



# CURRENT

Newsletter for the River Corridor Closure Project

S A F E T Y • P E O P L E • R E S U L T S

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## Waste Operations Project achieves milestones

The Waste Operations Project team is celebrating two recent milestones: waste transportation drivers logging their 10 millionth mile safely transporting contaminated material for disposal in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) and relocating project staff into a new office building.

“We’re extremely proud of our transportation team’s safety record, which far exceeds the national average,” said Jeff James, Waste Operations Program director. “Since June 1996 when ERDF began operation, we’ve had only one at-fault vehicle accident while hauling more than 6.3 million tons of contaminated materials for disposal at ERDF.”

*The Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, or ERDF, comprises six enormous cells, each 500 feet square and 70 feet deep. The first two cells went into operation in 1996 with two more cells added in 1999 and two more in 2004. The current capacity of ERDF is eight million tons.*

Jeff credits the team’s success to its dedication to safety. “We’re successful because of the professionalism of our HAMTC drivers and the support crews. In addition, our transportation subcontractor, RCI Environmental, and the Washington Closure Hanford support staff are truly committed to safe operations,” he said.

Each day, two shifts of 21 waste transportation drivers share the road with Hanford workers while hauling an average of more than 170 containers of contaminated materials safely to ERDF. Nine mechanics and two lube and tire specialists keep the truck fleet in top running order. RCI Environmental, which owns the trucks and many of the containers,

is responsible for coordinating maintenance, dispatching trucks and communicating with the drivers. “It’s truly a team effort,” Jeff added.

Early last week, project staff had another reason to celebrate when they moved into the new 9,240-square-foot building located on a 1.1-acre site north of the waste transportation offices at ERDF. “The new building enables us to consolidate all of the Waste Operations Project staff into a single facility and locates



**Access to the new Waste Operations Project office building is via Albany Avenue, which is just west of ERDF Avenue.**

River Corridor Closure Contractor for the



U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office

## Employee Recognition Program available

On-the-Spot Awards are available to employees of Washington Closure Hanford, Eberline Services Hanford Inc. and Integrated Logistics Services Inc.

The program is intended to recognize employee job performance that is clearly and significantly above normal expectations in these areas:

- Continuous Improvement/Quality Enhancement
- Leadership
- Partnering
- Cost Effectiveness

If you want to nominate an employee, complete the nomination form and submit it to the appropriate director for approval. Nomination forms and program details are available on the Human Resources webpage under "Employee Recognition Program." The internal web page address is <http://wch.erc.rl.gov/hr/recognition.htm>

Recognition of significant accomplishments in the area of safety is not awarded through this program. Safety awards should be processed through the Safety Department's recognition program and any questions should be referred to Terri Baker 372-9103 or Ken Jenkins 392-1817.

A recognition task team is being formed to look at other methods of recognizing employees, and details will be provided when finalized. If you have questions about the program, please contact Carrie Locke at 372-9500 or Faith Powers at 375-4671.

## Health and safety expo planned

The 12th Annual Hanford Site Health and Safety Exposition will be held May 23-24 at the Trade Recreational and Agricultural Center in Pasco.

The Expo showcases outstanding performances in health and safety, promotes a 24-hour safety conscience and demonstrates

everyone closer to the operations at ERDF," Jeff said.

The 132- by 70-foot facility has 11 offices and 35 cubicles similar to those in the Hanford Square buildings. "Kudos to Facilities Services and Information Technology staff for their work to efficiently conduct the move over the weekend and quickly ready the facility for us to move in," Jeff added.



**Since ERDF began operation in 1996, 141 different transportation drivers have hauled contaminated materials for disposal at ERDF – together traveling a mileage equivalent to 21 roundtrips between the Earth and the moon.**

## HAMTC members approve new agreement

Washington Closure Hanford and Eberline Services Hanford employees represented by HAMTC have voted to approve a new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The agreement was signed on Tuesday January 31.



**HAMTC President Dave Molnaa and Project Manager Pat Pettiette signed the new three-year collective bargaining agreement last week. The agreement runs through March 2009.**

The new agreement achieves several of the key goals and objectives established with DOE as part of the River Corridor Closure Project. The agreement runs through March 2009.

Provisions include annual general wage increases over the life of the agreement, sharing in the incentive program, establishing the framework to contract with a labor broker for HAMTC-represented work and establishing a separate benefits program for non-incumbent-represented employees.

"I want to thank the company and union negotiations committees – led by Dom Sansotta, Washington Closure; Rob Easdon, CH2M Hill; and Dave Molnaa and Larry Johnston, HAMTC – for their work in achieving this significant accomplishment," said Project Manager Pat Pettiette. "I also want to thank our represented workforce for ratifying the new labor agreement. It allows us to work together in meeting our commitment to DOE to clean up the river corridor."

Copies will be printed, and the document will be placed on the Washington Closure internet site.

If you have questions regarding the new agreement, contact Dom Sansotta, Labor Relations manager, at 372-9464.

ways to keep our community healthy and safe in everyday activities. More than 40,000 people attended last year's event.

As in the past, please coordinate your attendance at the Expo during work hours with your supervisor.

## Flu prevention planning

Recent media reports have noted the possibility of a worldwide avian or bird flu epidemic, or pandemic. No cases of avian flu in birds or humans have been found in the United States. However, medical authorities are advising that people prepare for such an event.

AdvanceMed Hanford (AMH) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy is monitoring federal health advisories and recommendations as well as information from national and international health agencies. Issues, such as travel-related recommendations, are being monitored for changes to related medical programs, and AMH will update medical protocols in accordance with Center for Disease Control recommendations.

AMH also working with local, regional and state health authorities and emergency preparedness organizations to ensure that Hanford employees are aware of information, services and medical assistance available to them in case of a pandemic threat.

Site-specific plans and preparations are being considered to address unique Hanford safety, health and security needs. More information on these issues will be provided so contractors and individuals can learn about preparation steps to take in the case of a pandemic. In the event of a pandemic, it is important you know how to protect and care for yourself and your family, and employers and government officials may need to know how to manage and protect business interests. Following are several websites that contain information you may find useful:

# Spring Fling draws crowd

Nearly 500 Washington Closure Hanford employees and their guests attended the Spring Fling on February 2.

The three-hour event was held at the Richland Red Lion. A wide variety of appetizers was provided, ranging from dim sum and egg rolls to pasta and Italian meatballs, shrimp jambalaya and jalapeno chili poppers.



*Project Manager Pat Pettiette commended everyone for the cleanup results they've made and noted that we have many good years ahead.*



*The Washington Closure Hanford Spring Fling allowed employees and their guests an opportunity to celebrate.*

- <http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/avian.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>
- <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>
- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/>
- [http://www.who.int/topics/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/avian_influenza/en/)
- <http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/>

AMH will be developing formal information for site contractors to use and distribute to employees. Information from the community planning process also will be provided. If you have questions, you can contact Loren Lewis at 627-7266 or [loren\\_lewis@rl.gov](mailto:loren_lewis@rl.gov) or Martin A. Zizzi at 376-2828 or [martin\\_zizzi@rl.gov](mailto:martin_zizzi@rl.gov)

## The history of Valentine's Day

The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons. Yet another story tells that while in prison Valentine sent the first 'valentine' greeting to a young girl with whom he'd fallen in love. Before his death, it is alleged he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine."

Although the truth behind Valentine legends is murky, the stories emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

*From The History Channel*

### Comments or questions?

Please call Edye Jenkins at 372-9176

Or you may Email:

[wchnews@wch-rcc.com](mailto:wchnews@wch-rcc.com)

# Remembering workplace etiquette

While these suggestions aren't new, resolving to follow them may help us live more harmoniously at work.

## In cubicles

- Only enter another person's cubicle after you have been acknowledged. Once there is a break in their work activity, you can get their attention by clearing your throat, making a subtle noise or tapping on the cubicle entrance. It is not appropriate to read what's on the monitor or on the desk or riffle through personal belongings. And, take everything you've brought with you when you leave.
- Discuss confidential matters in conference rooms or offices, not cubicles, which offer very little privacy. If you need to discuss the issue on the telephone, ask to use a phone in someone's office for the discussion.
- Use "turnaround" and "hotel" spaces if you need to use a phone – not the cubicle of someone who is out of the office.
- Make a good impression on colleagues and others by keeping your cubicle clean.

## In group areas

- Hold meetings and group discussions in conference rooms or designated huddle areas – not in hallways, in front of conference room doors, in the kitchen or near copy areas.
- Avoid waiting for a meeting to start directly outside a conference room door, especially if the room is occupied. This helps prevent a congested area and a distracting environment for people in nearby cubicles.
- Only use speaker phones in conference rooms or offices. The noise that can be created by the use of speaker phones can make the environment distracting for others around you.

## Be a good neighbor

- Speak softly. A loud voice is distracting and can make it difficult for others to concentrate. Discussions and word use should be appropriate for a business setting. Offensive, profane or obscene language should never be used.
- Use earphones when listening to your computer or radio. Be mindful that humming or whistling is a distraction to those nearby.
- Take your cellular phone with you when you leave your cubicle. Leaving it behind provides an unnecessary distraction to others.
- Keep your personal calls to a minimum and try to be discreet about your conversation topics.
- Be aware that others may have perfume or aftershave sensitivities or allergies. Strong odors in close environments can cause allergic reactions, uncomfortable working environments, headaches and work distractions for those around you