

Get the latest information about site road closures and delays. Call the NEW Traffic Safety Hotline 966-ROAD (x7623).



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

Aug. 12, 2004

Volume 10, Number 12

371/374 project passes three more milestones on road to demolition

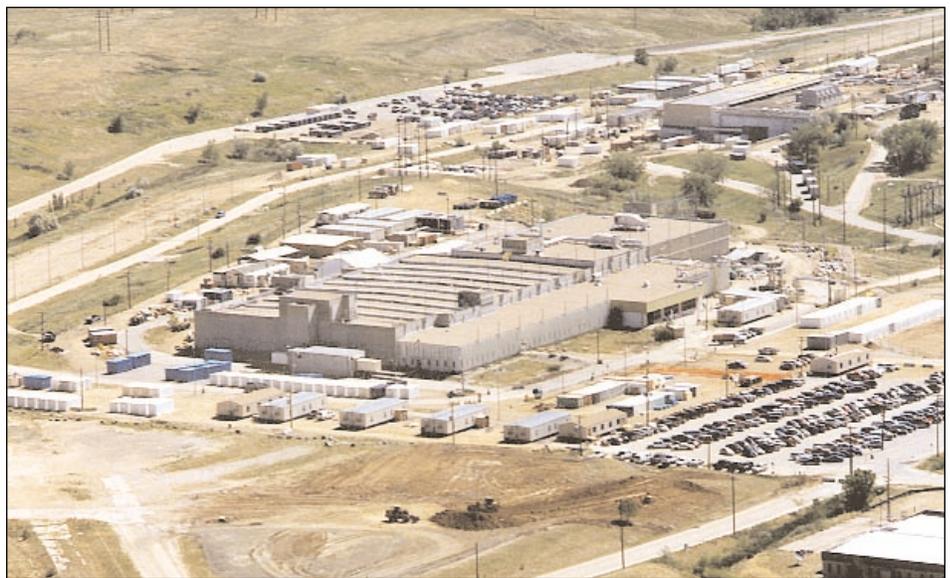
Workers in B371/374 recently achieved three major accomplishments on the path toward final demolition. They reduced the risk of a nuclear criticality in B371/374 to less than one-in-one million. They also removed all remaining transuranic contaminated equipment from B374 and the remaining PuSPS equipment from B371.

CAAS no longer required on site

The probability of a criticality event at Rocky Flats was reduced to less than one-in-one million last month when B371 implemented the approved criticality safety evaluation allowing the building's Criticality Accident Alarm System (CAAS), the last on site, to be disconnected and removed. All but small quantities of fissionable material on canyon walls and interior sections of remaining gloveboxes, tanks and process piping have been removed.

"Although the risk of a criticality event is less than one-in-one million, criticality safety limits will remain in place essentially until all nuclear facilities are demolished," said Howard Gilpin, B371/374 ES&Q manager.

DOE requires a CAAS in facilities that store more than 450g of fissionable material and has a greater than one-in-one million probability of a criticality event in a year. For plutonium that number, 450g, is less than the minimum critical mass. Although a CAAS is no longer required in B371, a criticality safety program will remain in place until the building is demolished. The Kaiser-Hill nuclear criticality program, in implementing DOE requirements, only



Aerial photo of B371/374 taken on June 14, 2004.

exempts facilities from their program if less than 1 percent of critical mass is present, 4.5g for a plutonium facility.

B371 PuSPS equipment removed

All remaining PuSPS equipment, including 12 gloveboxes and a number of welding machines, was removed from B371 on July 21. Prior to removal from the building, external and internal components were disassembled and the gloveboxes decontaminated to levels allowing shipment to Envirocare. Workers had to cut the equipment into sections small enough to go through existing dock doors. Once outside, the gloveboxes were placed on hand-built carts, wrapped in plastic, taped and placed in cargo containers as low-level waste.

"Jerome Starks' crew of six D&D

workers and two RCTs completed the task in less than three months with no safety events, no contamination events and no significant issues," said Rick Von Feldt, B371/374 D&D manager.

B374 now "operationally clean"

Workers recently removed the last of the transuranic contaminated equipment from B374, allowing the building to be declared "operationally clean." The term means that the nuclear risk in the facility has been reduced to a point where controls in the authorization basis are no longer required. Although B374 work activities will still be conducted to a high standard, site safety management practices will be used instead of the building authorization basis requirements.

by Jackie Powers



The B664 crew from left, Michael Harris, Corky Parker, Sandra Mclin, Doug Pretzer, Harvey Delockroy, Jeanette Jensen, Mary Jo Steel, J.J. Saunders, Denise Trujillo, Carol Trickel, Glen O'Connor, Todd Sassen and Greg Carey.

Last TRU shipment from B664 leaves site

For 21 years B664 provided a transient home for transuranic waste generated at Rocky Flats. On Friday, July 30, the B664 crew prepared the last shipment of transuranic waste to be packaged in the building. All future transuranic and transuranic-mixed waste will be packaged in B440, the other site transuranic waste shipping facility. Material Stewardship will turn B664 over to RISS by the end of the fiscal year. Many of the B664 crew members will be transferred to B440.

“One of the toughest days for me will be the day I look out the door and see B664 coming down,” said Steelworker Corky Parker.

Parker has spent 33 of his 35-year

Rocky Flats career in B664. Initially, no one wanted to work in the building he said because it wasn’t heated. The cold didn’t bother him so he asked to be permanently assigned to the building.

Waste Management and Waste Operations Deputy Project Manager John Ciucci visited the building in May. “I opened Parker’s desk and found a can of Gatorade with an expiration date of 1974 – a clear sign he has been in the same place an awful long time.”

Parker has seen the facility go through a number of operational changes. Initially, transuranic waste was shipped to B664 where it was loaded into Atomic Materials Rail Transfer (ATMX) railcars for shipment to the

Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL).

Between 1973 and 1989, tens of thousands of drums were loaded into the ATMX cars for shipment to Idaho. These shipments were halted in the late 1980s. In 1989, B664 began storing transuranic waste until the EPA certified the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) on March 25, 1999. The first shipment left that same day. At one time the building housed more than 7,000 drums and crates stacked four high.

B664 has shipped 557 transuranic and transuranic-mixed waste shipments to WIPP, more most other DOE sites.

by Jackie Powers

RFCSS General Manager Jim Williams retires

Rocky Flats Closure Site Services (RFCSS) General Manager Jim Williams retired from his second successful career on Aug. 6. He retired as an Army colonel 10 years ago.

Williams, who was named general manager of RFCSS in July 2001, will be missed by many who have worked with him during his tenure at Rocky Flats. His emphasis on safety has played a big part in the successful management of all site services and the D&D of a number of site buildings. That same commitment to safety resulted in RFCSS winning the four highest corporate safety awards from parent company Jacobs

Engineering this year and RFCSS achieving the lowest injury rate of any subcontractor in Rocky Flats’ history.

Fran Roberts, who will lead RFCSS through closure, says “Williams has been a mentor to many, but the most important thing Jim brought to RFETS was his perspective and his commitment to safety.”

Williams and his wife, Kathy, moved 29 times in 30 years, living in almost every state and in eight countries. After sampling life all over the world, they have chosen Oregon as their retirement paradise. by Jackie Powers



Williams, known by many as the “chili god,” treated co-workers to one last bowl of his famous mixture before retiring from RFCSS on Aug. 6.

What does decaying fruit have in common with demolition of B883?

Just off a significant success in B881, RISS Project Manager J. Mike Swartz and his crew will now tackle the B883 demolition. B883 is a 76,500 square-foot-high bay, single-story building with a 38-foot ceiling, that was built in 1957 to accommodate fabrication of enriched and depleted uranium and beryllium parts. Operations ended in 1994 and the building was closed.

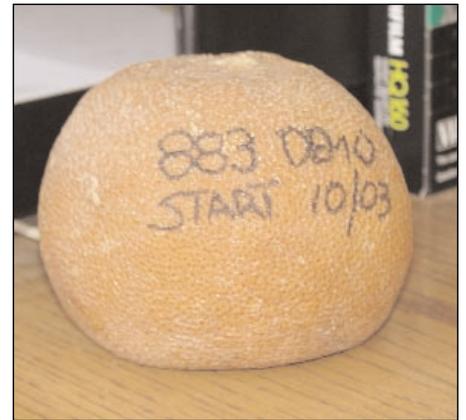
Want to know when it will be demolished? The answer can be found by checking out an orange on Swartz's desk.

What do an orange and demolition have in common? Vice President and Project Manager Denny Ferrera found out this spring when he asked Swartz about the B881 demolition schedule. Swartz picked up an orange from his desk, squeezed it, and replied the build-

ing would come down when the fruit was ready, adding jokingly that he uses fruit instead of the standard P2 scheduling mechanism.

Swartz left a grapefruit on his desk when he walked out of his T690Q office in May 2003, after learning that building demolition was halted until October to re-allocate funding to other high priority demolition projects. When he returned to the project and his office in October, the grapefruit was petrified. He saved the grapefruit and added an orange marking resumption of B881 D&D and an orange marking the beginning of work in B883.

"Using fruit is far more accurate than standard scheduling methods," Swartz replied with a smile. "The time it takes the fruit on my desk to petrify is a pretty good indicator of how long it will take to complete a demolition project."



The orange on Mike Swartz's desk marks the beginning of B883 D&D.

B883 demolition is scheduled for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2005.

"Whatever his methods may be, Swartz gets the job done," said Ferrera.
by Jackie Powers

Scientists scour Buffer Zone for new species

More than 100 scientists and 200 volunteers swept the Buffer Zone recently for the 2004 Grasslands BioBlitz. A BioBlitz is a 24-hour event organized to identify and track the plant and animal species residing in a particular ecosystem. The June BioBlitz attempted to inventory grassland species in Jefferson and Boulder County open space and the Rocky Flats Buffer Zone and was the largest ever staged in Colorado.

"This sort of event benefits everyone because it stimulates



A young visitor gets close to a bull snake at the expo in B060.

interest and increases awareness about the incredible diversity in our own backyard," said John Rampe of the DOE.

While some scientists were in the field identifying and collecting animals, insects and plants, others spent their time in the B060 Visitor Center sorting and cataloging the finds with microscopes, tweezers and reference books. A Science-in-Action Discovery Center was also open to the public in B060. On display were live Swainson's Hawks, barn owls and bull snakes.

Numerous public officials spoke at the opening ceremonies held in B060.

"The grasslands provide an invaluable asset to Colorado," said Jeannette Alberg of Sen. Wayne Allard's office, "and converting Rocky Flats to a wildlife refuge preserves and saves the treasured land for future generations." Alberg recognized the collaborative efforts of federal, state and local agencies that helped with legislation to preserve Rocky Flats.

"Rocky Flats is indeed one of the crown jewels of the Front Range," said Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar. "The site will be added to the more than 88,000 acres of open space already preserved by Boulder and Jefferson Counties." Salazar added that 90 percent of the grasslands in the west (Colo., N.M., Ariz. and Wyo.) have been developed or farmed.

In all, BioBlitz participants identified and catalogued more than 1,000 species at Rocky Flats. The final tally included 376 different plants, 73 bird species, a dozen different snakes, amphibians and reptiles and 12 mammals. There were also more than 400 different insects and other invertebrates collected and brought to the Visitor Center for identification. That's enough to creep out anyone suffering from arachnophobia. by Bill Badger

Steelworkers Web site now more accessible

USWA Web site Manager Rudy Mastellone in conjunction with Shannon Ross, Web administrator, worked with the CH2M HILL IT team to make the Steelworkers Web site more accessible. Until recently, the Web site was part of the Kaiser-Hill Intranet and while that may have been fine for those who work at Rocky Flats, it left those trying to access the site from home out of luck.

“The new location is great news for

all current, former and retired Steelworkers,” said USWA Local Union 8031 President Tony Demaiori. “You can now browse current issues pertaining to you and our local union from home or wherever you are.”

To get to the site, go to a search engine such as Google, Yahoo or Netscape and type in the Web address www.RFETS.gov, scroll down the left side of the page and click on USWA.

The Web site provides valuable information about the Steelworkers career transition center, applying for special cohort status, contact numbers for committee and safety representatives, benefits and payroll and training.

Rudy Mastellone is anxious to hear suggestions on how the Web site can be improved to meet your needs. He can be reached at 303-966-4260.

by Jackie Powers

declassifieds

Animals

Beautiful gray 10-year-old registered quarter horse mare, good conformation, 15.2h, stocky, very sweet, perfect ground manners, lots of mountain/trail riding, has been around cows, \$3,000. Vicki, 303-725-8692.

Automobiles/Motorcycles

1994 Toyota 2WD truck, white, 4 cylinder, 5-spd., standard trans., A/C, runs great, 102,000 miles, topper, \$3,100; girl's mountain bicycle, pink frame, 20-in. tires, 6-spd. Shimano shifter, \$25. Lee, 303-403-1066.

2001 KTM XS 400 motorcycle, 4 stroke, excellent condition, \$3,500. Chris, 303-933-8992.

Miscellaneous

Two snack/soda combo vending machines, on location. Mike, 720-872-3376.

Two Broncos season tickets, section 533, Row 11, seats 22 and 23, face value. Gary, 303-665-5531.

Folding bike, like new, originally \$600, a deal at \$425, Donna, 303-444-1513.

10-ft. pool w/cover, \$50;

Uniden radar detector, \$25; carrying case for AC/DC 9-in. TV/VCR combo, \$35; Tasco Galaxsee reflector telescope, \$200. Jim, 303-469-1997.

Hunting tent, 16-ft. x 16-ft., with poles, \$550 or best offer; new digital audio home speakers, 10-in x 13-in. x 37-in., \$200. Steve, 303-467-1128.

Two mountain bikes for moderate to serious rider, must see, \$500 and \$1,300 or best offer, Amber, 303-898-3340.

John Deere tractor, 4X4, 2350, quick attach loader,

8-ft. blade, 6-ft. bush-hog, \$17,500. Ken, 303-637-0531.

Trailers/Campers/Boats

2001 Holiday Rambler Alumascap 31-ft. travel trailer, used one summer, includes most options, sleeps six, large family/dinette slide, \$20,000 or best offer. Larry, 303-252-7992.

Wanted

Dog kennel wanted, asap, at least 6-ft x 6-ft. x 6-ft., have truck to pick up. Candice, 303-646-5935.

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/Carpoools 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 T130B, Cube 80.
- 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
- Automobiles/Motorcycles
- Lost/Found
- Miscellaneous
- Trailers/Campers/Boats
- Vanpools/Carpoools
- Wanted

Text:

Name (first and last): _____

Home phone: _____

Site extension: _____

endvision

is published every other week 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. 10, No. 12,
Aug. 12, 2004

Editor: Jackie Powers,
303-966-5416
Mail stop T130B, Cube 80
jackie.powers@rfets.gov