Washington Closure Hanford

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the Current

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Innovation Used in Taking Down 384 Power House

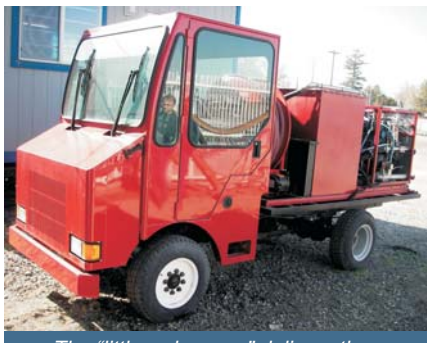
The landscape in the northern end of the 300 Area has dramatically changed over the last few years as many of the buildings have been removed by the D4 group. Empty space fills the air where before stood concrete and metal structures. One large building remained standing, while Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) reviewed the safest means of taking it down.

D4 demolition of 384 Power House in Hanford's 300 Area

The 384 Power House is a seven-story structure. Part of its external construction consists of Transite paneling that contains non-friable asbestos (the asbestos fibers are not easily released to the air). Although it is non-friable, special care is needed to minimize the potential for it going airborne.

The WCH D4 and regulatory support staff worked with the local U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a new demolition approach that would leave the panels in place during demolition. The traditional method of manually removing the panels prior to demolition would have represented a significant industrial hazard to the workers.

The Technology Application Program of the WCH Engineering group discovered some asbestos abatement taking place in Texas that appeared to use techniques our D4 project could apply to improve safety beyond the minimum regulatory requirements. An experimental EPA project was using fire-fighting foam additives to enhance the effectiveness of water used for dust suppression on a building with non-friable asbestos panels.



The "little red wagon" delivers the compressed air foam system

"The goal for the Technology Application Program is to look for technologies used elsewhere, sometimes in other industries, that we can apply to improve safety and efficiency in our nuclear D&D work at

Tess Klatt Accepted into Leadership Program

After submitting an application and letters of support from Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) and the local Columbia River National Contract Management Association (NCMA) Chapter, Tess Klatt, WCH Procurement Specialist and Small Business Advocate, has been accepted into the NCMA Contract Management Leadership Development Program (CMLDP). NCMA is an organization for contract management professionals.

In the profession of contract management, there is an anticipated upcoming shortage of people that will be qualified to step into supervisory, management and executive positions as the current workforce faces natural attrition. In order to prepare for this potential void, NCMA selects a few individuals each year to participate in this career-accelerating program.

Over the next year, Tess will participate in classes on leadership, contract management and NCMA operations. Additionally, she will be working with a mentor assigned by NCMA as she gains skills and knowledge that will put her on the fast track toward becoming a leader in the field of contract management.

384 Power House continued

Hanford," said Don McBride, Technical Support Consultant for D4, a subcontractor from Polestar Applied Technology.

A challenge facing the project was learning how to apply the foam and finding the needed equipment. The Hanford Fire Department supported the project by demonstrating the use of their equipment and application of the foam product. Three methods were tried: water alone, water mixed with foam concentrate, and a method mixing water, foam concentrate and compressed air. The most effective method was the compressed air foam. At the request of John Carranco, D4 Superintendent, McBride located a Snuffer™ Compressed Air Foam System on a customized small fire truck (coined "The Little Red Wagon") from a local construction company.

"While the foam itself stays on the walls longer, the main benefit is that the foam acts as a wetting agent," said McBride. "It makes the water wetter so the water penetrates better." This means more effective dust suppression in the long run. Importantly, the use of the compressed air foam has helped the project go above and beyond the minimum regulatory requirements for the work while improving the safety and effectiveness of its dust suppression. Thanks to the efforts of Carranco and his D4 crews, the 384 Power House demolition is well under way using these new techniques.

Field Remediation Keeps it Safe

Zero accidents and injuries is the goal at Washington Closure Hanford, and the Field Remediation (FR) projects are doing a great job of achieving that goal. As of February 20, FR reached a milestone of six months without a single first aid injury. That's a remarkable feat under normal conditions, but our FR teams are doing some of the most hazardous work in the U.S. Department of Energy complex.

A summary of what was accomplished during this time frame includes:

- 185,311 tons of waste excavated, sorted, loaded and shipped to ERDF
- 225,864 cubic meters of clean backfill hauled and placed into completed waste sites
- Over 40 pieces of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) characterized and shipped to K Basin
- 22 drums processed and sampled from the 618-7 Burial Ground
- Numerous anomalies opened, sampled and disposed
- 116-C-3 Chemical Tanks treated, remediated and backfilled
- Milestones met
- Backfilling completed at several burial grounds and waste sites

Keeping it safe at the 618-7 Field Remediation project

New Hires

WCH welcomes the following new employees who have joined our project:

James Cutsforth: WCH, Services Coordinator-Project Services

John Drago: WCH, Sr. Subcontract Technical Representative-Field Remediation

Lynn Hebdon: WCH, Sr. RadCon Engineer-SH&Q

Stan Jenkins: WCH, Sr. RadCon Engineer-SH&Q

Mitchell Kobierowski: WCH, Sr. RadCon Engineer-SH&Q

Ed Wallace: WCH, Sr. RadCon Engineer-SH&Q

Katie Wood: WCH, Assistant Technologist-Environmental Protection

Terry Mountain: WCH, Performance Assurance Engineer-SH&Q

Donna Bush: WCH, Administrative Assistant-Environmental Protection

New WCH Assignments

Christopher Beach: Sr. Subcontract Technical Representative

Shane Bigham: STR Supervisor

Mike Darnell: Craft Supervisor

Earl Prichard: Sr. Subcontract Technical Representative

Roger Landon: Manager, Environmental Compliance

Darci Teel: Manager, Environmental Services

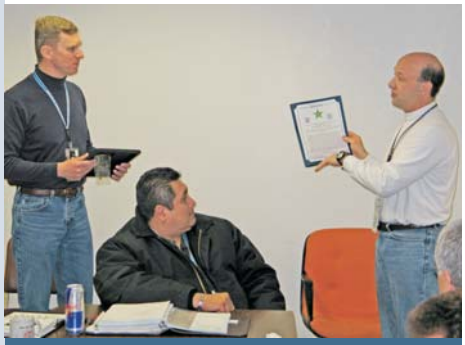
Field Remediation continued

- Hot particles, highly activated wire and other high dose items encountered.

"Each and every person in FR played a role in achieving this milestone and we all should be very proud of the job we have done," said Rick Donahoe, former Director, Field Remediation. "Congratulations to each of you and keep up the excellent work." Donahoe reminded all FR workers, "Each day presents new hazards and we must continue to stay focused on our jobs. The past six months will not matter if someone gets hurt today."

In Pursuit of a Quality Star

A new award with an old history, the "Quality Star" is something you will be seeing around the project. The Quality Star is awarded to individuals who make an extra effort to research, understand, define, grade and apply quality assurance principals to items and activities that are under their scope of responsibility. Recipients are also recognized for their dedication toward promoting continuous improvement of safety and quality in the work place.



Mike Hassell presents Ralph Wilson with a Quality Star Certificate

In the early 1990s, a safety campaign was created known as the STAR program, and this was the inception of the star lapel pin known as the "Star." STAR meant STOP, THINK, ACT and REVIEW, and for completing the training course, individuals received a colored star pin. The concept was widely accepted and in fact adopted by a vitrification plant in upstate New York. The Quality professional at that location added the word "Quality" to the title.

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) Quality Assurance & Safety Manager, Mike Hassell, has begun implementing the Quality Star program with the award of a certificate to Ralph Wilson. Ralph is the Subcontractor Technical Representative for the D4 hot cell work. As the Quality Star program dictates, Ralph demonstrated an extraordinary effort in researching and developing an understanding of procurement documents associated with services needed for his project.

When you see someone displaying a Quality Star certificate, ask them what they did to earn this award. In every case it will have required an actual documented activity performed that demonstrated a commitment to safety and quality.

DOE Protecting Hanford's B Reactor

There's been a long debate regarding whether or not the historic B Reactor at Hanford should be kept as a museum. On Wednesday, March 12, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a policy in support of keeping this historical facility in a state that preserves its impact on the history of our country.

As the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor, which created plutonium for both the first atomic test at Trinity, New Mexico, and for the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, helping bring World War II to an end, the B Reactor had a key role in ushering in the Atomic Age.

Hanford's historic B Reactor

B Reactor continued

"The B Reactor stands as a tribute to the integrity and dedication of the men and women who pioneered a nuclear technology in the hope that our nation's security would be preserved for future generations," said Assistant Secretary of Energy, Jim Rispoli. "The steps we are taking will ensure we give this remarkable facility every chance to be permanently preserved for the public to see."

The plans outlined by DOE are an interim solution instigated to allow the National Park Service to conduct further studies into long-term preservation options.

"This is a positive step toward preserving Hanford's historic B Reactor," stated Congressman Doc Hastings. "This announcement is welcome news for all of us who are committed to sharing the story of B Reactor and of those who worked at Hanford in support of our nation's defense."

The B Reactor will be part of the Hanford tours scheduled between April and September of this year. The tour schedule has been expanded to include a total of 48 tours. As in the past, the schedule was full in less than a day's time, even with the increased number of tours available.

Giving Junior Achievement a Helping Hand

The circus came to town; that is, the Junior Achievement Circus Bowl. Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) employees showed up to support the cause with five teams, and they did very well in their fundraising efforts.

As a collective unit, WCH teams brought in a total of $5051. Joan Kessner, who captained one of the teams, was recognized as a top individual fundraiser, bringing in $1300.

Team members, left to right: Scott Caldwell (and the girls), Sandy Beck, Rob Vore, Lynn Goulet, Sean Reffalt, Yvette Johnson, Jill Dixson (Pam Dykeman's daughter), Karen Peavey, Sharon Baasch

The WCH virtual team consisted of Joan Kessner (captain), Sheri Harshberger, Amoret Bunn, Donna Yasek and Kathy Wendt.

Teams that participated as actual bowling teams were:

- Kandi Cochran (captain), Kay Shiflet, Stacy Fangman, Jerry Wolski and Gary Minkler.
- Josie Meireis (captain), Katie Wood, Nancy Brower, Phil Meade and Bill Hudson.
- Tracy Heidelberg (captain), Jill Dixson, Karen Peavey, Sharon Baasch and Lynn Goulet.
- Yvette Johnson (captain), Scott Caldwell, Sean Reffalt, Sandy Beck and Rob Vore.

Jerry Wolski was a prize winner; he won the drawing for the Fluor Fabulous Get Away.

Let's not forget the volunteers who gave of their time at the bank counting the money that was raised: Rich Weiss, Cynthia Milton, Donna Yasek and Joan Kessner.