

**Make it safe. Clean it up. Close it down.**

## Emptying vault speeds up B371 D&D



Vivian Barreras removes the last container from the B371 Central Storage Vault on Dec. 30, 2002, a major milestone in the deactivation of B371.

**By Mark Slovak**

D&D workers in B371 achieved another milestone in the deactivation of the building by completing the removal of all SNM from the Central Storage Vault on Dec. 30, 2002.

In a coordinated, three-month campaign by 371 Nuclear Operations and the operators of the vault's robotic vehicle, all SNM was removed from the CSV. Nuclear Operations retrieved more than 500 items from the Central Storage Vault for packaging in 10-gallon drums and storage in available B371 vaults. Following completion of a statistical sampling plan to verify the RockMAS inventory database, D&D

workers will be allowed to enter the CSV without the security measures typically required to access a vault. This effort streamlines the deactivation of the site's most complex vault.

The Central Storage Vault is a 300-ft. long aisleway from which SNM containers were transported by a remote-controlled robotic vehicle. The vehicle was operated from a remote console and traversed on a rail system to retrieve the SNM from a 40-foot high rack system. The SNM containers, typically Vollrath or stacker cans, were placed in four-position pallets specifically designed for storing and retrieving SNM. Each of the four positions on the pallet was lined with lead and constructed with water walls to shield the workers from radiation.

Completion of this project follows the de-inerting of the CSV, during which the supply ventilation of the vault was disconnected from the B223 Nitrogen Plant. Until June 2002, the CSV required an inert atmosphere to inhibit the pyrophoricity of the material stored in the racks. Now the elimination of the nitrogen from the CSV has expedited D&D of the B223 Nitrogen Plant. In addition, last September D&D workers contributed to another step in the deactivation of the CSV as they removed and disposed of the vault's maintenance pallets.

The next goal in support of CSV deactivation includes the removal and disposition of 1,147 container pallets, during which D&D workers will retrieve the pallets from the rack system, drain the water walls, decontaminate the pallets and package them for shipment to Envirocare.



The Central Storage Vault, above, in B371 is a 300-foot long aisleway from which SNM containers were transported by a robotic stacker-retriever vehicle. SNM containers were stored on pallets in the racks. (Photo taken in 1976.)



Removal of 1,147 container pallets that were used to store canisters of SNM is one of the next major goals in support of Central Storage Vault deactivation.

## 707 team preps X-Y retriever for entry, cleanup



Veteran X-Y Retriever Operator Ruby McCoy uses a robotic arm to remove a pendant from the retriever.

**By Jeanna Blatt**

Ruby McCoy used a robotic arm to grab a pendant out of the X-Y retriever in B707 and placed it into the shuttle area. McCoy, along with fellow qualified operators Regina Romero and Doug Delforge, had the task of removing 416 pendants from the aging plutonium vault during decommissioning. After the pendants were shuttled to the glovebox centerline, crew members Brenda LeGrande, Clyde Dobbs, Clell Lambertson, David Samora, Steve Steelman, Michele Trujillo, Waste Inspector Yolanda Trujillo, Clyde Bolden and RCT Jason Meppen performed all the bag-outs, removal and packaging of the pendants.

The crew, supervised by Doug Clarke and Manny

Tafoya, completed the removal of the pendants from the X-Y retriever in late October after approximately six weeks of activities. The X-Y Retriever Room is a highly contaminated Infinity Room. Entry and cleanup of the room is planned for later this fiscal year.

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# Waste shipments to Nevada reach new highs

By Lara Harrison

The waste business is booming this year as Rocky Flats has begun an unprecedented effort to ship more waste off site for disposal than ever before. Fortunately, there is no shortage of waste to ship, thanks to incredible efforts of D&D and Environmental Restoration crews across the site.

If the shipments made in FY03 so far are any indication of the abilities of the Waste

Management Team in Material Stewardship, the project should have no problem reaching the lofty waste shipping goals established for the year.

“A phenomenal amount of waste is leaving this site,” said Dan Salyers, manager of Low-Level Waste Program Implementation. “We shipped more than 13,000 cubic meters of low-level waste the first quarter of this fiscal year, more than 4,500 cubic meters in the first three

weeks of December.”

The Nevada Test Site reported in January that Rocky Flats was responsible for 65 percent of the total amount of waste disposed there between October and December.

Material Stewardship is scheduled to ship 37,000 cubic meters of low-level waste and an additional 8,700 cubic meters of low-level mixed waste this year. The project has already surpassed the waste disposal totals for all of 2000 and 2001 in just one quarter’s worth of work and is quickly gaining on last year’s record total of 28,663 cubic meters.

“It seems like every year we ship more than we ever thought possible, but for the next two years we will maximize our shipping capabilities to keep up with all of the D&D going on. After FY04, we should see our waste shipments decreasing until we close,” explained Salyers.

Waste generated from the 903 Pad, D&D debris and the Pond Sludge project, along with investigative derived material and lead-lined gloveboxes, is being disposed of at the Nevada Test Site, Envirocare and other licensed disposal facilities.

In addition to the many shipments of low-level waste leaving the site, 1,000 shipments of sanitary waste were made September through December 2002 .

## A Rocky Flats waste primer

Rocky Flats produces five types of waste, each with its own disposal path:

- Transuranic or TRU
- TRU Mixed
- Low-level
- Low-level Mixed
- Sanitary

Of these, low-level waste has a low concentration of radioactive material – typically

equal to less than approximately one-tenth of the radioactive material found in a household smoke detector per gram of material.

Low-level waste makes up the bulk of shipments from Rocky Flats. In FY02, the site shipped a total of 28,663 cubic meters to the Nevada Test Site.

### Types of Waste



Anti-C clothing



Tools

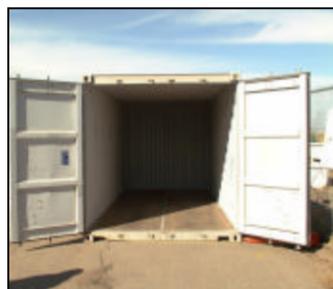


Glass

### Waste Container



55-gallon drums



Cargo container



Instacote

### Waste Carrier



Flatbed truck



Tractor trailer



IP-2 9-pack

### Treatment/Disposal Site



Nevada Test Site

### Safety above average survey indicates

The National Safety Council survey results are in, and the responses show that employees see our safety participation and overall safety climate as being better today than in 1998.

A total of 3,255 Rocky Flats employees participated in the survey. When compared to 100 other organizations participating in the NSC database, Rocky Flats’ safety barometer moved from a below-average score of 45 in 1998 to an above-average score of 64 in 2002. In other words, out of 100 companies we were in the top 36 percent. While our overall score improved by nearly 20 points, the survey indicates that we still have areas where improvement may be needed. A more detailed summary of the results will be published in the Feb. 29 issue of *Endvision*.

A big thank-you to all employees who participated in this survey.

### endvision

is published every other Wednesday for the benefit of all Rocky Flats employees. We invite your letters to the editor, story suggestions and comments. The deadline for approved stories is 10 a.m. on the Monday following AWS-Friday.

Vol. 9, No. 2, January 29, 2003

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# RISS safely completes Solar Ponds cleanup

By Jackie Powers

Environmental Restoration recently completed final steps in the cleanup of the Solar Evaporation ponds. The remediation project was divided into two phases. Phase I included the removal of supporting building slabs, pump pads, process waste lines, sumps and valve pits. Nearly 800 tons of low-level and low-level mixed concrete and soil from the ponds were also removed.

During Phase II, the berms around the ponds were pushed in, more than 65,000 yards of clean soil were brought in as backfill and the area was graded. In March, topsoil will be added and the area will be reseeded.

"Completion of this project demonstrates significant progress in our efforts to safely accelerate the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats," said Denny Ferrera, Kaiser-Hill vice

president and RISS project manager.

The Solar ponds were used from 1953 to 1986 to store and evaporate process waste water containing nitrates, treated acidic waste and low-level radioactive elements. The first pond was constructed in 1953, and the last pond was placed into service in 1970.

In 1986, placement of process waste water in the ponds ended due to changes in site waste treatment operations. Over time, the ponds leaked contaminants into ground water. In 1995, the ponds were emptied and nearly 400,000 gallons of sludge were removed and packaged. A ground water remediation system was installed in 1999.

At one time, the Solar Evaporation ponds were perceived as a significant risk to public health.

"Public safety was a key component of this remediation project and its completion represents a major milestone toward closure of Rocky Flats," said Scott Surovchak, DOE program manager for the Solar Evaporation Ponds.



Crews remove sediment and muck at the 207C pond.

## Oxide repackaging

# New approach benefits PuSPS project

By Don Dustin

After nearly seven years of effort, Residue Project personnel completed the repackaging of 106 metric tons of plutonium-contaminated residues last May, but their work in B371 isn't over yet. On Friday, Dec. 13, a team of former Residue Project process specialists began repackaging 962 kilograms of low-grade plutonium oxides that were originally intended for treatment in the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). These materials, which contain anywhere from 1 percent to 49 percent plutonium, have such high levels of impurities that processing them through PuSPS and subjecting them to subsequent plutonium recovery operations at the Savannah River Site (SRS) is impractical. Since the low-grade oxides are chemically and physically similar to many of the residue materials, the site initiated an effort nearly three years ago to transfer the oxides from the scope of PuSPS to the Residue Project. The intent was to dispose of the low-grade oxides as TRU wastes at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant rather than to ship them to SRS for recovery of the plutonium.

After many months of deliberations between the DOE, the state environmental departments of Colorado and New Mexico, and the respective congressional delegations, an agreement was reached whereby certain low-grade oxides would be more appropriately disposed of at WIPP. On Nov. 8, 2002, DOE approved an amendment to the Surplus Plutonium

can now be processed in parallel with PuSPS operations. As a result, the time necessary for the disposition of the remaining special nuclear material stored in B371 can be shortened by several months. Also, the requirement to selectively blend the majority of the low-grade oxides to a plutonium concentration of greater than 30 weight-percent to meet the DOE Standard 3013 requirements is avoided.

In their current form and packaging configuration, the low-grade oxides do not meet the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria, Safeguards Termination Limits, or transportation requirements, hence the need for the Residue Project personnel to undertake the repackaging effort. All WIPP-bound packages of TRU waste must contain less than 10 weight-percent of plutonium, so many of the containers of low-grade oxides must be diluted with an inert surrogate. Also, any free liquids that might be present in the oxides must be immobilized with an appropriate absorbent. The addition of an inert material in each product can also serve to improve non-destructive assay accuracy and reliability. An additional condition imposed by the DOE was that any diluent or absorbent added to the oxides must also inhibit possible attempts to recover plutonium from the final product. The Residue Project technical support staff, working with B559 laboratory personnel, developed an additive that met all requirements.

The process of repackaging the low-grade oxides is relatively straightforward and is virtually identical to that used for the repackaging of a majority of the residues. Incoming cans of oxide are opened in glovebox GB-42 in Room 3206 in B371. The contents are inspected, subdivided into smaller batches, blended with the surrogate material and finally packaged into an appropriately sized metal can – in this case a tin alloy pewter can that serves as an effective radiation shield. After being bagged out of the glovebox, the inner product can is then placed into a 6-liter Vollrath can that is assayed and subsequently packaged into a Pipe Overpack Container (POC). The POCs will eventually be loaded into TRUPACT-II shipping containers for transport to WIPP.

The team performing this operation is lead by Foreman Don Blunn and consists of Process Specialists Anthony Doane, Rob Fairchild, Janet Hale and Jerod Wood, along with RCTs Dale Bowman and Ed Regensburg. Rik Getty, Larry Miller, Doug Fisher and Don Dustin provide technical support to the operation. Operations began on Dec. 13 and are expected to be completed in June 2003, approximately the same time that PuSPS operations are expected to conclude.



The low-grade oxide repackaging crew, from left, Jerod Wood, Foreman Don Blunn, Janet Hale, Anthony Doane, Rob Fairchild, RCT Corey Bernal and SME Don Dustin started repackaging low-grade plutonium oxides Dec. 13.

Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement allowing the low-grade oxides to be disposed of as transuranic waste. The primary advantage to Rocky Flats is that a portion of the material originally intended for processing through PuSPS

# PuSPS crew begins thermal pretreatment, batching

By Don Dustin

The repackaging of low-grade oxides (see accompanying article, above) wasn't the only new nuclear operation to be implemented in B371 in December. A second major effort was initiated in Room 3602 where PuSPS operators began thermal pretreatment of certain plutonium oxide materials in advance of the final stabilization to be performed in the PuSPS furnaces in Room 3717. In addition to thermal pretreatment, this operation also entails batching of some of the PuSPS feed materials to take some of the batching burden off the operation in

Room 3717.

When the PuSPS system was originally designed, the intent was to stabilize all oxide materials using the standard PuSPS furnaces. These furnaces are capable of heating up to 5 kilograms of plutonium oxide to a temperature of 1025 C for a period of four hours. The purpose of the operation is to reduce the moisture content of the oxides to less than 0.5 weight-percent in order to preclude the formation of hydrogen gas in the final packaging container, the DOE Standard 3013 welded can. The PuSPS furnaces have a small volume and very

little air flow. If the oxide feed to the furnaces has even very small amounts of organic contamination, there is a potential for the organic contaminants to volatilize and create a flammable mixture of gases inside the furnace. If those gases were to ignite, the glovebox might become pressurized, creating a hazard for nearby workers.

A team of subject matter experts evaluated the effects of impurities in certain of the oxides and their impact on operational safety for about

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# Safety: Staying at the forefront



Judy Yeater, JCUSC union safety representative (left), learns the basics of fall protection equipment at a fall protection workshop held last October.

**By Bob Darr**

An incredible amount of work was accomplished at Rocky Flats during 2002. Buildings came down, miles of pipes and ducts and hundreds of gloveboxes were cleaned up and removed.

Huge rooms were stripped out, contaminated equipment was decontaminated and packaged, and tons of wastes were shipped off site for disposal.

Areas contaminated by years of industrial and radiological processing

were characterized and remediated.

Yet none of this work could have been accomplished without a commitment to safety from the people who make up the work force. Safety at Rocky Flats is not just a concept; it's a daily reality.

"We can talk about safety all we want, but the bottom line is we have to focus on safety on the floor," said Mark Zachary, Kaiser-Hill Site Health and Safety director. "Our goal is everyone, in every operation, working safely every day."

One of the most effective ways of focusing safety on the work floor is the cooperative effort of the Joint Company Union Safety Committee (JCUSC).

Union leaders and Kaiser-Hill management work together to improve safety through the JCUSC. Twenty Union members serve as full-time project safety representatives. This allows workers who are most familiar with specific project operations to work directly with management and identify and correct safety issues on the spot. Their presence also helps to make workers feel more confident that they can bring their safety concerns to management without fear of retaliation and expect a quick and effective response.

JCUSC union representatives began 'cross-walking' each other's projects in 2002. By walking down operations in other projects, they bring a fresh set of eyes to spot safety issues that project personnel might miss because of familiarity. They also give credit when they spot positive safety practices on the job.

## Changing safety focus

2002 was the year when the risks to workers from radiological hazards declined and the risk from industrial or construction type hazards became the primary threat to worker safety. Safety, Engineering & Quality Programs (SE&QP), the site's central safety organization, identified five hazards that present the greatest potential risk to Rocky Flats workers.

The Big Five Risks are fire, fall protection, hoisting and rigging, electrical and heavy equipment.

Kaiser-Hill showed how seriously the company considers the Big Five by increasing its investment in safety personnel and programs. The company hired 12 additional safety professionals to work with the projects, primarily helping the projects increase awareness of industrial hazards.

The SCI-FI program, which stands for Safety Control Index - Find It, is another tool developed in 2002 to identify potential safety issues before they turn into an injury.

The program consists of workers and supervisors, JCUSC representatives and safety professionals recording what they see on the work floor. The participants conduct weekly inspections of their work areas and carry a card listing the four major industrial hazards - fall protection, hoisting and rigging, electrical and heavy equipment. Fire protection isn't included in this program because the site has an excellent fire protection program in place.

Their job is to note the safety practices they see on the job. For example, if they see someone using a ladder incorrectly or they spot electrical extension cords running across the floor, they write it on the card and correct the problem. They also write down the good safety practices they observe on the job.

The cards are turned in to the central safety organization, where the information is tabulated and used to identify areas where additional

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## Safety starts and ends at home

**By Bob Darr**

Rocky Flats workers focus on working safely while they are at work. But many of us don't put the same focus on safety in our homes. The National Safety Council (NSC) reports that more than 6.8 million injuries occur in the home each year, of which 28,000 result in death. Accidental injuries also are the number one killer of children in the United States.

Make your home safer by taking steps in advance to protect yourself and your loved ones. Avoid creating safety hazards in the first place and make sure you and your family are prepared to react to an emergency.

The following checklist is provided by the NSC and is designed to help you avoid some of the most common safety hazards in the home.



### A HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

emergencies	yes	no
1 Are emergency phone numbers posted by the telephone? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Is your home address posted by the telephone? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Are your house numbers visible from the street? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Has your family practiced an emergency escape plan? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Do escape windows open easily? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Do household members know how to operate the fire extinguishers in your home? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>throughout the house</b>		
1 Do you have a well-stocked, conveniently located first-aid kit? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Are prescription drugs, poisons, and chemicals properly labeled and stored in a safe place? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Are all electrical cords the proper type and in good condition? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Are all stairways equipped with hand rails? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Have you avoided running extension cords		
▪ under the carpets or rugs? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ behind wall paneling? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ behind radiators? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ above door jambs? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ across thresholds? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Does your home have a working smoke detector		
▪ in the hallway near bedrooms? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ in the kitchen? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ on every floor in the house? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Are your portable heaters approved by a recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Are circuit panel breakers properly labeled? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Is the circuit panel easily accessible? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Are combustible materials a safe distance from heat-producing appliances and products? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



attention is needed. So far more than 700 SCI – FI cards have been turned in. Although a significant number of positive safety practices have been noted, wearing the right PPE, using ladders correctly and fall protection have been identified as areas that need improvement.

Kaiser-Hill is also investing in increasing safety education for the floor-level workers. Three OSHA outreach programs were brought to Rocky Flats in 2002 to reinforce worker safety awareness.

Approximately 130 JCUSC representatives, K-H Construction safety representatives, DOE personnel, managers and supervisors and SE&QP safety professionals completed the OSHA 500 train-the-trainer safety course. The four-day program qualifies the participants to teach OSHA's 10-hour safety outreach program. More classes are scheduled for this year and the site is considering including supervisors and foremen in the training program.

JCUSC union representatives who completed the OSHA 500 course have started training Steelworkers on the 10-hour course and are expected to complete training for the site's 1,400 Steelworkers in September. This level of work force safety awareness training is far



Heavy equipment operations is one of the Big 5 Risks that present the greatest potential hazards to Rocky Flats workers as the site shifts from a primarily nuclear operations facility to a construction/demolition site.

above and beyond what most companies across the nation offer.

The site's Construction Trades unions also received OSHA outreach training in 2002. Local union hall trainers came to the site and taught the class to more than 450 construction trades workers.

DOE personnel, JCUSC representatives and site supervisors and managers also participated in the OSHA 510 Construction Safety outreach program. Approximately 60 personnel attended the four-day class that focuses on basic construction safety rules and regulations. The course was a joint effort of Kaiser-Hill and DOE and they are currently considering offering it again this year.

A number of additional training programs were conducted sitewide in an effort to maintain a high level of safety awareness in the work force. The site worked with the OSHA Training Institute, community colleges and other safety training organizations to provide workshops and training in hand and electrical safety, scaffold training, fall protection, hoisting and rigging and OSHA inspections. These and other programs will be a continuing element in the successful closure of Rocky Flats.

## Nextel tower signals move to cellular phones

By Bill Badger

The familiar sound of Nextel's 'Direct-Connect' beep is heard more and more across the site and now, reception just became much better. On Dec. 18, Kaiser-Hill Information Technology (IT), with RISS Project support, installed a Nextel cellular tower near the east entrance Search Station.

With an increase in decommissioning work, employees and contractors are gradually replacing site communications with Nextel phones. In some site areas, the Nextel is becoming the primary communication tool as wires are pulled out of buildings. Material Stewardship's B906, for example, no longer has any wired phone service and relies on a combination of radios and Nextel phones. Nextel users on the 903 Pad have also noticed a marked

increase in reception.

In the coming weeks, some projects are investing in the installation of bi-directional amplifiers to gain Nextel reception throughout their hardened buildings.

"Because the Nextel can be used as a cell phone or pager and has radio capabilities, it is an important piece of the closure strategy for telecommunications," said Kelly Guthner, IT chief technology officer. "The phone's capabilities and the immediacy of a response add greater efficiency to the way we work."

Nextel phones may be ordered through ARIBA. Please contact your management if you believe this tool can help your productivity, or call Janet Strong at x4055 for more information. An important reminder: UCNI conversations are not allowed on cell phones.



Workers are installing the new Nextel Tower on one of the few snowy days this winter.

## Cooperative effort crucial to C-Pit project

Seven work crews, four critical lifts and tons of teamwork later, work Set C-6 (also known as C-Pit) in B707 was completed safely, on schedule and under budget at

the end of the first quarter.

The set included the stripout of two annular tanks, one Raschig ring tank, 16 pencil tanks, glove-box C-150, hundreds of feet of

pipework in C-Pit and ancillary equipment upstairs in C module. C-Pit was a real challenge, in part because all of the sizeable equipment had to be hoisted through a 5-foot by 8-foot trap door into Corridor G. Nearly 5 tons of equipment was safely hoisted through the small trap door. Lifting crews dealt with multi-point picks, shifting centers of gravity and a very tight squeeze with only one inch to spare.

Additionally, crews had to address chemical hazards. The tank system contained trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, freon and machine coolant oils. Because of concern over hydrogen buildup, the tanks had to be purged with nitrogen before work could begin.

Equally as challenging were the size-reduction, decontamination and waste disposition of the two 3,000-pound annular tanks. Each tank measured 5 feet in

diameter and 8 feet high, its walls were 5/16 inch thick and the end pieces were more than 3/4 inch thick. The bottom portions of the annular tanks were size-reduced for disposal as TRU mixed waste, while the top portions passed visual inspection to release them as RCRA waste and allow them to pass as surface-contaminated object.

Project Manager Jennifer Thompson attributes the success of C-6 to a huge cooperative effort between Steelworkers crews, led by Wes Hurst, Keith Fournier and Mike Mills, and Building Trades, led by Donny Blan, Doug Szabo and Greg Oletski, and an alarms crew led by James Garcia. The C-Pit team had support from the B707 Closure Project IH&S, RCTs, Radiological Engineering, Engineering, hoisting and rigging experts, Environmental, Nuclear Safety and Criticality Safety.



After hoisting annular tank V30 out of C-Pit in B707, workers moved it down corridor K and into C module for size-reduction. The tank weighed in at 3,000 pounds.



# Crews take smart approach to tank removal

By Chris Gilbreath

Workers have successfully size-reduced two 11,000-gallon tanks in B774. The tanks had previously been used to collect and transfer the



Workers on scaffolding size-reduce Tank 103 in B774 from the top down.

site's polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oils.

In addition to PCB contamination, the residual sludge and oil in the tanks contained beryllium, multiple hazardous organic constituents and low levels of radioactive material. The tanks measured 9 feet in diameter by 22 feet long and stretched between two floors.

The tanks had been drained, but previous decontamination efforts had proven unsuccessful. As a result, size-reducing the tanks was necessary. In cooperation with the workers, the decision was made to size-reduce the first tank, T-103, from the top down using nibblers. Extensive scaffolding erection, fall protection and personal protective equipment (PPE) was required to ensure the workers were protected during cutting activities. Tank 103 was cut into small pieces, approximately 2 feet by 2 feet. The pieces were then dropped into the bottom of the tank. Cutting continued until approximately 3 feet of the tank remained. The cut-up pieces of the tank were placed into crates and the remaining residual sludge was manually removed from the bottom portion of the tank. The sludge will likely be sent to Oak Ridge for incineration. Once the sludge was removed, the remaining portion of the tank was size-reduced.

Access to the other tank to be size-reduced was much more limited due to the position of the tank – it was located in a corner of the room approximately 6 to 8 inches from two walls. This meant that scaffolding erection and fall protection requirements would be even more difficult than with the previous tank. The work crew decided that in order to more safely and effectively perform the work, the tank should be cut from the bottom up. Using an existing hoist, the tank was suspended from the roof. Workers began the operation by nibbling a 'ring' out of the tank from ground level without the need for extensive scaffolding. Once the ring was cut out of the tank, workers were able to slowly lower the top portion of the tank down in 3-foot increments. As portions of the tank were cut, the tank was carefully rotated. This process allowed the workers to segment the tank from ground level, thereby eliminating the need for fall protection and vastly improving the safety of the work. The operation continued until the top portion of the 22-foot tank was at ground level.

The work on the tanks was performed without a flaw – this was a result of the ingenuity of the foreman and the workers in developing a way to perform the work more safely and effectively as they go from tank to tank.

# 280 landfill closes, turtles find new home

By Jackie Powers

Built in the mid-1990s, B280, Cell 1, and Pond 283 were constructed to handle the site's sanitary waste. The project was nearing completion at about the same time the site's nuclear production mission was suspended. Due to the change in mission, the site determined that it was more cost-effective to send its sanitary waste off site for disposal. In 1997, Rocky Flats began shipping its sanitary waste to the Republic Landfill in Erie. Currently, sanitary waste is shipped to a landfill in Commerce City.

As part of the RISS Accelerated Strategy, T.P. Enterprises initiated closure of the 'new landfill' in September with the demolition of B280, originally built for cardboard recycling, but never used. In early October, crews began draining the 'new landfill' or Cell 1. More than 1.5 million gallons of water, which met clean

water standards, were discharged into Walnut Creek. The water from Pond 283, which is directly east of Cell 1, was also drained into Walnut Creek.

"Draining the cell was interesting," said John Thompson, RISS project manager. "For a number of years, work crews observed turtles swimming in the pond and sunning themselves at the top of the berm.

Before work could begin,

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Earth movers are brought in to grade Cell 1, dubbed the 'new landfill.'

# PRETREATMENT

—continued from Page 3

a year. Their conclusion was that organic contamination, such as cutting oils from prior machining operations, had to be eliminated prior to the PuSPS stabilization operation. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board concurred with this assessment, and the team began investigating ways to remove the organic contaminants from the oxides. Their recommendation was to employ a thermal pretreatment process whereby the suspect oxides would be heated on a hot plate to a nominal 400 C for a period of two hours. Such thermal pretreatment would volatilize or decompose the organic contamination to the extent that the product could safely undergo final thermal stabilization in the PuSPS furnace. Compared to a PuSPS furnace, a glovebox has a very large volume and a very high air flow rate. Consequently, there

would be virtually no possibility of achieving a flammable mixture of gases during the pretreatment process.

Gloveboxes GB-1 and GB-3 in Room 3602 were chosen as the location to perform this operation. Once the necessary equipment was procured and the procedures written, the operating crew underwent a rigorous Readiness Assessment under the direction of Bill Stockho, then the PuSPS startup manager and now the PuSPS project manager. The Readiness Assessment was successfully completed in early December and operations were begun on Dec. 11.

The pretreatment and batching operations are being conducted under the supervision of Foreman Marty Vialpando. Process specialists

include Sami Bookout, Billy McCallum and Liz Padilla. Approximately 600 kilograms of oxides suspected of having organic contamination are to be pretreated using the hot plates. This amount

represents less than 10 percent of the total material to be addressed by the PuSPS Project. The operation is expected to take four to five months and be completed in late spring of 2003.



Working on the thermal pretreatment of certain plutonium oxide materials are, from left, RCT John Lovato, Foreman Marty Vialpando, Foreman Norvel Bolden, Sami Bookout, PuSPS Project Manager Bill Stockho, SME Don Dustin, Liz Padilla and Billy McCallum.



# CTC expanding services to employees

By Bill Badger

Between now and closure, each of us will be looking to transition to another job, career or personal goal. Kaiser-Hill Company is committed to helping all employees with the tools they need to plan their future. The Career Transition Center is one of the transition tools and Kaiser-Hill is in the process of enhancing the services to be provided to employees.



Kristi Nygaard brings plenty of knowledge and experience to her new role as Managing Director of the CTC.

As a result of the need to expand the CTC's services, a change in contractors has been made. Spherion is the new recruitment, outsourcing and consulting firm that will manage the CTC in B060 effective Feb. 1, 2003. Additionally, job training sessions are also planned for Mountain View. Spherion offers transitioning employees highly focused career consulting services. Also included are a host of valuable career transition tools,

including an extensive library of resources and tutorial content to support job candidates. Their career consultants and human capital management experts focus on career transition and employee development.

Kristi Nygaard, the managing director for Spherion's Colorado division, will head up the enhanced CTC.

"I get the biggest kick out of helping others succeed," she said. "Spherion's highly credentialed consultants will get very creative in helping you open your mind to other possibilities."

Spherion is a Fortune 500 company whose professional career consultants have experience with major corporate transitions. Spherion is the fifth largest employer in the United States.

"We have a diverse expertise working with both hourly and salaried work forces, and our consultants are very people- and relationship-oriented," said Nygaard. "We will do what it takes to help Rocky Flats employees prepare for their eventual transition."

You can expect to learn more about the value-added services Spherion will bring to the CTC in the coming months. In the meantime, the CTC will continue to provide you with the same services you are used to receiving.

# IAEA inspectors visit site last time

By Stephanie Davis

Highlighting the imminence of closure, inspectors for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) entered B371 for the last time in December, conducting the final safeguards inspection of nuclear material.

Safeguards inspections began at Rocky Flats in 1995 following an initiative by President Clinton to voluntarily place approximately 200 tons of the nation's excess nuclear material stored at DOE sites under IAEA safeguards. The IAEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organization founded in 1957 in accordance with a decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The agency's safeguards activities assist signatories to the non-proliferation treaty with demonstrating their compliance with international obligations in the interest of preventing further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In July 1995, the U.S. government, in collaboration with the IAEA, selected Rocky Flats as an eligible facility for safeguards inspections. In November 1995, the IAEA arrived and began preparations to apply international safeguards to approximately one ton of plutonium oxide. Plutonium oxide is a powder that must be processed in order to become purified to make weapons-grade metal. The IAEA safeguards were applied in addition to the normal

domestic safeguards required by DOE. In the presence of IAEA inspectors, Rocky Flats employees placed the material inside more than 250 10-gallon drums for vault storage in B371. The first IAEA inspection occurred in December 1995, followed by continuous monthly inspections. Safeguards measures included verification of material accountability and served to ensure material was not diverted or re-used to produce new nuclear weapons.

IAEA safeguards activities include on-site inspections, electronic surveillance and other technical measures for verifying the peaceful use of nuclear materials and installations. At Rocky Flats, these inspections included material sampling, non-destructive assay measurements, physical inventories and electronic and metal seal verifications.

The final IAEA inspection concludes Rocky Flats' participation in the historic gesture



IAEA Inspectors Ok-seok Seo (left) and Pantelis Ikonomou (right) display the last remaining metal and electronic seals that were used to safeguard Room 3331. The seals were removed during the final IAEA inspection Dec. 2. Shown escorting the inspectors are employees Kevin Chandler, SSOC (back left) and Bob Leonard, K-H, who were integral coordinators of the monthly inspections.

made by the U.S. government to support non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and continues to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to irreversible disarmament. The plutonium oxide that had been under IAEA safeguards at the site has been packaged in proper long-term storage containers and effectively transferred under IAEA safeguards to the Savannah River Site where the IAEA will continue monthly inspections of the material.

"This final IAEA inspection satisfies our important role toward safeguarding nuclear material," said DOE Manager Gene Schmitt. "This effort is a tribute to the many employees who worked with the IAEA inspectors to safely complete this effort."

There are more than 250 agency inspectors representing more than 60 countries. The final inspection included inspectors from Greece and the Republic of Korea. Inspector Pantelis Ikonomou from Greece commented during his final visit to Rocky Flats, "The employees at Rocky Flats are knowledgeable and friendly. We were able to gain experience useful for international safeguards operations. Rocky Flats is to be commended." Ikonomou also noted that one of the inspectors who frequently conducted inspections at Rocky Flats is currently conducting UN weapons inspections in Iraq.

Other DOE storage facilities that have been selected by the IAEA and are undergoing excess nuclear material inspections include Oak Ridge, Hanford and Savannah River.

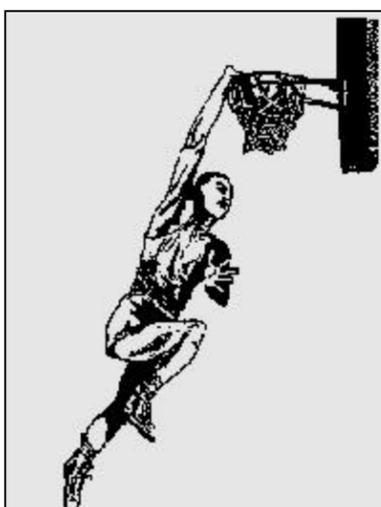
## LANDFILL

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we captured five turtles and relocated them to one of the ponds in the Buffer Zone." Once the turtles were relocated and the cell was drained, workers removed more than 4,000 tires. Crews then used a machine nicknamed the 'pizza cutter' to slice through the seven layers of liner. After the liner was removed, approxi-

mately 60 holes were drilled at the bottom of the cell for drainage purposes.

In early January, heavy equipment was brought in to level the berm and grade the area. More than 200,000 cubic yards of fill will be used to cover landfill and Pond 283. The area will be reseeded in March.



## Hoop Time 2003!

- March basketball starts March 8 at Erie High School.
- The cost per team is \$165, due Thursday, Feb. 13, no later than 4 p.m.
- Participation is limited to 10 teams due to scheduling problems.
- First 10 teams to pay play – no exceptions.
- Coaches' meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27 at noon at the front entrance of B750.
- Contact Keith Chase, pg 212-4746, or Tom DeHerrera, pg 212-4303 for more information.
- Open to all Rocky Flats employees.



**THREEFOLD OF A THANKS!!!**

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our friends at Rocky Flats for the money that was collected for us to use for our triplets as well as for all the other gifts and food people have given us. We're also thankful for all of your thoughts and prayers throughout the entire pregnancy. We've been blessed with three healthy babies!

Once again, thanks to everyone! We've been blessed by each and every one of you and wish each of you a prosperous and blessed New Year.

Sincerely,

**Dan, Mary, Brandon, Madison & Luke Tallman**



# January Anniversaries

**5 Years**

Sonja Hansen, SSOC

**10 Years**

Alice Brace, K-H  
 Ronald Brace, K-H  
 Deborah Phillips, K-H  
 Joe Rivera, RFCSS

**15 Years**

Leopold Chavez Sr., K-H  
 Samuel Gianti, K-H  
 Phillip Jarvis, WSLLC  
 Charles Keubler, K-H  
 Frank Mata, WSLLC  
 Wayne Sproles, K-H

**20 Years**

Michael Barajas, K-H  
 Carl Beutler, K-H  
 Edward Brennan Jr., K-H  
 Brian Burbank, K-H  
 Frederick Burks Jr., K-H  
 Don Cross, SSOC  
 Richard Gaffney, RFCSS  
 Maynard Harper, K-H  
 Norman Hart, WSLLC  
 Randall Jahn, K-H  
 David May, K-H  
 Dan Oliver, K-H  
 Timothy Pfarr, K-H  
 Patrick Phillips, K-H  
 Thomas Rano, K-H

Wayne Redmond, K-H  
 Susan Tesone, K-H  
 Jack Webb Jr., WSLLC  
 Wayne Zahm, K-H

**25 Years**

Edward Brovsky, K-H  
 Anthony Digiallonardo Jr., K-H  
 Steven Foos, K-H  
 David McCabe, K-H  
 Ricky Muller, K-H  
 James Olivas, K-H  
 Thomas Palizzi, K-H  
 Mark Saba, SSOC

# declassifieds

**AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES**

1979 XS1100 Yamaha Special, 28,000 miles, excellent condition, new tires and battery, \$1,200. Steve, 303-452-6944.

1984 Bronco II, 4x4, V6, red, 60,000 original miles, \$1,500. Larry, 303-666-9068.

1985 Jeep Cherokee, 2-door, 4-cylinder, 4-speed, 132,000 miles, looks good, runs good, \$1,500. Chuck, 303-642-7449.

1993 Dyna Wide Glide, rebuilt engine, new tires, new shocks, new seat, new exhaust system, comes with T-bag and cloth cover, fast bike, \$10,500. Paul, 303-456-9588.

1993 Toyota Pickup Deluxe 4x4, all the truck you need, \$4,200; ATV multi-use trailer, 2,200-lb. GVW, one year old, \$650. Gary, 303-745-4581.

1995 Ford Windstar GL, green, 112,000 miles, excellent condition, auto, air, power everything, cruise control, \$6,000. Gene, 303-979-7809.

1996 Mazda Miata M edition, blue with all options except hard top, 42,000 miles, \$12,000 or best offer. Jimmy, 303-432-1664.

1997 Pontiac Gran Prix GT, new tires, one owner with all maintenance records, clean, tinted windows, great car, \$7,000. Mike, 303-252-4118.

1999 Nissan Frontier SEV6 King Cab 4x4, bed liner w/toolbox, 44,000 miles, alloy wheels, 5-speed, air, AM/FM/tape, \$14,500. Robert, 303-907-2049.

Goodyear Eagle LS tires, two P225/55R-17, 3,874 miles, off a 1999 Chrysler 300M, \$25 for both or \$15 each. Carl, 303-421-1994.

1977 5-lug, 12-bolt rear axle, \$200 or best offer. Alan, 303-666-9785.

2000 Harley, burgundy and black, FLHTC Electro-glide Classic, 13,640 miles, new rear tire and rear brakes, \$22,000 or best offer. Elsie, 303-651-2945.

3.8L Buick V6, complete hi-performance rebuild, \$2,600 invested, have most receipts, 0 miles, has been in storage for several years, \$1,200 or best offer; Buick TH350 automatic transmission, rebuilt for 4-wheel drive, never used, \$225 or best offer; will separate. Doug, 303-659-2724.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Kenmore washer and gas dryer, \$150. Stephanie, 720-890-6069.

Beautiful nursery set: Jenny Lind crib, cradle and changing tabel in walnut finish, new \$330, asking \$150, good condition. Diana, 303-684-9670.

Magic Chef gas oven, self-cleaning, automatic oven cooking, clock/timer, like new, \$75. Gregg, 303-422-9394.

Three white ash bookcases, 66-inches high, 29-inches wide. Jim, 303-772-7115.

Six dining table chairs, two with arms, contemporary/mission style, cream-colored seats, can be recovered, \$450. Joyce, 303-776-6155.

Day Care service available in Wheat Ridge. John, 303-463-4496.

Four gold wheel rims (Golden Wheel Corp.) in original boxes, 14x6, 4-4.5, 5-lug, used six months, \$250. Karen, 303-466-8978.

Executive desk, old, walnut color, 6 drawers, 30 by 60 inches, \$30; Icom Dual Band FM transceiver, Model ICW32A, never used, \$145. Pat or Paul, 303-548-1802.

Drum set: Mapex, 5 drums and 2 cymbals, \$400. Keith, 303-670-2003.

Guitar, brand-new acoustical Washburn with TKL molded hard case. David, 303-429-1174.

Two sets of Norman Rockwell collector plates: 1949 Four Seasons and 1957 Tender Years, wall hangers included, \$100 per set or \$175 for both. Bob, 303-833-2883.

Queen-size waterbed frame, dark wood, \$25. Donna, 303-420-6848.

Lat and row machine with bars and handles, \$200; sit-up bench, \$25. Paul, 303-940-8714.

Doggie door for a mid-size dog, fits any standard sliding glass door frame unit, easy entry/exit for your pet, \$50. Linda, 303-451-8973.

Coleman Powermate 5 hp Ultra 2500-watt generator, 120v dual outlet, used one hour, \$250; multi workout station, Weider 9300 Pro, like new, \$200. Jeff, 303-451-1596.

Moving and must sell: Couch, recliner, rocker, roll-top desk, phone stands, kitchen table, 48-inch TV. Wayne, 303-906-0795, after 5 p.m.

**TRAILERS/CAMPERS/BOATS**

Two 1984 Arctic Cats with tilt trailer, \$1,500 or best offer. Moe, 720-855-6913.

1986 Jayco 26-foot motorhome, 360 V8 automatic, fully self-contained, refrigerator, microwave, generator, new tires and brakes, 62,000 miles, very clean, great condition, \$9,700. Frank, 303-422-2532.

Coleman popup camper, 89 Laramie LTD, 13 ft. opens to 21 ft., queen and double beds, heater, excellent condition, \$2,500 or best offer. Gary, 303-425-4782.

Reese fifth-wheel hitch, 15,000 lbs., new condition, includes bed rails and all mounting hardware, \$450 or best offer. Scott, 303-903-3204.

**Attention Bargain Hunters!!!**

Great deals on  
equipment, tools,  
and office furniture  
can be found at Rocky Flats property  
sales and auctions.

And now there's a web site to check on upcoming sales opportunities.

**www.ilsicorp.com**

## Declassifieds

- Only Rocky Flats Site employees are eligible to place ads.
- Please use the form at right to submit your ad. Or send your ad via e-mail to Heidi Nogue, or via the Intranet (Home Page/News & Info/Communication Division/Declassifieds).
- Ads should be no more than 20 words.
- Check category in which the ad is to be included.
- Home phone numbers must be used in the ads, except for items in the Lost/Found and Vanpools/Carpools categories.
- Site extension must be included (in case information needs to be verified).
- Only one ad per issue (ads will not be re-run unless they are resubmitted).
- Ads for garage sales or personal businesses will not be run.
- Ads for real estate can be placed only by owners and will include the phrase "for sale by owner."
- No ads for guns/other weapons will be accepted.
- Mail or bring ads to T117A, Cube 74.
- Declassifieds are accepted on a first-come basis.
- Deadline is six working days before the desired publication date.
- Employees who submit fictitious ads will be subject to disciplinary action based on company standards of conduct.

**Category (check one)**

- Animals
- Miscellaneous
- Wanted
- Automobiles/Motorcycles
- Trailers/Campers/Boats
- Vanpools/Carpools
- Lost/Found

**Text:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name (first and last):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site extension:** \_\_\_\_\_