

January 2012
Volume 8, Issue 1

C^{the} *Current*

River Corridor
Closure Project

In This Issue:

All-Employee Meeting Brings Good News

WCH Appreciates You

Visualization Campaign Rolls Out

Guard Tower Falls and Cleanup Progress Continues at N Reactor

Another Major Demolition Under Way

Service Awards

New Hires

All-Employee Meeting Brings Good News

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) President, Carol Johnson held her first all-employee meeting, January 17. U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Richland Operations (RL) Operations Manager, Matt McCormick and RL Assistant Manager for the River Corridor, Jonathan (JD) Dowell briefly addressed the employees to congratulate them on the high quality of work being accomplished. They praised the admirable safety record of the River Corridor Closure (RCC) workers and noted the high opinion held by DOE Headquarters in regards to the RCC standard of work and its level of safety.

Following Carol's remarks highlighting the Project's success and future outlook, employees heard from Gary Snow, D4 director and Rob Cantwell, Field Remediation director. They spoke to the course being taken to reach for RL's 2015 Vision. Jeff Armatrout, Waste Operations director discussed ERDF's important role on the Project.



River Corridor employees attended Carol Johnson's (WCH President) first all-employee meeting. The agenda was well received.

Editor: Tari Birch

Contributing authors: Tari Birch, Peter Bengtson and Mark McKenna.

Please submit story ideas or comments to *WCH Communications*.

The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted articles for length and clarity.

All-employee meeting continued



WCH President, Carol Johnson, addressed the River Corridor employees. Waiting to take their turn at offering the employees kudos are Matt McCormick and Jonathan (J.D.) Dowell, both of DOE-RL.

Achieving the honor of being the first DOE D&D cleanup project within the entire DOE complex to reach the milestone of six million safe hours worked, did not go unrecognized. It was well recognized and awards were distributed to RCC employees following the meeting.

Perhaps the most welcome and long-awaited news came when Carol announced that the parent companies would be taking care of their employees by providing an incentive award for 2011.

Service Awards

The following individuals reached a milestone in their careers.

5 Years:

Nissen, David P.
Voeks, Robert C.
Kelly, James A.
McClain, Edward S.
Parker, Terry L.
Powell, Jeffery A.

10 Years:

Dixon, Gregory E.
Scheerer, William K.
McCargar, Kristan W.
Saling, Loren T.

20 Years:

Bryant, Warren E.

WCH Appreciates You

After a very successful United Way campaign, Todd Nelson and Eric Kinnunen were recognized for their efforts in leading the drive with a WCH Appreciates You award. Their certificates read, "United Way will receive more than \$222,000 from the project, exceeding our goal by nearly 10%! Your hard work and determination were key for having a successful campaign and is truly appreciated by WCH and the community."

As it was Todd's last day as a WCH employee, it was a nice farewell for him.



Eric Kinnunen (center) and Todd Nelson (second from right) were the recipients of the WCH Appreciates You award. Presenting the award are Carol Johnson, WCH President (left); Emily Millikin, Safety and Health Director (second from left); and Penny Phelps, Communications and Public Affairs Director (right).



The first of many displays being rolled out across the Project. The Visualization Campaign brings awareness to committing to working as one team for safe, visible cleanup of the River Corridor.

Visualization Campaign Rolls Out

Employees and visitors to the Fermi Building will notice new wall displays throughout the building. To emphasize our goal of maintaining a safe and disciplined work environment, WCH has launched a visual campaign this month highlighting our commitment to working as one team for the safe, visible cleanup of the River Corridor.

The visual campaign features a variety of large posters and other displays that will be distributed throughout conference rooms, hallways, building entrances, POD rooms, etc. The displays will be distributed throughout the remainder of River Corridor work sites in the upcoming weeks.

Guard Tower Falls and Cleanup Progress Continues at N Reactor

Washington Closure employees removed a symbol of the Cold War on January 11, by demolishing the security guard tower at N Reactor.

The guard tower symbolized Hanford's mission to produce plutonium for America's defense program. Its demolition is part of significant cleanup progress being made by Washington Closure's D4 team and its subcontractors.

"As part of N Reactor cleanup and interim safe storage of the facilities, workers have removed approximately 696,000 tons of contaminated material away from the Columbia River," said Gary Snow, Director of D4. "The demolition of the guard tower stands as a reminder of the progress workers are making by cleaning up the legacy waste along the River Corridor from Hanford's plutonium production mission."



100N's guard tower symbolized the importance of the original Hanford mission – producing plutonium for America's defense program.

FACTOID

The windows in the Guard Tower located at N Reactor, were made of one-inch bullet resistant glass.

FACTOID

There were four primary electric pumps, two back-up pumps and one emergency fire-water pump at the 181-N river structure. The diesel engine for the back-up pumps were old WWI surplus naval submarine engines (16 cylinders) that were refurbished for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission around 1960-61.

“We’re on schedule to stabilize the reactor and complete cleanup of the reactor’s support facilities by September.”

Gary Snow,
Director, D4

FACTOID

6,000 linear feet of piping has been removed from 100-N.

New Hires

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

Jason Blakefield: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

Marvin Ellison: WCH; HAMTC Crane Operator – D4

Harold Faubion: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

George Gojenola: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

Fidel Gutierrez: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

Michael Hamilton: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

Frederick Hingst: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

Sam Lagunas: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

Ronny Odom: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO

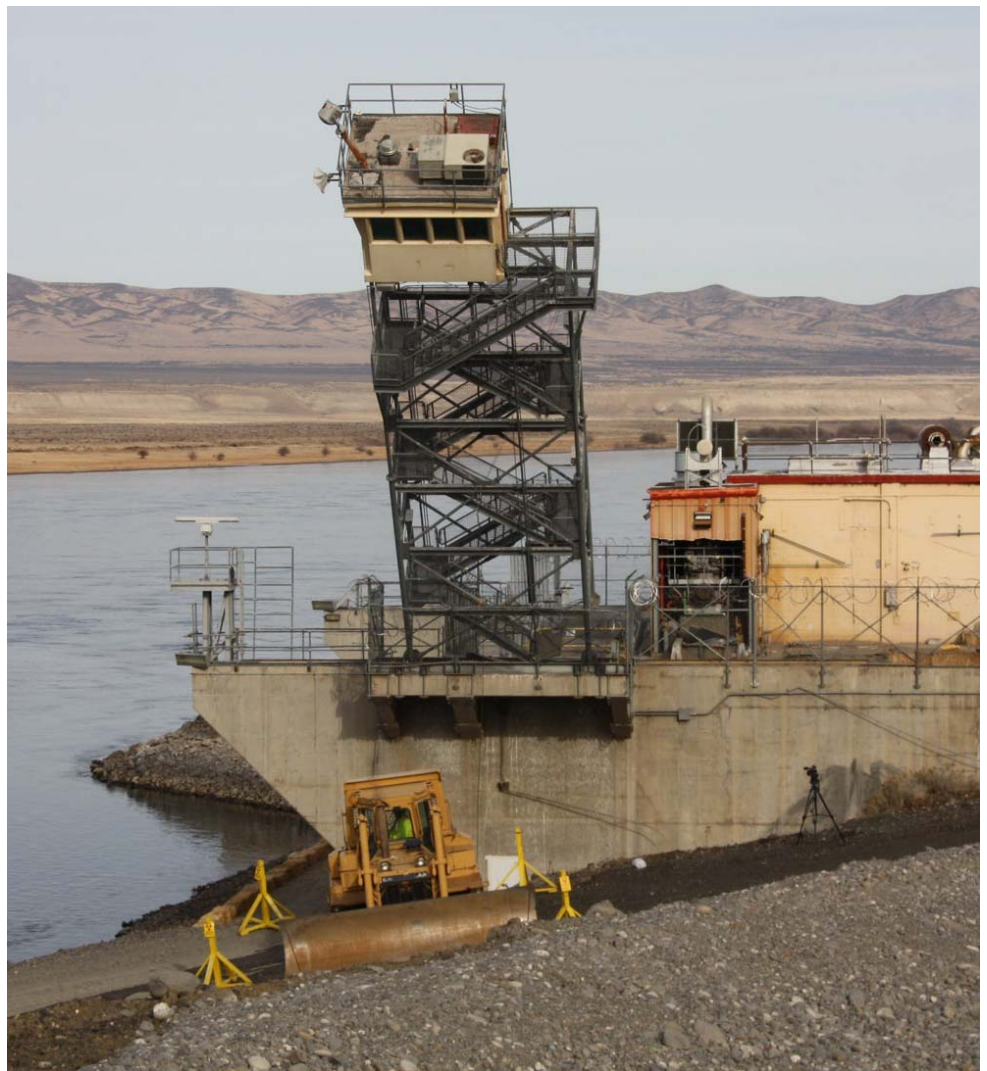
Guard tower continued

Placing a building in interim safe storage is also known as “cocooning.” It involves demolishing structures down to the solid concrete shield walls, sealing all openings with concrete or steel plate and placing a long-lived roof over the facility to stabilize it for 75 years. Cocooning of the Heat Exchanger Facility was completed in April 2011, and the reactor is approximately 99 percent cocooned.

In addition, Washington Closure is demolishing 109 reactor support facilities and cleaning up 119 waste sites around the largest and last operating reactor at Hanford.

“We’re on schedule to stabilize the reactor and complete cleanup of the reactor’s support facilities by September,” Snow said.

The guard tower was located on the 181-N Building, which was the reactor’s water intake structure. The 181-N Building, which is scheduled to be demolished later this month, provided water from the Columbia River to cool the reactor during operation. The guard tower stood 62 feet tall and weighed more than 49,000 pounds.



The 100N Guard Tower tumbled to the ground after decades of watching over the Hanford Site. It signifies tremendous progress in the cleaning up of the legacy waste along the River Corridor.

New hires continued

- Tom Hindman: WCH; HAMTC Crane Operator – D4
- Brandon Orser: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO
- Ryan Severson: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO
- Shawn Tilley: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO
- William Young: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO
- Mario Zavaleta: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO
- Jacob Zorich: WCH; HAMTC Truck Driver – WO
- Jason Pearson: WCH; HAMTC Crane Operator – D4
- Wyatt Dillard: WCH; HAMTC Crane Operator – D4
- Ruben Rojas: WCH; HAMTC D&D – D4
- Jeremiah Olsen: WCH; HAMTC D&D – D4
- John Vickerman: WCH; HAMTC Electrician – D4

Another Major Demolition Under Way

The Fuels Development Laboratory (308 Building) required extensive preparations to stabilize the heavily contaminated laboratory before beginning demolition.

Demolition of the 308 office wing began on Thursday, January 26, and workers hope to begin demolition on the main building soon after the debris from the office wing is hauled away to ERDF. The main two-story building covers nearly 53,000 square feet in area and began operations in 1960. The facility hazards included: residual plutonium oxide in the pellet fabrication glove boxes, extensive amounts of asbestos, uranium, lead, mercury and PCBs. A primary mission for the 308 Building included research using plutonium as nuclear fuel. When the demolition is complete, workers will remove the Training, Research, Isotopes, General Atomics (TRIGA) reactor currently covered with shielding blocks below grade.



The 308 Building is coming down quickly!



FACTOID

The amount of hazardous waste disposed of at ERDF (about six million tons) would fill two Super Domes.