and demolish 510 facilities, cleanup 486 waste sites, operate the onsite waste disposal facility and place in interim safe

The dogs already have been spayed or neutered and had vaccinations. For more information, contact Amanda LaRiviere at 943-5415 (before 9:30 p.m.) or visit the POPP website at <http://www.poppcities.org/>

## First annual film festival planned

The first annual "Common Ground" Film Festival will be held in October at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. The six-day event will present films that demonstrate in informative and entertaining ways that contentious problems have workable solutions. The event is provided by the Benton-Franklin Dispute Resolution Center in partnership with the Three Rivers Campus. For the date, time and a synopsis of each film, visit <http://www.bfdrc.org/> or call the center at 783-3325.

**Safety,  
People,  
Results**

### Comments or Questions?

Please call Edye Jenkins at 372-9176

Or you may Email:  
[wchnews@wch-rcc.com](mailto:wchnews@wch-rcc.com)



storage three surplus plutonium production reactors.

Additional information about providing goods or services to Washington Closure as it carries out its work to clean up the Hanford river corridor is available at [Http://www.washingtonclosure.com/procure/](http://www.washingtonclosure.com/procure/)

*More than 300 people attended Washington Closure Hanford's first supplier forum.*

## This week in history: September, 1988 - American woman climbs Mt. Everest

Stacy Allison of Portland, Oregon, becomes the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is the highest point on earth. Allison, a member of the Northwest American Everest Expedition, climbed the Himalayan peak using the southeast ridge route.

Mount Everest sits on the crest of the Great Himalayas in Asia, lying on the border between Nepal and Tibet. Called Chomo-Lungma, or "Mother Goddess of the Land," by the Tibetans, the English named the mountain after Sir George Everest, a 19th-century British surveyor of South Asia. The summit of Everest reaches two-thirds of the way through the air of the earth's atmosphere--at about the cruising altitude of jet airliners--and oxygen levels there are very low, temperatures are extremely cold, and weather is unpredictable and dangerous.



*Stacy Allison*

In May 1953, climber and explorer Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal made the first successful climb of the peak. Ten years later,

James Whittaker of Redmond, Washington, became the first American to top the peak, reaching Everest's summit with his Sherpa climbing partner Nawang Gombu. In 1975, Japanese mountaineer Junko Tabei became the first woman to conquer the mountain. Three years later, Reinhold Messner of Italy and Peter Habeler of Austria achieved what had been previously thought impossible: climbing to the Everest summit



*29,035 foot Mount Everest*

without oxygen. In 1988, American Stacy Allison successfully scaled Everest. About two dozen climbers died in attempts to reach the top of Everest in the 20th century.

**Editor's note:** Articles run in *This week in History* are taken from the History Channel, with the intent of providing employees with factual historical information. Articles in no way represent the opinions or perspective of the Editorial staff, and every effort is made to ensure all articles published are not offensive.