

CURRENT

Newsletter for the River Corridor Closure Project

SAFETY • PEOPLE • RESULTS

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Volume 3, Issue 1

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New staff

Environmental tips

The tide has rolled in again

Welcome to the third volume of the *River Corridor Closure Newsletter*, your source for news about the River Corridor Closure (RCC) Project. This year, we hope to bring you continued stories of project successes and employee accomplishments. You will also find an improved "Metrics" section showcasing project milestones, as well as regularly occurring features about safety both on and off the job.

This year, we want to recognize not just the projects but the *people* achieving greatness throughout the river corridor – we want to know about the great contributions you all are making to the RCC Project! We invite you to contribute comments, story ideas, employee accomplishments and activities to wchnews@wch-rcc.com.

Each issue may be printed out, copied and distributed to employees who do not have regular computer access. It may also be posted on bulletin boards and accessed online at <http://www.washingtonclosure.com/News/newsletter.html>.

Thank you for your continued support – this newsletter wouldn't be here without you!

D4 delivers safe performance: "It's what we do!"

The D4 Utility Operations team was recognized during a celebration Feb. 1 for demonstrating responsible work processes in completing the 3621D High Voltage Isolation Project on schedule with zero injuries during adverse weather conditions.

"The team worked through 7 degree F weather, snow and ice to get the project completed safely and efficiently," said Nolan Draper, D4 Utility Operations supervisor. "We want to recognize the team members and the results of their great teamwork."



The D4 Utility Operations team enjoys a celebration Feb. 1 to recognize their recent success in using safe and innovative solutions to complete deactivation of the 3621D stand-by power source.

The home Washington Closure built



100 Area D4 team members help build the Habitat for Humanity house in Pasco to support a local family. Over the course of four Saturdays in January and February, Washington Closure Hanford volunteers helped construct a five-bedroom house in the Tierra Vida development in Pasco.

Mark your calendars for March!

Welcome the spring season at the Spring Fling Mar. 8 from 5-9 p.m. at the Richland Red Lion. All River Corridor Closure Project employees and one guest are invited to this afternoon of fresh food and springtime fun! More information will be available soon.

This month in health

Radon: An invisible threat

Do you know about the dangers of Radon? January was Radon Awareness Month and we invite you to find out about the dangers of this naturally occurring radioactive gas found in homes, schools and office buildings. You cannot see it, smell it nor taste it, but you can test for it and it can be fixed. Identify a radon problem in your home today with "do-it-yourself" radon test kits or by

The celebration recognized the team's recent success in using teamwork, communication and safety to complete a three-day electrical outage scheduled to deactivate the 3621D stand-by power source and provide future access for demolition of the 337 building.

The team included nine HAMTC trades and numerous support personnel from Washington Closure Hanford, Eberline Services and Fluor Hanford. They worked nearly 40 hours to complete the job safely and comply with the three-day outage schedule.

More than 20 people worked outside on underground cables and vaults while others worked inside the 3621D utility building on major electrical equipment. Their work proceeded despite frigid weather and unexpected obstacles.

On the first day, a heat pump failure in an adjacent facility set off a fire alarm and drew the fire department to fill the already limited workspace. Later, when an insulation cable test failed on a main feeder line, the team immediately assessed the situation and reconvened the next morning to develop a solution.

Lineman Mark Hayes traced parallel cables running into the 3621BC building and delivered the innovative solution to utilize jumper cables to tie into that parallel line. When the plans were validated and approved, the team implemented the new approach and avoided what could have been a time delay of nearly one month and cost increases over \$100,000.

Meanwhile, another worker stopped work inside the building when power cutting tools began generating more sparks than anticipated. The team organized an alternative work approach and averted sparks by using a different cutting blade.

By the end of the third day, the workers had completed the project on time, with no injuries. "These people did exceptional work. This is the type of teamwork it takes to make a project successful," Nolan said.

"In my 30-plus years in the electrical field, this is the best crew I have had the pleasure to work with," added Ted Leone, Electrical Field Engineer.

When complimented about the group's teamwork and communications, lineman J.J. Juliuson said, "It's what we do!"

Over the past year, the team has safely completed 70 utility isolation projects in support of safe demolition and closure. (See page 3 for more D4 accomplishments.)

RCC Projects welcome the new year

The River Corridor Closure (RCC) Projects are aggressively moving toward the ultimate goal of cleaning up the 218-square-mile river corridor. The following project summaries showcase projects' recent accomplishments and upcoming work goals.



The D4 team breaks down facilities from the 306 area. The team completed demolition of 306E and is now demolishing 306W.

hiring a qualified tester. For links and information, visit www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html.

- Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall.
- Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year in the United States. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.
- The risk of lung cancer for smokers is significant due to the multiplying effects of radon and smoking. Consequently, about 62 in 1,000 smokers will die of lung-cancer, compared to 7.3 people in a 1,000 for non-smokers.
- The World Health Organization says radon causes up to 15% of lung cancers worldwide.

Have a heart

February is American Heart Month and all Washington Closure Hanford team members are invited to find out more about how to protect themselves against heart disease and strokes.

Hearty statistics from the Center for Disease Control:

- Almost 700,000 people die of heart disease in the United States annually.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women aged 65 years and older, the second leading cause of death among women aged 45–64 years, and the third leading cause of death among women aged 25–44 years.
- The chance of developing coronary heart disease can be reduced by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk.
- People who have survived a heart attack can also work to reduce their risk of another heart attack or a stroke in the future.
- Heart disease accounts for about 29% of all U.S. deaths annually.

The **D4 (Deactivate, Decontaminate, Decommission and Demolish) Project** is continuing toward its goal of removing 486 excess facilities from the river corridor. In the past year, the team has completed demolition of 75 facilities in the 100 and 300 areas and safely terminated utilities to 80 facilities. Most recently, the team completed demolition of the 333 and 306E facilities and will now be moving on to complete demolition of the 306W facility while beginning D4 processes on numerous other sites.



The ISS Project was recently awarded a subcontract to remove the remaining hazardous materials from the 105/109N areas (shown here). The facilities will be entombed together for interim safe storage.

The **Interim Safe Storage (ISS) Project** is placing retired reactors into ISS by "cocooning" them in large cement, roofed structures. The ISS team's most notable accomplishments to date include completing ISS of the H Reactor and cleanup of the D, DR and F buildings. The team recently completed characterization of the 105/109N building and will now start hazardous material removal.



ESFC team members demonstrate electro fishing equipment and methodology as part of the Job Hazard Analysis. The team uses electro fishing and several other methods to perform sampling and evaluate sites throughout the river corridor.



The Field Remediation team prepares a trailer to transfer a waste container. The team finished backfill and revegetation of the 618-2 Burial Ground, completing TPA Milestone M-16-60 four months ahead of schedule.

Field Remediation Project team members are progressing in their mission to clean up 370 sites in the river corridor. In the last year, the team closed 52 waste sites and most recently completed backfill and revegetation of the 618-2 Burial ground. A few of the team's current goals include mobilizing the new remediation subcontractor at 100-D Area and completing confirmatory sampling activities at the 331-LSLDF site in February.



The Waste Operations team disposes of contaminated materials in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. The team recently awarded a contract to design four additional cells for the environmental landfill.

The **Waste Operations Project** team is transporting, treating and disposing of contaminated materials generated from demolition and cleanup activities. In 2006, the team disposed of more than 714,000 tons to ERDF. The team started its new year off by awarding a design subcontract to Weaver Boos Consultants for construction of ERDF cells 7-10. Completion of the design is scheduled for the end of April and the request for proposals for cell

Find out more about American Heart Month by visiting the American Heart Association website at <http://www.americanheart.org>.

Get the fun rolling with Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement (JA) and Washington Closure Hanford are recruiting teams to participate in the 2007 JA Bowling Classic and On-Line Auction Mar. 6-10 to raise monetary support for JA, the nation's oldest and largest economic education program for kids. Last year, Washington Closure had five teams participate in the Classic and raise a total of \$4,300 to help JA volunteers teach classes free of charge to over 7000 students in grades 1-12.

How can you join the fun?

- Sign up as a team captain and recruit a 5-person team of co-workers, friends and family (must be 18 or older). Each bowler's goal is to raise a minimum of \$100 and become eligible for prizes based on the amount of money raised.
- Join a bowling team – with or without bowling experience! Many bowlers in this event have never bowled before – they join because it is a fun event that funds for a good cause.
- Sponsor a bowling team or a bowler. Pledge a donation to your local All-Star Bowler. You don't have to bowl to make a difference– all donations are welcome and everyone is invited to come and watch the fun!
- Bid on an item at the Charter On-Line Auction. Every dollar you contribute helps JA fund its educational programming!

To signup, please contact Joan Kessner at 375-4688 or Joan.kessner@wch-rcc.com. Space is limited so sign up early!

Comments or questions?

Please call Maren Disney at 539-4079

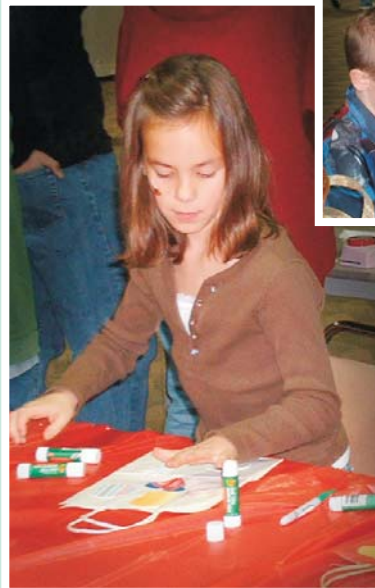
Or you may Email:
mvd Disney@wch-rcc.com

construction and quality assurance oversight will be issued later this year.

The **End State and Final Closure** team is continuing to evaluate protection of human health and the environment following cleanup and planning for transition to long-term stewardship. In November, ten months ahead of schedule, the team submitted a draft of its long-term stewardship plan for review. The team is currently performing risk assessment sampling between the 100 and 300 operational areas and developing a pilot post-remediation surface radiological survey to be conducted at each operational area.

Congratulations to all of the RCC Projects – keep up the good work!

Holiday fun



Families from the River Corridor Closure Project enjoy an afternoon of holiday fun at the Children's Holiday Open House Dec. 16 at the TRAC in Pasco, where they were treated to games, prizes and a guest appearance by Santa and his elves. Photos courtesy of Lynn Goulet.