

February 22, 2006  
Volume 2, Issue 3

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## D4 Closure Project accelerates 100-N Area work

If you haven't been to the 100-N Area recently, you'll be surprised -- several facilities have disappeared thanks to the D4 Closure Project team's accelerated work schedule.

The 100-N Area contains between 50 and 60 of the 510 excess Hanford facilities that will be demolished during the River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project. The 100-N Area facilities supported N Reactor operation.



***The D4 Closure Project 100-N Area team uses a 245 excavator to demolish the 1519N Building. The 1519N fixed metal building once was used by construction pipe fitters back in the N Reactor operation days.***

"During the past three months, we've demolished 11 facilities," said Chris Watson, D4 Closure Project 100 Area manager. D4 stands for Deactivation, Decontamination, Decommissioning and Demolition.

"These facilities included a steam trestle, storage buildings, an electrical substation, crafts' shops and a water filter plant," Chris said. "When we're finished, only the N Reactor core, concrete shield walls and adjacent heat exchanger building will be left." N Reactor interim safe storage, or cocooning, is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

About 16,000 tons of contaminated materials resulting from 100-N facilities demolition have been disposed at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility since the RCC Project began. Non-contaminated materials are either disposed offsite or recycled.

Chris said it's the team's ownership of the work that's the key to being able to accelerate the work schedule. "Our workers in the field are the true champions of change," he said. "They're the ones who identify where we can change processes that allow us to accelerate demolition without sacrificing our attention to safety.

"Once they discover areas where improvements can be made, we count on our support staff to streamline processes and documentation," Chris continued. "In other words, by changing processes and systems, we can manage the job of demolition as a marathon instead of a sprint."

## Winter Safety Campaign results

The River Corridor Closure Project had only one recordable injury during the Winter Safety Campaign, which ran from December 12 through February 2. Congratulations to everyone who went the entire campaign without an injury.

The Spring Safety Campaign began this week and runs through May 28. Please continue to focus on your safety and the safety of your co-workers. Together, we can achieve our goal of zero.



## Sharing the road

Bicyclists are a common sight throughout the year in our community. However, with the longer hours of darkness, sometimes rainy, slick roads and occasional foggy conditions we have this time of year, it's important to remind ourselves about the need for bicyclists and motorists to share the road. The following tips are provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation:

1. **Obey traffic signs and signals** - Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like other vehicles.
2. **Never ride against traffic** - Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. State law and common sense require that bicyclists drive like other vehicles.
3. **Follow lane markings** - Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight in a lane marked "right-turn only."

The group isn't resting on its successes. "We're already moving ahead to demolish several other 100-N Area structures, including a substation and a water plant," Chris said. "We're committed to getting the site ready for closure by 2012."

## Safely disposing of tritium tubes



River Corridor Closure Project team member Aaron Dunnum, Federal Engineers and Constructors, uses a long-handled tool to place one of 898 tritium tubes in a box that will be grouted and disposed at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).

The tubes were removed from the 118-B-1 Burial Ground. They were used from 1950 to 1952 at the 100-B Laboratory to dispose of tritium-contaminated glassware and other materials.

Field Remediation Closure Project employees sorted the tubes from other waste and placed them in boxes modified for macro-encapsulation grouting. The tubes must be encased in grout because mercury was used in their construction and sealing. Mercury is a land disposal restricted waste and cannot be placed directly in ERDF without treatment.

Duratek, the ERDF subcontractor, uses a flooding technique to pump grout into boxes with modified lids. The resulting grout block in each box fully encapsulates the tubes.

## Employee Concerns Program is here for you

"Don't put your concerns on hold" is both the Employee Concerns Program (ECP) motto and its goal.

"Issues and concerns occur in all organizations, and the River Corridor Closure Project is no exception," said Tim Quinn, ECP manager. "It's essential for the Washington Closure Hanford team to address employee problems that arise in our work for us to safely and efficiently clean up the Columbia River corridor."

"Line management usually is the first and best resource for resolving workplace issues. We encourage Washington Closure and subcontractor employees to raise issues and concerns with their immediate



4. **Don't pass on the right** - Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.
5. **Scan the road behind you** - Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving. Some riders use rear-view mirrors.
6. **Keep both hands ready to brake** - You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain, brakes are less efficient when wet.
7. **Wear a helmet and never ride with headphones** - Always wear a helmet. Never wear headphones while riding a bike.
8. **Dress appropriately** - In rain wear a poncho or waterproof suit. Dress in layers so you can adjust to temperature changes. Wear bright colored clothing.
9. **Use hand signals** - Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, of courtesy, and of self-protection.
10. **Ride in the middle of the lane in slower traffic** - Get in the middle of the lane at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.
11. **Choose the best way to turn left** - There are two choices: (1) Like an auto: signal to move into the left turn lane and then turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk. Walk your bike across.
12. **Make eye contact with drivers** - Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure that they do. Eye contact is important with any driver which might pose a threat to your safety.

*We are committed to sustaining an open work environment at Hanford where employees feel free to raise concerns.*

supervisors or managers for resolution," Tim continued. "However, sometimes issues or problems cannot be resolved at this level. That's where the ECP comes in."

The ECP provides a framework for identifying, reporting and resolving employee concerns. "The program is an independent way for employees to anonymously and confidentially report specific concerns related to safety, health, quality, security,

environmental, management process, retaliation reprisal, fraud, waste, abuse and corruption," Tim said.

Tim explained that the issues the ECP helps employees address differ from those in which Employee Relations is involved. "The ECP becomes involved and investigates an issue when it falls within one of several specific, compliance categories, such as safety. Employee Relations helps employees resolve issues related to interpersonal interactions, such as helping resolve a disagreement between employees," Tim said.

The ECP handles about six employee concerns a month. "We frequently can resolve issues by talking with the employee's manager and then communicating back to the employee that the concern has been thoroughly addressed."

"The best part of my job is having our employees recognize and report potential issues and getting those concerns resolved before they become more serious," Tim said. "If we can catch issues early, we can help prevent injury and damage, maintain a healthy attitude on the job and stay focused on meeting our goals".

## **Zero tolerance for retaliation**

**The Hanford Site Zero Tolerance for Retaliation Policy mandates that employees are free to express concerns without fear of reprimand, retaliation or duress. Employees are encouraged to raise their concerns and are ensured that a timely evaluation and resolution of the concerns will occur.**

## **For more information**

To learn more about the Employee Concerns Program, you can  
*Visit the ECP office at 3190 George Washington Way, Sigma 1, Room 1.*  
*Visit the ECP website at <http://wch.erc.rl.gov/empcon>*

*Call:*

- Tim Quinn, Washington Closure Hanford ECP manager, at 372-9439, 372-9190 or 539-0722
- Mike Dickinson, Washington Closure Hanford ECP representative, at 372-9231.
- Karen Whitten, Eberline Services Hanford Employee Relations representative, at 372-9246
- the ECP hot line at 372-9542

**13. Look out for road hazards -** Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, gravel, ice, sand or debris. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

**14. Use lights at night -** The law requires a white headlight (visible from at least 500 feet ahead) and a rear reflector or taillight (visible up to 300 feet from behind).

**15. Keep your bike in good repair -** Adjust your bike to fit you and keep it working properly. Check brakes and tires regularly. Routine maintenance is simple and you can learn to do it yourself.

To help avoid car traffic, bicyclists can use the bike and pedestrian path along the Columbia River that extends through Richland, past the WSU-Tri-Cities campus to the 300 Area. Please note that the public pathways on the north end of Richardson Road will be closed until about mid-March so improvements can be made to the Port of Benton's barge slip. Pedestrian traffic is detoured south on the Richardson Road sidewalk to the existing gravel detour route. The detour route is marked for your safety. A map is located at <http://wch.erc.rl.gov/rio/docs/DOC041.PDF> or you can contact John Haakenson at the Port of Benton at 375-3060.

A map of the Tri-Cities bike/pedestrian paths is available at <http://www.benton-franklin.cog.wa.us/>



**Comments or questions?**  
Please call Edye Jenkins at 372-9176  
Or you may Email:  
[wchnews@wch-rcc.com](mailto:wchnews@wch-rcc.com)

# A glimpse at cleanup results

The River Corridor Closure Project is making a difference at Hanford.

The tables below depict the actual and planned RCC Project work for the current fiscal year to demolish Hanford facilities, cleanup waste sites and dispose of contaminated materials in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

## Cleanup results

