

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

371/374 Project

# All SNM composites size-reduced

By Ed Bodey

The 371/374 Project team completed size-reduction of all SNM composites March 27, less than eight months after the project first learned the operation would need to be performed. In those eight months, the team completed all activities required for a major new and unplanned nuclear operation, successfully passing a full-blown readiness assessment and completing the job ahead of schedule with flawless safety performance.

“This project turned out to be critical path for the closure of B371 and, hence, site closure,” said Bob Leonard, SNM removal project manager. “The team did a great job developing process improvements that streamlined the work. This was a major undertaking that involved a significant amount of SNM.” The 371/374 Project size-reduction team included Team Lead Paul Woolsey, Bernard Small, Victoria Teel, Ron Thompson and Betty Will. Charlie Holloman, Dale Bowman and John Stong provided the radiological operations support, and Mike Stanley and Paul Dunst were project engineers.

Plutonium composites consisted of a large inventory of classified parts composed of weapons-grade plutonium bonded to metals such as beryllium, tantalum, vanadium, enriched uranium and depleted uranium.

“Since 1997 we knew these items presented the most significant challenge in the disposal of SNM,” said Leonard.

But until July, 371 management thought they had the problem solved. Following years



*Pictured are members of the size-reduction team (From left) Vickie Teal, Bernard Small, John Stong, Charlie Holloman, Paul Woolsey, Ron Thompson.*

of study, that at points involved experts from nearly all DOE sites with SNM experience, a plan was developed to simply package the items in a special shipping container called the DT-22.

Unfortunately, site managers learned that the plan would have required a special exemption for the container. “It proved to be more challenging than worthwhile,” said Leonard. That’s when plans moved forward on the second-best option. It involved crushing and cutting the parts for shipments in 9975 containers, the same containers used to ship canisters produced by the plutonium stabilization and packaging system.

Size-reduction of the parts started last November. The work involved removing the parts from a vault, introducing the parts into a glovebox via a contamination control cell and brushing and inspecting to ensure any oxide was removed. The parts were then crushed using a specialized 15-ton press and cut into pieces with a shear. What remained of each part was placed in a produce container, measured to quantify SNM content, then loaded into a 9975 container for shipment. As one would expect, criticality safety controls were rigorous.

The Savannah River Site provided outstanding support by improving packaging configurations that increased batch size and reduced waste and material handling. Don Thorpe of SSOC also played an important role by qualifying the material to be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, instead of Savannah River or Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, significantly reducing time and cost.

Successfully size-reducing and packaging plutonium composites ends an era at Rocky Flats. According to Leonard, this job was the last processing operation involving national stockpile War Reserve – parts that comprised the fission package of a nuclear weapon.



## ***K-H formally launches Workforce Transition Program***

*Dan Chesshir (far right) president of Rocky Flats Security Officers Independent Union Local No. 1 speaks on behalf of the SPOs to (from left) Congressman Mark Udall, Lt. Governor Jane Norton and Congressman Bob Beauprez during April 15 Workforce Transition press conference. The congressmen, along with the Lt. Governor joined site representatives to formally launch the Workforce Transition Program at a press conference on April 15. For more information on their visit and the Workforce Transition Program, see Page 7.*

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# B991's long history ending

By Lara Harrison

Closure of the Limited Area encompassing the west tunnel and three vaults completes the first step in decommissioning B991 – the first permanent building constructed on-site. One Limited Area still remains in B991 where drums of classified material are stored and staged for off-site shipment.

During construction of the main tunnel in 1951, a temporary structure was built above ground to hide the tunnel complex beneath. Two vaults, built with 14-foot thick walls in order to withstand a nuclear attack, were completed first. A third, thinner walled vault (B999) was added to the tunnel at a later date. The three vaults in the underground tunnel, which stretches from the B991 hillside to an area near the 750 Pad, are actually buildings 996, 997 and 999. A second, shorter tunnel (B998) runs directly north from the building.

Ed Walko, the first superintendent of the initial assembly operation at Plant D (as B991 was called back then), was quoted in an article in a 1973 *Dow Corral* as saying, “What we were doing in B991 then could be compared to having all of your eggs in one basket. There was no nuclear stockpile – we were it.”

Throughout the years, in addition to the weapons component assembly activities, research and development projects such as radiation studies, a beryllium coating process and an explosives-forming project, were conducted in the building. In the 1970s, most special projects were eliminated and the building was used primarily for storage of classified Special Nuclear Materials.

Much of B991 was constructed underground and consists of two levels. Initially, one side of the upper level housed the Rocky Flats manager and the rest of the administrative staff until B111 was built in 1953. The first cafeteria was also there. The other side of the building was the assembly area and the lower level was the basement. Two tunnels were constructed between the levels. Rumor has it that the tunnels were designed to also serve as an underground connection to other production facilities, but the tunnels never were actually connected to other facilities.

An air of mystery has surrounded B991 since its construction, which began in July 1951. The building's floor plan was an exact replica of a weapons assem-

bly facility built into the side of a canyon at Los Alamos National Laboratory with the exception of the direction of the west tunnel. Officials scouted Rocky Flats for a site that would substitute for the Los Alamos canyon and decided on the gully that Woman Creek flowed through. Woman Creek was diverted and construction began on B991.

Today, as deactivation and decommissioning of B991 is revving up, rumors of top-secret activities taking place in the basement has prompted preliminary characterization efforts. Some say secret rooms, including a specialized machine shop, were cemented closed decades ago.

Original construction blueprints of the basement show several possible areas that could have been rooms. However, today the basement consists only of an H-shaped hallway and concrete walls with piping and conduit running into several cemented areas. According to J.R. Marschall, the RISS project manager for the 991 Closure Project, “Original facility drawings indicate that the hallways in the basement were built as utility corridors so the utilities could be easily maintained. It is unusual that some of the piping and conduit enters areas the original drawings indicate as ‘unexcavated earth.’ Recent core samples taken of those areas only produced ‘dirt.’ There were no voids and no concrete beyond the original corridor walls, indicating areas between and around the corridors

were never excavated. Initial radiological surveys show that the area is clean, further dispelling rumors that the secret rooms were walled up because of high contamination levels.”

Steve Cunningham, Kaiser-Hill classification manager, conducted his own investigation into the mysteries of B991 by interviewing several high-level retirees who were in charge of B991 during the 1950s. “Even now, they remain tight-lipped,” said Cunningham.



An enclosure was built over the tunnel area to hide the configuration of the vaults below.



B991 (originally called B91) was built into the hillside on the northeast end of Rocky Flats. The tunnel stretches out to the left. Temporary structures can be seen in the background as the site begins to grow.

“I interviewed Don Getman, who was the building manager in the early 50s. He told me he refused to go into the basement. What happened, he wouldn't say,” added Cunningham.

Through his interviews, Cunningham learned that Air Force personnel teams visited the basement on many occasions between 1952 and 1954.

“The Air Force would come in and exchange their badges at the guardpost for special badges to access the basement. They would spend days there, emerging only to eat lunch in the 991 cafeteria. They kept to themselves. I heard reports of trucks unloading at one of the 991 docks that apparently went directly into the basement but no one knows what they were unloading,” he said.

“Whatever the Air Force was doing in the basement, they

weren't doing it in the hallway. I believe the basement area was intended for a specific purpose but never used. Los Alamos couldn't keep up with the demands of assembling nuclear weapons by itself so, maybe, Rocky Flats was to be used as a supplemental assembly facility. Pantex in Amarillo, Texas, came on-line in 1954 which explains why the basement operations were terminated,” explained Cunningham.

Stories from early employees also describe a rumor that work was stopped in the building for several days in the very early 1950s and cement trucks were seen going down the hill to B991. What that cement was for, no one knows for sure.

“Another thing that doesn't make sense is the layout of the tunnels. Why was the west tunnel

– Please see *UNIQUE PAST* on Page 3



# Site surpasses another shipping record

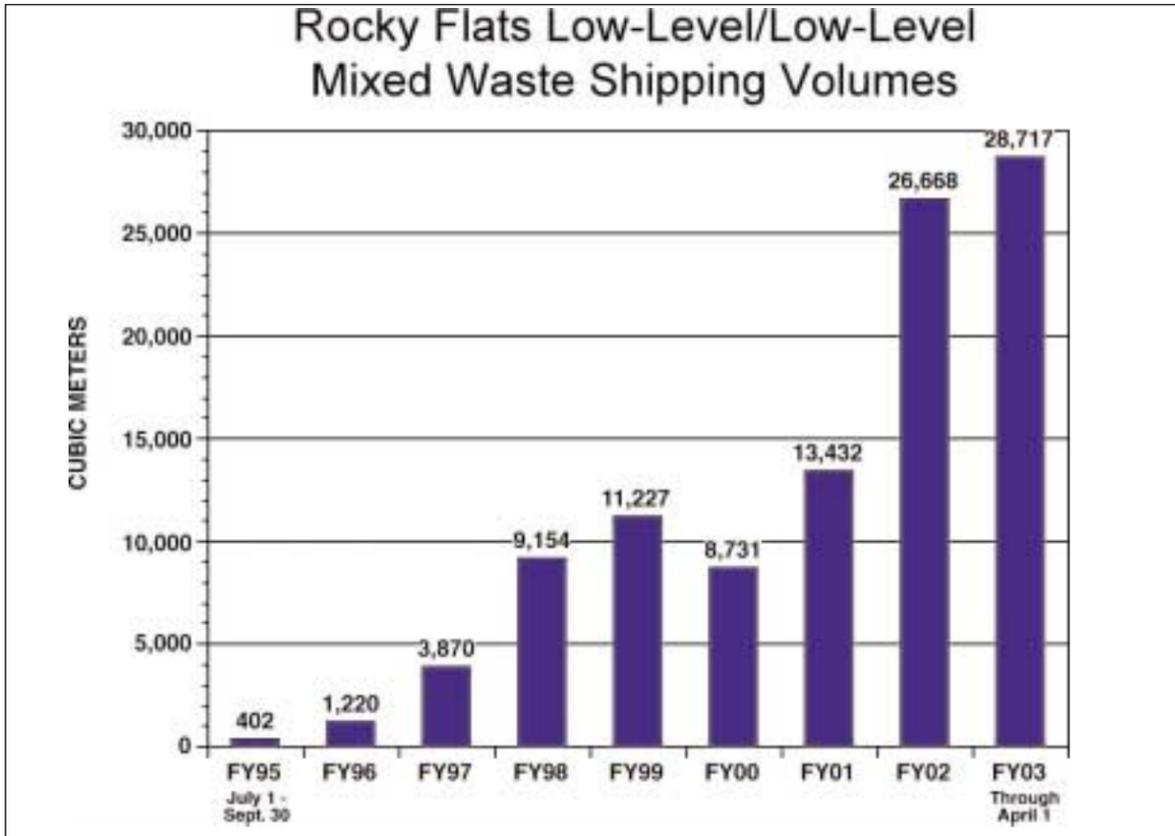
By Lara Harrison

Trucks carrying radioactive and sanitary demolition waste are carting away Rocky Flats, piece by piece, several times an hour.

As of April 1, Material Stewardship exceeded its greatest achievement to date. Record-setting low-level and low-level mixed waste disposal totals racked up by the end of FY02, were surpassed just one day after the midpoint of the fiscal year.

A total of 28,717 cubic meters of radioactive waste have already been shipped to off-site treatment and disposal facilities this year, compared to 28,668 cubic meters last year!

Low-level/Low-level Mixed Waste Program Implementation Manager, Dan Salyers attributes



the phenomenal number of shipments this year to the acceleration of the 903 Pad Project.

“The biggest reason we have been able to ship so much waste this year is because we are using Intermodals to make bulk ship-

ments of 903 Pad waste to Envirocare,” explained Salyers. “Workers are able to fill the containers using front end loaders so they fill up pretty quick.”

The 903 Pad Project has caused the number of low-level

mixed waste shipments to skyrocket this year. Already Material Stewardship has shipped more than the goal for the whole year (8,700 cubic meters) with more than 9,000 cubic meters gone.

“Looking back five years ago when the waste disposal totals through closure were determined, we said there’s no way that’s going to happen and here we are doing it,” Salyers exclaimed.

Sanitary waste is also being generated and disposed of in record amounts. At the end of the second quarter of this year,

Sanitary and Special Waste Projects sent 175 percent more waste shipments than in the same time frame last year.

## Unique past of site’s first building *continued from Page 2*

constructed in between the main level and the basement allowing access to the basement if nothing was going on down there?” he added.

Cunningham believes the building contains some construction voids and that there may have been some building modifications right after it was built and occupied, because the building was designed for a different purpose than the one Rocky Flats was using it for. A similar building at Los Alamos was used for assembly of completed nuclear weapons. These peculiarities may be what led to rumors of secret rooms, though it is hard to explain what the Air Force was doing.

Chances are, the mystery surrounding what happened within the concrete walls of B991 will never be solved. D&D efforts are moving forward and it is likely, due to the projected

area grading plan, that the tunnels and basement will be left in place. Marshall says that more surveys will be conducted to prove the tunnel is not contaminated so demolition/excavation of the 14-foot thick walls is not necessary. If successful, the last 5 feet of the east end of the west tunnel will be filled with foam to prevent water seepage, as will the east tunnel. The basement has some areas of low beryllium count and if it can be cleaned up, the basement will be filled with compacted earth.

Material Stewardship is planning to turnover B991 by the end of September with demolition scheduled for FY04.



Steve Cunningham stands in the doorway of the vault otherwise known as B996, now downgraded from a Limited Area to a Personal Protection Area. Other members of the walkdown team instrumental in achieving the downgrade included Ray Anthony, Eva Barros, Dennis Connors, Dave Cutlip, Bob Kochen, Eric Larsen (facility manager), Mike Ojeda (vault manager), Joe Priselac and Garvin Williams.



Employees found innovative ways to relieve stress during breaks. In 1970, B991 custodian Ken Gollither demonstrated Rocky Flats shuffleboard as it was played down the 600-foot long tunnel. Employees used the cork rings designed to cradle weapons components as shuffleboard discs.



# Rocky Flats proudly

members of our team and their family members who are serving in the military

**Pfc. Robert Arney**, 19, son of David Arney, Informatics, T371P, is serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Construction & Utilities, and has been stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He is on his way to Camp Lejeune, N.C.



*Pfc. Robert Arney*

**Capt. Robert Chaney**, a WSLLC Special Response Team Lieutenant on the A-Day Shift, was called to active duty in the Army Reserve in August 2002. Chaney just completed a six-month combat tour in Afghanistan with the 10th Special Forces Group. He is currently in Kentucky attending advanced training and will most likely be re-deployed to Afghanistan afterward. Chaney has worked at Rocky Flats since 1988.



*Capt. Robert Chaney*

**Spc. Soloman Garcia**, son of Rich Garcia, SSOC, Material Stewardship, B460, is in Northern Iraq with the 173rd Airborne, 508th Division squad called the Red Devils.



*Spc. Soloman Garcia*

**Pfc. Zachary Grattan**, 23, nephew of Mary Ann Chinn, K-H, B371, joined the U.S. Army in June 2002 and completed his basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C. He was sent to Kuwait the end of February, where he works in petroleum supply at Camp New York.



*Pfc. Zachary Grattan*



*Petty Officer Keith Holcombe*

**Petty Officer 2nd Class Keith Holcombe**, 31, nephew of Karen Cox, SSOC, B750, has been in the U.S. Navy about four years. He is a supervisor of the parachute rigging shop and is stationed out of Lemoore Naval Airbase in California. He is presently serving aboard the USS Constellation and has been in the Gulf Region since October 2002.



*Mark Kaes*

**Mark Kaes**, 34, son of Robert Kaes, CH2M HILL Computer Support Services, T130I is with the U.S. Navy aboard the USS John C. Stennis, deployed during the Afghanistan portion of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He serves as the ship's security officer. He has been in the Navy since 1988 and accepted a Limited Duty Officer Commission in 1998. He will receive promotion to Lieutenant the first part of May.

**Lt. Col. James W. Kamerman**, radiological engineer for Alpha Group, T130D, recently was called to active duty. He is currently serving with the U.S. Army's Nuclear and Chemical Agency in Washington, D.C., replacing forces that have been deployed to the Middle East.



*Lt. Col. James W. Kamerman*

**Lt. James A. Kins**, 29, brother of Amy Stovall, K-H, Financial Services, MV72, is serving with the 52nd Engineering Division out of Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs and recently departed for the Middle East. His engineering battalion is primarily responsible for the construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure.



*Lt. James A. Kins*

**Sgt. Sean Kiekbusch**, 22, son of John Kiekbusch, WSLLC, Operations Support, T119B, is an infantry squad leader with the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and was last reported near Karbala in Iraq.

**Capt. Cheree Kochen**, 26, daughter of Bob Kochen, WSS, T119B, is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, Special Operations Unit based out of Hurlberg Field, Fla., and has been in Iraq since January. She graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1998.

**Pvt. 1st Class Tom Kuta**, 19, stepson of Gary Kuta, K-H, B371, recently graduated from U.S. Marine Corps Boot Camp at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and is now stationed with the Military Police at Yorkstown, Va.



*Pvt. 1st Class Tom Kuta*

**Cpl. Cory Lilly**, 21, son of Chris Lilly, RFCSS, Filter Services, T130J, is in the U.S. Marine Corps 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. He has been in Iraq since July 2002.

**Sgt. Rick Linthicum**, 28, nephew of Tina Simmons, SSOC, Nuclear Materials Control, B750, left Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs the first week in April, headed for Iraq. He's in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and is part of the second wave of troops in the tank division to help secure Iraq.



*Sgt. Rick Linthicum*



*Petty Officer Kate Maria Marrero*

**Petty Officer Kate Maria Marrero**, 22, daughter of Chuck Marrero, K-H, Diversity, B060, is serving in the U.S. Navy as legalman in a Judge Advocate General (JAG) Unit. She is stationed in Norfolk, Va.

**Capt. Jason Mead**, 29, nephew of Cheryl Hinkhouse, Tenera, Corrective Action & PATS, B130 is based out of Mannheim, Germany, and is now serving in the Iraq area with the 181st Transportation Battalion.



*Capt. Jason Mead*



# salutes and supports



*Pfc. Kenneth Edward Moore*

**Pfc. Kenneth Edward Moore**, 33, twin brother of Kent A. Moore, CH2M HILL Computer Support Services, T130I, is with the U.S. Army Medical A Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, 1st Platoon, Reserve Unit based at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. He served in Operation Desert Storm.

**Spc. Alan Nichols**, 22, son of Connie Jones, Source One, Records Management, B130, and brother of Dawn Cogan, Occupational Medicine, B122, is in the 2nd-3rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army based in Ft. Lewis, Wash. He is currently undergoing field training in California.



*Spc. Alan Nichols*



*Major John Pestovich*

**Major John Pestovich**, 39, a CCA in K-H, B707 and a Rocky Flats employee for 13 years, has been in the U.S. Army Reserve for 17 years. He was called to active duty with the 1st Brigade, 91st Division, in January to assist in mobilizing the regular Army for deployment to Iraq. He is based in Ft. Lewis, Wash. Pestovich is shown in this photo with his son, Connor. His brother, Joe, is a B707 CCA.

**Petty Officer Zebulon Pike**, 26, son of Patti Hall, K-H, 776/777/707 Project, is an Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class, Aviation Warfare/Surface Warfare. He is currently stationed at NAS Whidbey, Island, Wash., where he is Leading Petty Officer, supervising maintenance for EA6B Prowlers. Pike joined the Navy in 1996. He served aboard the USS Carl Vinson in the Persian Gulf in Operation Desert Fox and aboard both the USS John C. Stennis and the USS Harry S. Truman in Persian Gulf Operation Southern Watch.

**Chief Petty Officer Roger Christopher Riendeau**, brother of Michael Riendeau, AWS, T130F, is serving with the U.S. Navy stationed in Norfolk, Va., and is currently part of the team winding up the search for debris from the space shuttle Columbia.



*Petty Officer Thomas L. Strachan*

**Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas L. Strachan**, 38, son of Linda Higgins, K-H, Subcontract Management, MV72, and Charles Higgins, K-H D&D, T771N, is in the U.S. Navy's Security Division assigned to the USS Enterprise at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Virginia. The Enterprise is due to leave in July for a six-month deployment to replace the USS Harry S. Truman.

**Lt. Tory Swanson**, 31, son of Nancy Holmes, 707/776/777 facility manager, is in the U.S. Navy attending Naval Submarine School in Groton, Conn., where he is studying to be an engineer on a nuclear submarine.

**Richard Watson**, a former Wackenhut Lieutenant at Rocky Flats and husband of Wackenhut SPO Linda Watson, has been with the U.S. Air Force for more than 20 years. After Sept. 11, he was recalled for one year to the OSI Division that was working with the FBI in counterintelligence in Colorado. After that one year tour of duty, Watson took a job with the Breckenridge Police Department but has been recalled by the Air Force to work in the same capacity in counterintelligence overseas for one year.

**PV2 Chad Wendel**, nephew of Randy Walker, Waste Integration, 776//777/707, is in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Air Force out of Ft. Campbell, Ky., and is now in Iraq with the 159th Aviation Eagle Strike Brigade (known as the Screaming Eagles) as a doorgunner on a Blackhawk helicopter.



*PV2 Chad Wendel*

**George Whitehead**, 22, son of Cathy Whitehead, K-H, MV72, has been serving in the U.S. Air Force for four years. Based out of Okinawa, Japan, he recently returned from duty in the Middle East and is now serving in the North Korea/South Korea conflict.



*Lance Cpl. Christopher William*

**Lance Cpl. Christopher William**, 21, son of Tami William, WSS, B060, is in the U.S. Marine Corps 1st Marine Division based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and has been on the front lines in Iraq since Feb. 4.

**Capt. Roger Wingate**, 31, husband of Sarah Wingate, CH2M HILL project manager, MV72, is in the U.S. Army Reserve and was called to active duty in February to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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## IN MEMORIAM



*Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe*

**Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe**, 27, an Army Ranger in the 3rd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment based at Fort Benning, Ga., and an Arvada resident, was one of three U.S. soldiers killed April 4 in a suicide bombing at an Iraqi checkpoint. The three soldiers were approaching a car at the checkpoint after a pregnant woman stepped out of the vehicle and began screaming. The woman and the car's driver were also killed in the suicide blast.

Capt. Rippetoe had been in Afghanistan prior to his deployment to Iraq. Rippetoe's awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Ranger Tab and the Parachutist Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart.

Rippetoe's father, retired Lt. Col. Joe Rippetoe was employed at the Rocky Flats site as a DOE subcontractor in the early to mid 90s. Joe and his wife, Rita, just recently moved from Arvada to Gaithersburg, Md.





MS Traffic and Transportation all-star cast gathers to celebrate nine years without a day away from work injury. Front row seated from left: Mike Padilla, Ken Lenarcic, Dick Minardi, Clint White, Dan Richards, Bob Evans, Jim Peterson, John Teepe and Jim Williams. Middle row from left: Gary Nuss, Jim Voorhies, Ruth Peterson, Doug Parker, Mark Ortiz, Gena Kozlowski, Jeanett Salyers, Julie Sullivan, Darrell McNerny, Wendi Gonzales, Buddy Bigfeather, Kevin Bales, Dan Gomez, Kerry Minter, Don Ellestad and Fran Ito. Back row from left: Vic Ament, Joe Kuplack, Martin Lucero, Ron DeFeyter, Bob Dunkel, Steve Peterson, Darryl Peavy, Neil Kothlow, Ron Haulman, Mike Crossett, Dave Bryan, Wayne Redmond, Brian Burbank, Don Williams and Sam Bade. Not pictured: Howard Smith, Mike Smith, Ernie Fullerton, Walt Engel, Erwin Stoddard, Gary Vancil, Harvey Wherry, Ken Earley, Jimmy Trembath, Jim Winkler, Jo Zielbauer, Mary Frost and Val Thompson.

## Transportation celebrates safe work

By Lara Harrison

Material Stewardship's Traffic and Transportation group threw an all-star bash April 7 to celebrate nine years without a lost workday (day away from work case). That's nearly one million man-hours of safe work.

"This is an absolutely amazing accomplishment," praised Kaiser-Hill President Alan Parker at the lunch held in honor of the workers.

"Every day presents more opportunities to get hurt," said Material Stewardship Project Manager Mark Spears. "This year we are shipping an average 1,300 cubic meters of radioac-

tive waste off site each week. Five years ago, that's how much we shipped off site in an entire year. We are moving a tremendous amount of materials at this site. This is a remarkable achievement."

According to Fran Ito, traffic and transportation manager, Trucking transported around 220,000 items last year. "Our drivers and their managers must constantly evaluate if a job can be done safely and decide how best to do it. Our workers accept personal responsibility for their safety and the safety of those around them," said Ito.

Transportation Operations Manager Mike

Crossett credits the success of the organization to several key elements including a relatively stable work force, a caring attitude top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top, immediate review of organizational incidents and review of lessons learned including a Vehicle Accident Review Committee, and safety incentive and recognition programs.

"Our objective was to be the carrier of choice if our customers had a choice of carriers like Federal Express or UPS or us. We get a lot of positive feedback, and we have a very professional crew. I think, if our customers could choose, they would pick us," said Ito.

## Tours still draw crowds at Rocky Flats

By Stephanie Davis

Rocky Flats hosts more than 250 tours and visits annually. The magnitude and complexity of the closure project has never before been attempted or accomplished anywhere in the world. Therefore, a wide range of people and organizations are interested in seeing the site.

Much of the attention Rocky Flats is currently attracting comes from the successful implementation of innovative technologies developed by Rocky Flats employees. As a number of other nuclear sites embark on cleanup and closure missions, representatives visit Rocky Flats to learn about our

technologies and other efficiencies used in the closure process.

Recently, representatives from the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority and other DOE facilities such as Savannah River Site and Hanford visited hoping to gain valuable information that may be used at their facilities.

Tours of this nature generally include presentations and lessons learned discussions involving deactivation, decontamination and decommissioning activities, environmental restoration and waste management activities, and the closure contract structure. Frequently, visitors will tour facili-

ties such as B371, B771, B707 and B440 to observe technological application in action.

In addition to the local media such as *The Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News* and *Boulder Daily Camera*, whose frequent visits historically record the site's countless accomplishments and milestones, Rocky Flats has intrigued national media outlets including *Time Magazine*, CBS, *Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic* and Voice of America.

The activities performed at Rocky Flats never fail to capture the attention of local and national public officials. In October 2002, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham visited Rocky Flats for

the first time, along with Senator Wayne Allard who has visited the site a number of times.

Newly elected Congressman Bob Beauprez visited Rocky Flats Jan. 21, 2003, and was given a Rocky Flats Closure Project familiarization tour including presentations by DOE RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management, a driving tour of the site and

a tour of Buildings 440, 371 and 707.

Congressman Mark Udall has also visited the site a number of times. The congressman, along with Senator Allard, was instrumental in passing legislation to create a National Wildlife Refuge upon closure.

Public tours are scheduled throughout the year to enhance community relations, increase public awareness of site closure activities and meet public informational needs. The number of public tours at Rocky Flats has been impacted by our nation's heightened security posture. However, public interest in touring Rocky Flats remains high. Public tours generally include a brief educational presentation followed by a site road tour. Many universities, colleges and environmental organizations also visit the site to learn about specific areas of interest such as environmental law, engineering and radiological technologies.

Over the years, the Rocky Flats Tours and Visits Program has adapted with the change in mission, remaining a welcoming opportunity for those interested in learning about the site.

First to visit Rocky Flats in August 1952 were reporters from *The Denver Post*. The reporters

— Please see VISITORS on Page 8

April Anniversaries		
<b>5 Years</b> Thomas Lindsay, SSOC Regina Romero, K-H Jayshree Singh, RFCSS Rene Thomas, K-H	<b>20 Years</b> Clarence Buchholz, K-H Salvatore Disalle, RFCSS William Dunst, K-H Douglas Fennell, K-H Charles Finleon, SSOC	<b>25 Years</b> Mark Livesay, K-H Gary Mally, K-H Harry Morgan K-H Edward Regensburger, K-H
<b>15 Years</b> Rochelle Darnell, K-H Tom Hergert, SSOC Wm. Roushey Jr., SSOC	<b>30 Years</b> Ronny Foltz, K-H Mark Kirmaier, K-H Virgil Kyles, K-H Rocco Milano, SSOC Jeffrey Wolfe, K-H	<b>35 Years</b> Robert Martinez, K-H Gerald Reed, K-H



# Workforce Transition Program brings praise

The Kaiser-Hill Workforce Transition Program was publicly launched on April 15 to a crowd of interested stakeholders, key public officials and local media. Several Colorado officials were on hand to support the program as an innovative effort that will benefit the employees.

The Rocky Flats closure plan calls for job reductions as the project proceeds. As their tasks are completed, employees will have a full menu of services under the Workforce Transition Program to help them move to new careers, start a new business, retire or make other choices.

"The success of the Workforce Transition Program will benefit the entire metro area, because Rocky Flats workers bring substantial economic benefit to Front Range communities," said Len Martinez, Kaiser-Hill vice-president and CFO, who is leading the Transition Program. He noted that spending by Rocky Flats workers generates an additional 7,000

regional jobs, equating to more than 11,000 total jobs affected by the closure.

At the launch of the program, Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton praised Rocky Flats employees for their hard work and commitment.

"These highly skilled workers will soon be available for hire to many local businesses," she said. "Given their dedication and work ethic, the Rocky Flats workers will serve our communities well through other career venues after the last building at Rocky Flats is gone."

Norton was one of several Colorado elected officials, including Congressman Mark Udall and Congressman Bob Beauprez, who support the innovative program.

Congressman Udall, whose district includes Rocky Flats said, "The people who worked at Rocky Flats have been as essential to our national security as those fighting on the front lines. We have a moral obligation and social responsibility to see that these workers are treated with respect and that their skills and expertise can continue to be used productively. I am proud to support efforts that will help these workers remain productive members of society and am pleased that the Career Transition Center is being provided to



Lt. Governor Jane Norton (left) discuss the K-H Workforce Transition Program with Kaiser-Hill Vice President and CFO Len Martinez and Linde Marshall, Caseworker with Senator Allard's office.

help them do just that."

As part of the Workforce Transition Program, the CTC will provide a wide range of services including career counseling, an entrepreneurial resource program, a leading-edge

internet-based, career transition assistance tool, and many other innovative resources.

"Every single worker at Rocky Flats should be commended as part of a great achievement. A job that many thought couldn't be accomplished – at

any price – is going to be done on budget, on time. These exceptional, dedicated, experienced people will carry forward a noble legacy to their next job and throughout their careers," said Congressman Beauprez.

***"The people who worked at Rocky Flats have been as essential to our national security as those fighting on the front lines."***

– Congressman Mark Udall

## Confused about project spending?

By Ed Bodey

If the Rocky Flats Closure Project started the year 7 percent under budget, as reported in the March 12 *Endvision*, how can budget issues be causing some work on site, like B881, to be deferred?

Two different project performance indicators show what may appear to be conflicting information about the status of the project. One indicator tracks project performance against the baseline plan from the start of the project to present. The other indicator tracks spending (and rate of spending) in a particular year.

The March 12 *Endvision* contained an article on the annual State of the Flats meeting. There, the Closure Project was touted as "7 percent under budget." This refers to the fact that work accomplished so far in the closure project, February 2000 to present, actually cost 7 percent less than planned. This indicator, in project management terms, is called Cost Variance.

Recent issues resulting in curtailment of some project work, however, are the result of the management of fiscal year funding. Rocky Flats receives its funding annually through congressional appropriation. Kaiser-Hill is required to manage work activities within those annual fixed funding levels. Analysis indicated that if the project continued spending at the current rate, it would overspend its annual funding. As a result, Kaiser-Hill took actions to reduce the day-to-day "burn rate" on spending. One of those actions resulted in deferment of work on B881.

Several factors led to the large increase in 2003 spending, among them significantly higher disposal costs for 903 Pad waste, continued operation of PuSPS which was scheduled to be completed by January 2002, size-reducing SNM parts in B371 and the desire to accelerate more work by performing it earlier than scheduled.

Being 7 percent under budget, as in the first example, doesn't mean money in the bank to rectify problems that might arise such as those in the second example. In a project as difficult and complicated as Rocky Flats, Kaiser-Hill routinely reinvests cost savings to accelerate work wherever possible. In fact, performing B881 work this year was accelerated from the original baseline start date of September 2003. Remediation of the 903 Pad is another example of work tackled well ahead of its planned start.

## Employees rescue co-worker

By Lara Harrison

"God and his angels were with me that day," said Wanda Vidal of Material Stewardship. On March 25, Vidal's angels took the form of site employees DeAnn Westbrook and Richard Wilson.

Vidal was heading to work on McCaslin Boulevard at around 5:45 a.m. when she hit a patch of black ice and lost control of her brand new Toyota 4-Runner. As the 4-Runner overturned, she raised her arm to shield her head from the impact of the partially lowered side window and ended up with a deep gash on the top of her wrist.

Wilson was ahead of Vidal and Westbrook was following behind. Both watched the accident happen and pulled over to see if they could help. Wilson wrapped Vidal's wrist while Westbrook called Vidal's family. Another concerned motorist called 911. When the ambulance arrived, Westbrook, a friend of Vidal's, went to the hospital with her for moral support.

"I don't know how to thank them," said Vidal, who is still shaken up by the accident. "God sent his angels to help me. I don't know what I would have done without them."

Vidal was lucky to escape the accident with just a wrist injury that required many stitches.

Her seat belt kept her in-place, preventing further injuries from occurring. She is thankful for the generosity and concern of her rescuers – who just so happened to be part of the Rocky Flats family.

### 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.

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Rocky Flats Trucking Department**



# Visitors still flock to site continued from Page 6

were given an exclusive interview with Admiral Gilbert C. Hoover, manager of the Atomic Energy Commission's Rocky Flats Field Office. Hoover revealed construction progress at the site. In April 1963, 18 members of the area press attended a breakfast followed by a short bus tour of the site and a tour of the Health Physics Department. This was the first such function since the beginning of construction in 1951.

Rockwell began the first regularly sched-

uled public tours in July 1975. Tours began with a briefing held in the B111 auditorium, a bus tour of the site, visits to the foundry and machining operations in B707, and the remote handling apparatus displayed in B331.

"Opening the site to tours and visits is crucial to showing the media, the stakeholders and the general public the progress that is being achieved here every day toward a safe and successful cleanup," said DOE RFFO

Spokesperson Pat Etchart. "It is important to

allow visitors, particularly the media who can be skeptical of our progress, to witness the work that is occurring here and the safety precautions that are in place. Over the years as interest in Rocky Flats has increased, the Tours and Visits Program has been instrumental in helping show the world what we are attempting to accomplish and how close we are to getting the job done," he added.

## declassifieds

### ANIMALS

Two dogs, Rottweiler mixed, one male, one female, both house-broken, great with kids and well behaved, would like them to go to same home, \$100 each or best offer. Matt, 720-685-9980.

### AUTOMOBILES/ MOTORCYCLES

1968 Mercury Cougar XR-7 GT 390 S Code, Super C6, 9-inch rear end. Paulette, 303-635-0269.

1982 Toyota Supra, 6-cylinder, 5-speed, PS, PW, sunroof, alarm, tinted windows, full records, 2,300 miles, never in an accident, runs strong, \$1,400 or best offer. Jim, 303-466-8457.

1983 Kawasaki 750 LTD, 983 original miles, excellent condition, 2-wheel disk brakes, 2 rotors in front/air cooled, mag wheels. Billie, 303-469-2148, or Ken, 303-423-4656.

1983 Toyota SR5 4x4 pickup, long bed, 4-cylinder, 5-speed manual, top-per, bedliner, lots of miles, \$1,750. Jason, 303-349-3075.

1992 Toyota Celica GTS, excellent condition, white, 5-speed, fully loaded options include new tires and tinted windows, great car, \$6,200. Lee, 303-254-5464.

1996 Ford Ranger, 2-wheel drive, 5-speed, A/C, new windshield and tires, utility topper with two toolboxes, 86,000 miles, \$4,000. Jim, 303-469-4535.

1999 F250 Super Duty Extended Cab Long Bed, Triton V8, all leather, power everything, sprayed-on bedliner, 102,000 highway miles, all mainte-

nance current. Paulette, 303-489-0792.

2001 Suzuki DR 650 Dual Sport motorcycle, 450 miles, stored in garage, \$6,000 or best offer. Jason, 303-644-5183.

2001 P.T. Cruiser, 5-speed, Limited, fully loaded, sunroof, leather, excellent condition, 36,000 miles, optional transferable warranty, \$17,000. Dave, 720-936-7361.

2002 Honda scooter, brand new, only 200 miles, great for spring and summer fun. Wendi, 303-274-9192.

Tires on aluminum cast wheels: four 235/75-R15, 6-bolt all weather; four 195/65-R15, 5-bolt new studded snows; best offer. Jack, 303-279-3542.

Extang tonneau cover, black, came off of a 1998 Dodge Ram short-box, no drilling to install, \$100. Alan, 303-403-9965.

Goodyear Eagle LS tires, two P225/55R-17, 3,874 miles, off of a 1999 Chrysler 300M, \$20 for both or \$13 each. Carl, 303-421-1994.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Free: 7-ft. tall tricolor dracaena, 3 tall stems, 2 very short stems, in large clay-colored plastic pot. Betsy, 303-456-8756.

Oak dresser and two nightstands, \$80. Rick, 303-425-7653.

Wedding ring, only worn once, 3/4 carat Marquis solitaire cut with side stones and band. 1.0 ctw. Appraised at \$4,300 asking \$2,000. Rob, 303-279-6960.

Girl's beginner bicycle, 12-inch white tires, training wheels, pink frame,

cute, \$12; child carrier seat with seat belt, fits most bicycles, toddler sits behind you, \$15; both items in good condition. Leigh, 303-403-1066.

454ci Big Block Chevy Builder motor, \$150; air compressor, 5-hp, 220 volt, large vertical tank, \$100. Mark, 303-494-2579.

Tecumseh Yardmachine rototiller, like new, works great, only used for 5 hours, \$250. Phillip, 303-469-6053.

Kenmore washer/dryer set, almond, top of the line, reconditioned, approximately 15 years old, \$300 or best offer. Eligio, 720-436-2503.

Recumbent exercise bike, \$75; Pro Form treadmill, \$175. Greg, 303-666-5062.

Challenger tool box by Deflect-a-Shield for full-size pickup, diamond plate finish with single lid that locks and opens from either side, extra deep, like new, cost new \$350, will sell for \$200 or consider trade for a fifth-wheel toolbox. Mitch, 303-517-9103.

Propane conversion kit for pickup truck (carb. Style) includes 9 - lb. propane tank, hoses, solenoid for shut-off switch and vaporizer, \$100. John, 303-659-2987.

Oak entertainment center, holds 27-inch television, stereo equipment, videos, CDs/DVDs, \$175. Joe, 303-833-3587.

Yakima rack for Jeep Cherokee, very good shape, two bike racks, 1 ski rack with bug deflector; large Dogloo, best offer. Mark, 720-261-5127.

Oak credenza, 67-in. long, 20-in. wide, 29-in. height, brown, 4 drawers, 2 sliding doors,

sturdy, \$75. Vivian, 303-431-2445.

Child's tandem bike, attaches to adult bike, \$50. Michael, 303-642-0064.

Cattle equipment: 8-ft. and 10-ft. coral panels, water tank, A.I. Kit and Seamen tank, halters, electric fence post and RR ties. Ken, 303-637-0531.

Snowblower, John Deere TRS32 walk behind model, electric start, 10 horsepower 32-in., new \$800. Jim, 303-452-0858.

### TRAILERS/CAMPERS/BOATS

2001 tilting flatbed trailer, 5-ft. by 8-ft. bed, great for motorcycles or general hauling, 3,500-lb. capacity, like new, \$750 or best offer. Steve, 303-661-9193.

1997 22-ft. Weekend Warrior Toy Hauler, great condition, front bathroom, sleeps 6, hauls 4 quads, \$14,500 or best offer. Tom or Christie, 303-465-0772.

### WANTED

Will pay \$100 to \$400 for much needed home computer, Pentium III or more preferred but not necessary. Eva, 303-287-9118.

**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.

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## 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 Jackie Powers, 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 59.
- 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:

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

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