



River Corridor Project News

Publication for River Corridor Closure Employees and Subcontractors

[Web Site](#)

Volume 1, Issue 2
October 13, 2005

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Asking “why” is key to the D4 Closure Project’s success

“Much of our project’s success depends on our team members’ willingness to challenge themselves daily to find ways to streamline the cleanup process so we don’t experience delays in the field. This means always asking ‘why’ in their work,” said John Fulton, project manager. “For example, I count on our support staff to ask themselves why documentation can’t be streamlined. And, I rely on our field staff to ask themselves why a process can’t be done more efficiently,” he continued.

John says this willingness is a critical part of the project team’s ability to complete its mission to deactivate, decommission, decontaminate and demolish (D4) 510 excess Hanford facilities during the next seven years.



The 314 Building in the 300 Area is one of the more than 500 excess Hanford facilities D4 Closure Project workers will demolish during the River Corridor Closure Project.

Safety is a key factor in the success of the project. “We are committed to ensuring that our workers have all of the appropriate training they need to do their jobs safely. We also rely on our workers to follow safety precautions in all their work, from correct lifting techniques to safe procedures when working with hazardous materials. We expect them to stop if they’re concerned or unsure about their job assignment,” said John Fulton.

“To maintain our schedule, we will be demolishing an average of seven facilities a month through the life of the River Corridor Closure Project,” John said. “This includes all of Hanford’s excess facilities in the 100 Areas except the retired reactors, facilities in the 300 Area and support facilities in the 400 Area not associated with the Fast Flux Test Facility.”

John explained that the 100 Area contains nearly half, or about 230, of the 510 facilities. “This includes 50 to 60 excess facilities at 100-N that supported plutonium production. We’re demolishing several of these buildings now that range from process support facilities to water treatment plants.”

Most of the remaining buildings to be demolished are in the 300 Area. “Many of these facilities were used for uranium fabrication and laboratory activities while others were used for support activities and storage,” John said.

“We’ve started work to demolish the 314 Building, which was used to produce uranium fuel rods for the reactors,” he continued. “As with the 313 Building, we know from historical records that the facility had been contaminated with beryllium during the fuel fabrication process.”

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Over 220,000 hours without a lost-time injury!

As of October 8, 2005, the River Corridor Closure Project had worked more than 220,000 hours without a lost-time injury!

Keep up the good work.

Non-field Safety and Health VPP goals achieved

Congratulations to the Washington Closure Hanford Non-field Safety and Health (NFS&H) VPP team for achieving their VPP goals for FY 2005.

The team had zero lost work days, zero recordables and only one minor first-aid (paper cut) for the entire year. To put this accomplishment into perspective, the NFS&H team had three first aids and one lost work time injury in FY 2004.

Recognition opportunities

Have you or do you know of another Washington Closure Hanford employee who has received an award or been recognized for extraordinary effort? If so, we would like to acknowledge it in the RCC Project News.

Please contact Edye Jenkins by email or at 372-9176.

Washington Closure Hanford parking

Washington Closure Hanford personnel, including vendors and visitors, should not park their vehicles in the Energy Northwest parking lot that is located directly across 7th Street from the Hanford Square II and III buildings.

Washington Closure personnel, visitors and vendors should use parking areas provided on the Hanford Square property that are bounded by Battelle Blvd, 7th Street; George Washington Way; and Port of Benton Blvd.

As the occupant of the facilities

“Our workers have received special training to learn how to safely work with beryllium,” John said. “We also take special precautions to avoid beryllium exposure.” He added that demolition of the 314 Building is on schedule with completion expected this month.

The project team then will begin work to demolish several other facilities in the 300 Area. “Two facilities – the 324 and 327 buildings – pose significantly greater risks than most other buildings because they contain hot cells that were used to destructively evaluate commercial and DOE spent nuclear fuel,” he said. “However, our team has the experience needed to safely deactivate and demolish these facilities, which we expect to take about two years.”

John said the project team will demolish several other 300 Area facilities in the near future, such as the 334, 303M, 306 East and West and 333 buildings. “We’ll also remove several smaller buildings as well as fences, light poles and steam lines,” he noted.

In addition, John said the team will be ready to demolish facilities that will be transferred from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). “PNNL facilities, including the 325, 326, 329 and 331 buildings, will be transferred to Washington Closure in 2009 and will require about three years to demolish. We’re taking special care in our work to demolish surrounding buildings to ensure it doesn’t impact the work in these facilities,” John added.

The team also will remove 45 facilities from the 400 Area that were used to provide support functions that were not part of the Fast Flux Test Facility. “Our goal is to complete our work by May 2012 so final remedial action at these locations can be completed by the end of the RCC Contract in September 2012,” John noted.

John said he has full confidence in his team to get the job done. “I know my team will complete the job safely and on time,” he added.

Safety Flash established

The new River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project Safety Flash is designed to promote timely dissemination of information about injuries or incidents occurring on RCC Project worksites or safety-related information that could potentially affect RCC personnel.

Safety Flashes may contain preliminary or incomplete information. In the interest of accuracy, updated Safety Flashes may be sent out as needed.

For additional information on the Safety Flash program, contact Ken Jenkins at 375-4667.

To view all River Corridor Closure Project Safety Flash notifications, visit the Safety Flash web site at http://wch.erc.rl.gov/sh/safety_flash.htm

Information Technology enhancements implemented

In response to suggestions received during transition, Information Technology has implemented several initiatives that should improve productivity for Washington Closure Hanford employees.

E-mail enhancements

You now have a choice of e-mail formats for your name for internal and external mail:

Beryllium is a naturally occurring metal used in metalworking, electronics, laboratory work and other industries. Beryllium disease can occur when people who have a beryllium sensitivity inhale beryllium dust or fumes. It primarily affects the lungs.

south of 7th Street, Energy Northwest has authority to tow unauthorized vehicles from its parking lot, at the expense and risk of the vehicle driver/owner.

View map at:

http://www.washingtonclosure.com/news/WCH_Newsletter1/Vol_01_Issue_02/Docs/Han_Sq-park.pdf

2006 mileage rates

Effective September 1, 2005, the mileage reimbursement rate for use of privately owned vehicles on official government travel was increased to 0.485. This revised rate should be used for personal vehicle mileage reimbursement onsite as well as for business trips.

The new Personal Vehicle Mileage Reimbursement Request form can be found at

<http://wch.erc.rl.gov/formsapp/forms.asp?OWNERCODE=CO> (WCH-CO-027).

If you have any questions, please call Courtney Zhang at 372-9012

2005 United Way campaign to begin soon

Mark October 24 on your calendar. It's the day Washington Closure Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford will kick off the 2005 United Way campaign.

This year's goal is to provide every employee the opportunity to contribute to United Way.

You will receive your pledge sheet with your October 27 paycheck. In addition, campaign co-chairs will arrange for United Way presentations at plan of the day or staff meetings. Campaign co-chairs and coordinators will be announced in a few days.

Incentives will be given for returning pledge cards early and for new and increased contributors.

For more information, contact Todd Nelson at 372-9097.

- The format as existed under BHI (first initial middle initial last name@wch-rcc.com. For example, jfdoe@wch-rcc.com).
- First name.Last name @wch-rcc.com. For example, john.doe@wch-erc.com.

Off-site access to e-mail updated

The offsite access to e-mail has been updated. Users can access e-mail from off site by going to <https://www.washingtonclosure.com/exchange>. Once you reach this page, read the Security Notice completely and provide your WCH user name (for example, jfdoe) in the "Log On" box. A dialogue box will appear requiring your WCH user name and password. You will have access to your e-Mail account once you provide your user name and password.

E-mail for former ERC employees automatically rerouted

E-mail addresses for former ERC employees transferring to Washington Closure Hanford changed to yourname@wch-rcc.com (from yourname@bhi-erc.com). All e-mail sent to the old e-mail addresses (@bhi-erc.com) is routed automatically to the new @wch-rcc.com address. Automatic routing from the old e-mail account to the new account will continue through December 31, 2005.

Extended time before automatic screen saver activates

The default password protected screensaver has been changed to allow for an additional 10 minutes before it is engaged. This increases the total elapsed time to 20 minutes before the screen saver is activated. The screensaver password protection is required to satisfy DOE Cyber Security requirements. It is always a good practice to lock your workstation (CTRL-ALT-DEL, Lock Computer) before leaving the area.

If you have questions or need assistance with these enhancements or need IT support in other areas, please contact the WCH Customer Support Desk at 372-9222 or via e-Mail at wchhelpdesk@wch-rcc.com.

Flu shots available

AdvanceMed Hanford (AMH) will provide flu shots to Hanford Site employees at various worksite locations beginning November 7 (*see calendar below*). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently determined that a national shortage of vaccine would likely not occur this year, but are recommending those at highest risk of complications from the flu be vaccinated in October and the general public be offered the immunizations after October 24. AMH has received 2,090 doses and expect the remainder to be delivered by the end of October.

Influenza is a serious illness that can be life threatening. The CDC recommends vaccination for anyone wanting to avoid contracting influenza, but especially those who are at high risk for complications from the flu. High-risk individuals include:

- Adults over the age of 64
- Persons between 2-64 years with chronic illness such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, etc.
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- All children aged 6-23 months
- Health care workers involved in direct patient care
- Employees who are household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children under the age of 6 months
- Children aged 6 months – 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy

The CDC cautions that the flu vaccine may not be advised for anyone with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome or anyone who has a serious allergic reaction to eggs or to a previous dose of the influenza vaccine.

The following individuals are not eligible for a flu shot at an AMH site clinic,

- Employees under the age of 18
- Employees of Bechtel National Inc. or Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio
- Families of Hanford employees
- Retirees of Hanford contractors

(Flu shots are available from the Benton Franklin Health District beginning October 17 or through private medical providers)

Those with a serious illness or fever should wait until they have recovered before having the vaccination.

Vaccinations provided by AMH are given at no cost to the individual employee. Employees must have a DOE-RL security badge to receive a shot.

Additional information regarding immunization for high-risk individuals and the work site clinics can be obtained by calling the **AMH Flu Hotline 376-1000** or emailing Judi Staley. For general information regarding influenza and recommendations for vaccination, log on to the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/flu

AdvanceMed Hanford Influenza Immunization Program Schedule

Area	Clinic Date	Time	Location
Battelle Aud.	Monday Nov. 7	9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.	Battelle Auditorium
200 East Area	Tuesday Nov. 8	9:00a.m.- 2:00p.m.	2101 M Cosmos/Bijou
Federal Bldg	Wednesday Nov. 9	10:00a.m.- 2:30p.m.	Room 142
100K Area	Thursday Nov. 10	8:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	MO 500 Bldg Rm. East
200 West	Monday Nov. 14	10:00a.m -1:30p.m.	MO 287
200 West	Monday Nov. 14	3:00p.m. – 7:00p.m	AMH Health Care Ctr. 2719
Hanford Square 4	Tuesday Nov 15	10:00a.m-12:00p.m.	3090 GW Way Rms.454 A & B
400 Area	Tuesday Nov 15	2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.	4710 Conf. room A
Stevens Center	Wednesday Nov 16	9:00a.m.- 12:00p.m	2440 Stevens Bldg Rm. 1200
200 West Area	Wednesday Nov 16	3:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.	AMH Health Care Ctr. 2719
100 N Area	Thursday Nov 17	6:30a.m. – 9:00a.m	1103N Conf. Room A&B
200West	Thursday Nov 17	11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m	MO 2740 WRAP

For more information, contact Darlene McClure at 372-9233,

This week in history: October 12, 1810 - The origin of Oktoberfest

Bavarian Crown Prince Louis, later King Louis I of Bavaria, marries Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. The Bavarian royalty invited the citizens of Munich to attend the festivities, held on the fields in front of the city gates. These famous public fields were named Theresienwiese--"Therese's fields"--in honor of the crown princess; although locals have since abbreviated the name simply to the "Wies'n." Horse races in the presence of the royal family concluded the popular event, celebrated in varying forms all across Bavaria.

The decision to repeat the festivities and the horse races in the subsequent year gave rise to the tradition of the annual Oktoberfest, which now begins in late September and lasts until the first Sunday in October. Alcohol consumption is an important part of the modern festival, and more than 1 million gallons of beer are consumed annually at Oktoberfest.

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.

**Safety,
People,
Results**

Comments or Questions?

Please call Edye Jenkins at 372-9176

Or you may Email:
wchnews@wch-rcc.com