



# ES&H SYNERGY

DOE/EH-0487-1

## ES&H Synergy Premieres First Issue

Look no further than *ES&H Synergy* for timely, at-a-glance information on environment, safety, and health (ES&H) issues impacting DOE personnel and contractors. *Synergy* is the new Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) quarterly newsletter. Several EH publications--*The Safety & Health Connection*, *the Occupational Health and Safety Observer*, *RCRA/CERCLA Update*, *Air/Water/Radiation Update*, *The DOE Health Beat*, *The Standards Forum* (quarterly), and *Risk Management Quarterly*, and *Phenomenal News*--are being discontinued. Articles previously featured in these former publications may appear in *Synergy*.

Each issue will contain updates on DOE Headquarters and field initiatives, noteworthy practices, successful strategies, resources, training, and upcoming events. Specific topics addressed include environment, nuclear and facility safety, occupational medicine, health physics, and occupational safety and health.

Let us know what you think about *Synergy* and what you want to read in future issues. Want to share a noteworthy practice or valuable lessons learned? Want to announce an upcoming meeting or conference? All article submissions and story ideas are welcome. Call (301) 903-3294 for more information. □

## Secretary of Energy Joins NEPA 25th Anniversary Conference Celebration

Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary kicked off the March 21-22, 1995, conference on "Celebrating NEPA--New Visions, Better Decisions" that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The conference, sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with the Council on Environmental Quality, focused on improving use of the NEPA process as a planning tool and making environmental impact analysis more cost-effective. Secretary O'Leary urged the nearly 500 attendees who convened in Tysons Corner, VA, to make compliance with "NEPA cheapa."

Other speakers, including Under Secretary Charles Curtis, continued this message. He called for better identification and management of NEPA process costs, noting that cumulative costs have become significant despite being only a small part of total project costs. Thomas Grumbly, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM), exhorted managers to look at NEPA review not as an expensive "add-on" but rather a valuable component of quality decisionmaking. One example: NEPA analysis revealed that several new high-level waste storage tanks proposed at Hanford may not be required--a potential cost saving of up to \$400,000,000 from the original proposal.

Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (EH) recommended involving decisionmakers and the public early in the NEPA process to avoid unnecessary delays. She noted that some in DOE believe there is no time for NEPA, and their proposed action is an emergency requiring minimal or no NEPA analysis.

Instead, she summoned these managers to support DOE's commitment to environmental protection as a core value.

But some in DOE still need the threat of litigation, said Deputy General Counsel for Health, Safety and Environment, Mary Anne Sullivan, reviewing recent DOE court cases. Ironically, she noted, litigation causes more delay and disruption than timely, complete compliance. Lois Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, suggested that DOE routinely undertake NEPA reviews before the threat of litigation, paying special attention to scientific uncertainty, public involvement, ecosystem management, and environmental justice.

Council officials noted past achievements and future challenges. Chair Kathleen McGinty introduced the Council's NEPANet Web page, and urged DOE to increase citizen involvement and interagency cooperation in the NEPA process. Ray Clark, the Council's Associate Director for NEPA Oversight, revisited the philosophical history of NEPA and examined trends illuminated by the Council's *NEPA Effectiveness Study*. He later led a panel discussion by NEPA leaders from other Federal agencies of ways to make environmental impact analysis more effective. Suggestions included improved scoping and broader planning via programmatic reviews.

### First NEPA Quality Awards Presented

Secretary O'Leary also presented the first NEPA Quality Awards. Earl Bean, retired Manager of the Kansas City Area Office, received the NEPA

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## ESYNERGY &H

*ES&H Synergy* is a quarterly newsletter published by the DOE's Office of Environment, Safety and Health to promote awareness and information exchange of all environment, safety, and health issues impacting DOE personnel and contractors. Each issue highlights Headquarters and field initiatives in environment, health physics, nuclear and facility safety, occupational medicine, and occupational safety and health. To be added to the distribution list or to receive a copy of this publication, call (301) 916-4444. Synergy is also available electronically through Technical Information Services (TIS) or via Internet.

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Leadership Award for individual excellence in promoting NEPA goals. The NEPA Team Award went to the Environmental Assessment Process Improvement Team, led by Bean, for identifying ways to reduce environmental assessment time and costs. A second



Secretary O'Leary presents the NEPA Team Award to the Environmental Assessment Process Improvement Team: (L to R) Stanley Lichtman and Carol Borgstrom, Environment, Safety and Health; Janine Sweeney, General Counsel; Gary Palmer, Defense Programs; Secretary O'Leary, Patricia Phillips, Oak Ridge Operations Office; Timothy Pflaum, Defense Programs; Earl Bean, Team Leader; and Michael Kleinrock, Environmental Management. Not Shown: David Caughey, Kansas City Area Office; Henry Garson, Defense Programs; Teresa Perkins, Idaho Operations Office; Constance Soden, Albuquerque Operations Office; and Diana Webb, Los Alamos Area Office.

NEPA Team Award went to the F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions Environmental Impact Statement Team, and the NEPA Program Award for overall quality to the Bonneville Power Administration's Environment, Fish, and Wildlife Group. Finally, Carol Borgstrom, Conference Host and Director of the Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), accepted a special "Spirit of NEPA Award."

Senior DOE managers, environmental staff, attorneys, and contractors, in addition to stakeholders, academicians, and NEPA practitioners from other Federal agencies attended. Breakout sessions covered 17 topics including "Transforming Decision Makers into NEPA Ninjas;" "Can DOE Prepare a Bullet-Proof 20-Page Environmental Assessment?;" monitoring and mitigation; interdisciplinary teams; and analysis techniques for cumulative impacts, accidents, and environmental justice. Lynton Caldwell, the "Father of NEPA," who described drafting the Act as a Congressional consultant, received special recognition.

To reach the DOE NEPA Web page, use Internet address <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepa.htm>. For details on the conference, contact EH-42 by phone at (202) 586-4600 or fax at (202) 586-7031. □

## Enhanced Work Planning Demonstration Project Gets Back to Basics

The Enhanced Work Planning Demonstration Project, initiated in November 1994, is attempting to change DOE's old, top-down approach to planning work from the safety and health standpoint. This project empowers local site teams to try strategies that improve work planning, while at the same time better identify and evaluate their site's unique workplace hazards. The project pushes work planning decisionmaking down to the individuals who actually perform the work. The project also responds to Section 3162 of the 1993 Defense Appropriation Act that requires DOE to identify potential health hazards, assess employee exposures, and medically monitor employees who are significantly exposed.

The project is small in scope, simple, and finite. Currently, for 3 months, volunteer sites Hanford and Rocky Flats are testing these new work planning strategies for a limited number of jobs. Core teams consisting of craft employees, safety and health (S&H) representatives, operations and maintenance staff, and medical personnel devise and implement strategies that best address their situation. The project is designed to enable the teams to improve the effectiveness of *existing* work planning and hazard analysis processes without disrupting other site operations. A local advisory group of DOE Operations Office staff, top site managers, and labor representatives support the core team's efforts.

The project is founded on four basic S&H principles: (1) hazard identification, (2) hazard evaluation, (3) hazard and risk mitigation and/or elimination, and (4) incorporation of hazard information into medical surveillance programs.

There are few detailed project requirements. Core teams are guided by the following project goals:

- Increase active employee involvement in work planning, execution, and final review of lessons learned.
- Increase cooperation between site personnel.

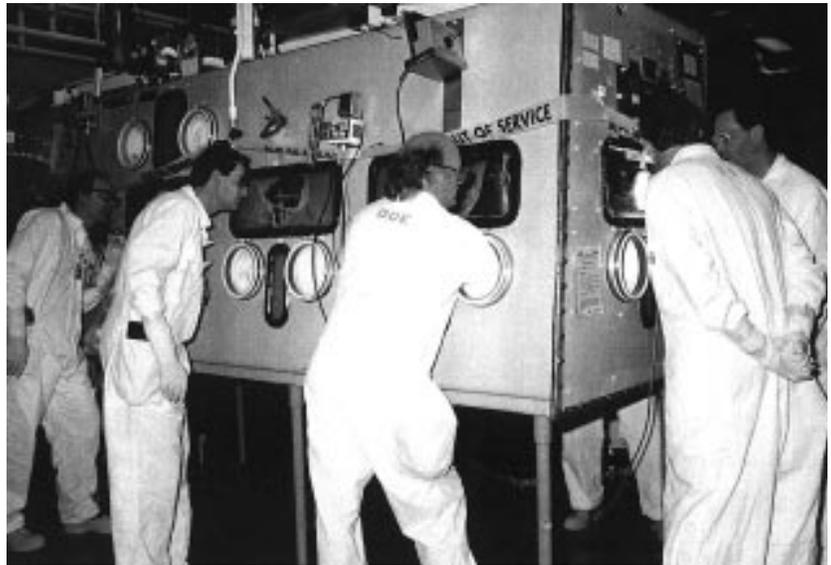
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- Improve the work planning process to minimize and/or eliminate risks.
- Integrate reliable and effective hazard analysis techniques, including effective exposure assessment, into work planning processes.

The core team defines the project's parameters--what, if any, area of the work planning process needs improvement; what improvement strategies should be used; and what performance indicators should be applied. The team will compare their performance before and after testing their new strategies to measure improvements. Successful projects will share common elements that address the following questions.

- Are workers' (potential) exposures to unacceptable hazardous environments evaluated effectively, and preventive measures taken to eliminate or mitigate the risks?
- Are medical surveillance programs linked to actual or potential workplace exposures?
- Are S&H aspects of operations improved through job modification, work practice selection, and other controls?

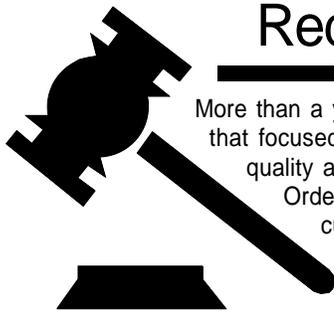
Core team members are scheduled to finish field testing their strategies by mid-Summer 1995.



*Rocky Flats core team observes inter-decontamination activity prior to glovebox removal in Building 771.*

Sites already report initial success, including improved communication and cooperation between team members, particularly S&H and medical surveillance personnel. For details, contact David Weitzman (EH-51) at (301) 903-5401 or Dave Smith (EH-51) at (301) 903-4669. □

## Update on EH Orders/Rules Reduction



More than a year's worth of effort that focused on improving the quality and usability of EH Orders and rules is culminating in a dramatic reduction of ES&H requirements.

EH's Directives Improvement Initiative separated mandatory requirements from non-mandatory guidance and eliminated conflicting and redundant requirements. The initial results? A 77 percent reduction in ES&H requirements (from 5,832 to 1,334) and a 53 percent reduction in ES&H directives (from 47 to 21). EH is committed to issuing the final Orders by July 1995. Currently, comments from DOE Operations Offices, laboratories, and contractors on the draft documents are being developed. For more information, contact Andy Lawrence (EH-411) at (202) 586-5358 or Frank Hawkins (EH-31) at (301) 903-2476. □

## Advisory Committee Explores Nuclear Safety Oversight Options

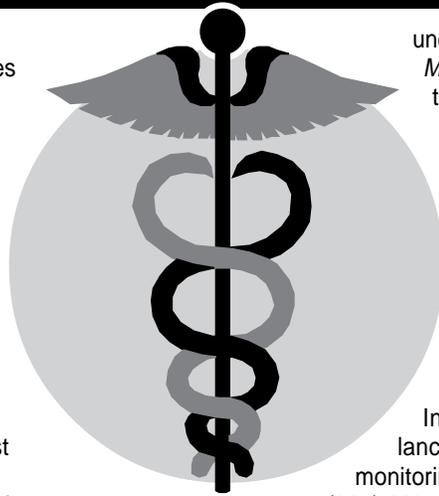
The Advisory Committee on External Regulation of DOE Nuclear Safety is conducting meetings (see page 10) to examine how new and existing DOE nuclear facilities and operations might be regulated externally to better protect workers and the environment, eliminate duplicative oversight, and cut costs. Secretary O'Leary established the Committee in February 1995 to assess the technical, regulatory, institutional, and resource impacts of safety oversight options at DOE nuclear facilities. Their recommendations will be submitted to the Secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Council on Environmental Quality in 1995.

The 25-member Committee--chaired by John Ahearne, Executive Director of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, and Gerard Scannell, President of the National Safety Council--represents Federal and state governments and the private sector. Their backgrounds cover wide-ranging policy, environment, safety, regulatory, health, tribal, and industry views and experiences. Members include Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for EH, and Bruce Twining, Manager, Albuquerque Operations Office (AL).

Public participation and input are key components of the Committee's deliberations. Send written comments to Thomas Isaacs, the Committee's Executive Director (DOE), at 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20036, by fax at (202) 254-3805, or via electronic mail (e-mail) at [external.regulation@em.doe.gov](mailto:external.regulation@em.doe.gov). For more information on the Committee, dial 1-800-736-3282 or the Internet World Wide Web address <http://www.em.doe.gov/acd/index.html>. □

# Epidemiologic Surveillance Program Tracks Potential Worker Health Threats

DOE's Epidemiologic Surveillance Program tracks the illnesses and injuries of more than 65,000 DOE workers to identify hazardous workplace conditions. The program saves costs by evaluating information already collected by nine participating sites: Brookhaven National Laboratory, Fernald Environmental Management Project, Hanford Reservation, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) (see page 9), Kansas City Plant, Pantex Plant, Rocky Flats Plant, Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) (see page 7), and Savannah River Site. Most information was obtained from return-to-work clearance forms required



under DOE Order 5480.8A, *Contractor Occupational Medicine Program*, and data routinely collected under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Privacy is protected by assigning each person a coded identification number.

Epidemiologists from the Office of Epidemiologic Studies (EH-62) study reports generated from the central Epidemiologic Surveillance Data Center and plot illness/injury trends. A Quick Response Team investigates further if the data indicate workforce health problems. Surveillance data is shared with all stakeholders and soon will be accessible via the Internet. Future directions for epidemiologic surveillance include the incorporation and analysis of exposure monitoring data. For details, contact Bonnie Richter (EH-62) at (301) 903-4501. □

## Lessons To Be Learned

### Ensuring Firearms Safety Requires Compliance with DOE Orders, Management Support, and Clear Communication



A Protection Technology Los Alamos (PTLA) employee was accidentally shot and killed during a series of security exercises at the live fire range at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on December 20, 1994. Participants in the exercises were using Engagement Simulation System (ESS) weapons which fired blank ammunition and infrared laser beams to simulate the effects of live ammunition. The March 31, 1995, investigation report, *Type A Investigation Report of a Fatal Shooting Accident during a Limited Scope Performance Test at Los Alamos National Laboratory on December 20, 1994*, indicated that organizational procedures and operations did not employ safety strategies in a way that would have prevented an accident of this type.

EH, who has the responsibility for conducting type A investigations, delegated responsibility for the investigation to AL. The investigation board, appointed by the AL Manager, inspected the accident scene and all physical evidence, reviewed and analyzed relevant policies and procedures, interviewed witnesses to the accident and other pertinent personnel, and assessed PTLA management systems and operations. The purpose of the investigation

was to develop lessons learned to prevent the occurrence of similar accidents and improve the safety of operations.

DOE Orders on firearms safety and security operations require that Department personnel and operating contractors meet specific safety standards and requirements before they conduct exercises involving protective force personnel. These requirements also apply to the use of ESS equipment or other types of weapons simulators. DOE Orders 5480.16A, *Firearms Safety*, 5630.16, *Safeguards and Security Performance Test Programs*, and 5632.7A, *Protective Forces*, establish the minimum safety requirements that must be met before this type of exercise is conducted.

#### Accident Summary

The approved PTLA exercise plan, which included a safety plan, specified the use of ESS-equipment blank fire weapons. PTLA used weapons which were modified with blank fire adapters and laser equipment, but did not have live round inhibitors; therefore, they were capable of firing live ammunition. The exercise plan identified Special Response Team (SRT) members and "adversaries" as the participants using ESS weapons. A safety briefing was given to participants before the exercises. Before the briefing started, SRT members were instructed to remove all live ammunition from their presence, but there was no self-inspection, independent verification, or accounting to assure that all live ammunition was removed.

The first two scheduled exercises proceeded as planned, each lasting about 1 minute. Elapsed time between the exercises was spent discussing the completed exercise results and reloading weapons as the SRT and adversaries repositioned themselves for the next exercise. During the intervals between exercises, weapons were not inspected at any time and checks for live ammunition were not performed.

During the third exercise, loud gunfire (unusually loud for firing blank rounds) was heard and an immediate cease fire was called. Participants and observers realized that

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someone had been injured. First aid was administered immediately to the victim (adversary role), who was struck in the head. LANL's emergency management team responded promptly, transporting the victim to the Los Alamos Medical Center, where he died less than 1 hour after the accident.

## Accident Analysis

The investigation board concluded that the SRT member who fired the live rounds neglected to remove a magazine of live ammunition from his duty vest, although he was instructed to remove live ammunition in the classroom prior to the safety briefing. He inadvertently loaded live ammunition from his vest into his ESS weapon between the second and third exercises.

Current requirements that apply to performing safely ESS exercises are documented in DOE Order 5480.16A and PTLA policies and procedures. Also, the PTLA contract requires compliance with the previous firearms safety Order, DOE Order 5480.16. Numerous violations of these requirements occurred throughout PTLA's preparation for and performance of the exercises. The following key violations were related directly to the accident:

1. The exercise plan did not provide a specific description of how the exercises would be conducted.
2. A risk analysis of the exercises was not performed.
3. The exercise safety plan was an abbreviated version of a generic PTLA safety plan, and did not address safety issues specific to the exercises being conducted that day.
4. The Senior Controller did not ensure live ammunition was excluded from the exercise area.
5. The Senior Controller did not ensure all live ammunition was collected and accounted for prior to issuing ESS equipment and blank ammunition.
6. Participants did not inspect their weapons prior to each exercise to ensure that only blank ammunition was being used.
7. Exercise controllers did not inspect participants' weapons prior to each exercise to ensure that only blank ammunition was being used.
8. The ESS weapons were not properly cleared after the accident.

That the exercise firearms did not have live round inhibitors was a key contributor that related directly to the accident. Other contributing factors included a lack of pertinent experience and specific qualifications of the Senior Controller who prepared the exercise plan; a lack of formal controller training; ineffective oversight by PTLA, LANL, and DOE in identifying safety deficiencies regarding ESS exercises; and the failure of PTLA management to respond proactively to an event that occurred at LANL just months before the fatal exercise.

## Root Causes

The report identified two root causes: (1) failure of PTLA management to enforce adherence to firearms safety requirements as prescribed by DOE Orders and PTLA's policies and procedures and (2) failure of PTLA management to emphasize the safety significance of firearms safety requirements.

## Judgment of Needs

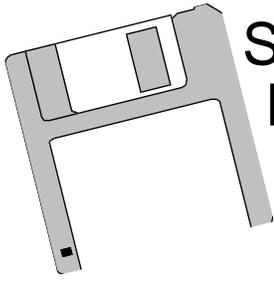
Eighteen "judgment of needs" items were identified, including the need for PTLA to comply fully with DOE 5480.16A and its own safety policies and procedures in practice and in documentation. Other items specified the need to incorporate ESS training and exercises conducted at the live fire range into PTLA's operating procedures and ensure that personnel are sufficiently trained in all activities within their responsibility and purview. Some of the needs--such as use of dedicated ESS weapons with live round inhibitors and use of dedicated vests for exercises--were based on best management practices at other DOE sites, as well as compliance issues.

Compliance with DOE requirements and internal policies during security operation performances is essential to ensuring firearm safety, along with maintaining clear and effective communication prior to all training involving weapons, and ensuring that personnel have proper training and qualifications for conducting firearms exercises. A quality management process and quality systems and procedures are necessary barriers that, when combined with responsible attention to details, promote continuous day-to-day progress toward eliminating future accidents of this kind. For more information, contact Michael Zamorski (AL) at (505) 845-4094. □

## New DOE Interpretation Clarifies Recording of Work Restriction Injuries

New DOE interpretation (D94-12-074) of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard 29 CFR 1904.12(c)(3), clarifies recording restricted worktime injuries when an employee is prohibited from working in contaminated areas. The interpretation is consistent with OSHA's interpretation of the standard. Bottom line: If an employee is restricted from performing normal job duties in a radiation zone because of a work-related injury, which may have required first aid treatment only, the case should be recorded and reported as a restricted workday case.

The full text of this and other interpretations can be accessed electronically through DOE's Technical Information Services (TIS) or the Internet. For Internet access, enter *dewey.tis.gov* as the new gopher and set the port number at 2010. Copies of interpretations can be obtained by calling the DOE Occupational Safety and Health Standards Interpretations Response Line at **1-800-292-8061** from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Finch (EH-51) at (301) 903-6720. □



## Software Manages Respiratory Protection Programs

Martin Marietta Energy Systems (MMES) developed FitMaster Software for respiratory protection program managers that speeds the respirator fit-test process and tracks training records of approximately 6,000 K-25 Site, Y-12 Plant, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory respirator wearers. The software interfaces directly with a quantitative fit-test device, reducing the fit-test process 20-30 percent and report generation by 50-60 percent. Benefits: Workers maximize respirator wearing time, and program managers perform other functions including training. Future plans will enable the software to execute CD-ROM training, interactive video, and the fit-test as one function and barcode respirators to track lifecycles. For details, contact Mark Haskew (MMES) at (615) 576-8588. □



*Charles Satterwhite (MMES) (far right) reviews the respirator fit-test cards of Jake Terry (MMES) (left) and Mark Haskew (MMES). Employee fit-test cards, printed by FitMaster Software., list respirator-specific information for every respirator wearer.*

## Sandia Database Tracks Over 10 Years of Worker Health



Sandia has electronically coded and archived over 10 years of employee health information through DOE's Epidemiologic Surveillance Program (see page 5). The database gives epidemiologists the opportunity to analyze health events that impacted the SNL workforce over an extended time. Because SNL employee sick benefits have been contingent upon the receipt of Physician Certificates of Disability, uniform health information--containing both dates of absence and diagnoses--was collected. Current employee health data is entered into the database, analyzed, and presented systematically in quarterly reports on rates and trends of major disease categories.

Although initial startup of the coding process and input of historic data is formidable, maintenance of an established database requires reasonably modest resources. The database promises a substantial return on investment by supporting the following activities.

**Morbidity Trending:** Obtain descriptive analyses of SNL workforce health, examine sentinel disease category trends, and look for associations with occupational or environmental exposures.

**Program Development and Evaluation:** Develop and direct intervention program efforts ranging from local accident prevention to wide-reaching preventive medicine programs.

**Benefit Administration:** Improve the administration of sickness leave and worker compensation benefits.

For details, contact Larry Clevenger (SNL) at (505) 845-8037. □

## DOE Takes Lead on International Environmental Standard

New DOE 490, *General Environmental Protection Program*, transforms the basic approach to ensure environmental protection by incorporating a site-wide systems approach with international environmental standard ISO 14001. DOE 490 replaces the DOE 5400 environmental protection series.

The new Order has only six requirements - - one of them is to adopt an International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) 14001 approach, the ISO Environmental Management System (EMS) Standard. This standard, which emphasizes the *processes* used to ensure cost-effective environmental protection, (1) identifies and implements applicable requirements, (2) monitors changes in applicable requirements, (3) analyzes the effect of new requirements, and (4) integrates change into each part of the operation.

Likewise, DOE 490 applies a systems approach to basic environmental management. It also requires development of environmental and EMS performance indicators to track progress toward DOE environmental and DOE-wide strategic goals. Under DOE EMS policy, an organization commits itself to continual improvement of its EMS. While ISO 14001 does not set specific performance goals, DOE 490 requires the establishment of and compliance with such goals. For details on DOE 490, contact Larry Stirling (EH-41) at (202) 586-2147. □

# Kansas City Plant's Hardware Testing/Procurement Services Protect DOE Inventories From Suspect/Counterfeit Parts

Good news for DOE personnel and contractors who buy critical use hardware for manufacturing and construction activities. DOE's Kansas City Plant (KCP), managed and operated by AlliedSignal Inc., offers one-stop procurement and testing services to prevent suspect/counterfeit parts such as fasteners from entering DOE inventories. Customers can avoid the huge costs of part replacement, inventory recall, and potential equipment failures associated with suspect/counterfeit parts. Procurement services include design development, supplier qualification and monitoring, and electronic order processing. KCP's Analytical Sciences Laboratory meets or exceeds DOE Quality QC-1 criteria, 10 CFR 830.120, DOE Order AL57XB, and is accredited by the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation. Other services include dimensional verification, nondestructive evaluation, and NIST traceable metrology laboratory. For details, contact Scott Wright or Ed Wenski (AlliedSignal) at (816) 997-2549 or (816) 997-2667 respectively. □



*KCP Laboratory technologist performs fastener hardness test.*

## DOE Comments on EPA's Proposed Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a comprehensive Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy in the August 30, 1994, *Federal Register* (59 FR 44880) describing specific actions that may be taken to reduce environmental and human health risks associated with contaminated sediment. Strategy goals are to (1) develop consistent methodologies for contaminated sediment assessment, (2) prevent ongoing contamination that may cause unacceptable ecological or human health risks, (3) cleanup existing contamination that causes significant effects on human health or the environment, and (4) ensure that sediment dredging and dredged material disposal continues to be managed soundly.

Although the strategy does not propose new regulation, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Clean Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Oil Pollution Act will have regulatory actions as a result of this strategy. DOE expressed support in its November 30, 1994, comments to EPA, which included the following improvements.

(1) Approaches to implementing management practices that address sediment management and integration of existing requirements are not provided. Sound scientific data should be used when developing implementation guidance. Existing regulations and best management practices should be applied to ensure cost-effectiveness.

(2) Implementation of the proposed strategy will directly increase the costs of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits through potentially more stringent effluent limits, increased

analytical monitoring, and expanded environmental monitoring. DOE suggests including more detailed information on how sediment criteria and methodologies will be developed, and who will interpret new data and develop criteria and methodologies. Likewise, the proposed strategy should contain guidance on how sediment quality criteria will be implemented.

(3) DOE is concerned that metal sediment criteria will not adequately account for natural variations in metals concentrations, consequently requiring funds for their removal. DOE recommends that appropriate sampling programs--including background and upstream comparisons to potentially degraded locations--be undertaken before requiring remediation to assure that potential impacts are real.

(4) DOE believes that industry should be included in the strategy more as a partner (to realize economic incentives) than as a pollution source.

(5) Finally, the strategy should promote positive working relationships between Federal facilities, Corps of Engineers, EPA, and other regulators. For more information, call Beverly Whitehead (EH-413) at (202) 586-6073. □

# INEL's Real-time Data Collection System Ensures Uniformity, Eliminates Costly Duplication

How do you improve surveillance data collection at DOE sites with multiple contractors and far-spaced medical units? INEL developed a software program that collects clinical and occupational exposure/injury data on employees in a standardized format and allows for computerized coding of medical diagnoses. This electronic mail-based system enables instantaneous transmittal of medical information, OSHA 200 log recording, and administrative notification for worker compensation. Replacing 22 paper forms with two electronic forms saves approximately \$10,000 a year and boosts productivity sitewide. Line managers receive timely employee work restriction notification, medical personnel simultaneously view patient charts, and safety personnel receive worker occupational injury information. Real-time notification and decreased chart handling eliminated 2 FTEs (full-time equivalent positions) from the office staff. Any DOE site can use the software regardless of their existing hardware/software system. Interested contractors include Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc. (the Nevada Test Site contractor) and Hanford. For details, contact Paul Creighton (INEL) at (208) 526-0404. □

# Sandia's Ergonomics Program Puts Customer First

Sandia's Corporate Ergonomics Group conducts worksite evaluations, chair fittings, department briefings, consulting, product evaluation, and training. The group evaluates employee workstations within 5 days of a request and refers the employee to the Medical Department for diagnosis, treatment, and onsite physical therapy. Group activities are guided by total quality management—including benchmarking, strategic planning, and consensus decisionmaking. High customer satisfaction rates indicate that the quality approach works. A 1994 independent survey showed 92 percent customer satisfaction, 80 percent symptom alleviation, and 50 percent perceived productivity increase. For details, contact Dwight Miller (SNL) at (505) 845-9803. □

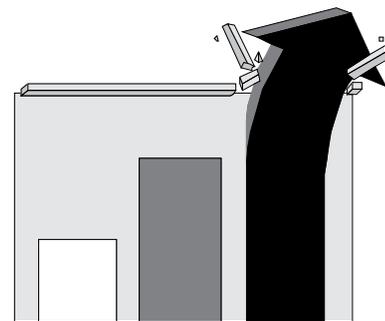
# Ground-Water Protection Working Group Tackles Program Implementation Issues

Discussions at the first Ground-Water Protection Working Group meeting held October 1994 in Las Vegas, NV, focused on ground-water protection requirements under DOE 5400.1, *General Environmental Protection Program*, and requirements under proposed 10 CFR Part 834, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment*. Participants reviewed progress made in developing effective site-wide Ground-Water Protection Management Programs (GWPMP) and identified topics needing guidance. The following guidance projects have begun.

- GWPMP Guidance to implement DOE 5400.1 (being replaced by DOE 490) and 10 CFR Part 834.
- *Technical Guidance on Discharge of Liquid Wastes Containing Radionuclides to Soil Columns and Aquifers* to implement 10 CFR Part 834.
- Review of ground-water standards in draft and final Environmental Protection Agency regulations for low level waste and uranium mill tailings.

Group input on GWPMP Guidance and Technical Guidance development will be integrated with 10 CFR Part 834 Implementation Work Group activities. Members will also be asked to help implement the new Environmental Management System approach (see page 7) found in draft DOE 490 on ground-water protection programs. For additional information, contact Jim Bachmaier (EH-41) at (202) 586-0341 or [james.bachmaier@hq.doe.gov](mailto:james.bachmaier@hq.doe.gov). □

# Help DOE Develop Core Environmental Performance Indicators



What should be DOE's core environmental performance measures and how should they be integrated into performance indicator systems under development by program and field offices? Effective indicators are needed to implement the DOE Strategic Plan, total quality management, the Government Performance and Results Act, and new DOE 490 and 210, *Environmental Management Systems and Performance Indicators*. A team was formed by EH-41 to develop core metrics that are tied to Strategic Plan goals and integrated with data collection efforts (including DOE 490 and annual site environmental reports). The team provides technical assistance to help program and field offices set their own indicators. A November 1995 workshop to discuss proposed DOE core environmental metrics is planned as a preconference activity at the Annual DOE Environment, Safety and Health Conference in Denver, CO. For workshop details or to share lessons learned, contact Steve Woodbury (EH-41) at (202) 586-4371. □



## 1995 Fire Safety Conference

Over 200 fire safety and emergency response professionals throughout DOE attended the annual DOE and Contractor Fire Safety Conference in Gatlinburg, TN, from April 24-28, 1995. This year's meeting emphasized achieving greater efficiencies in operations, validating minimum requirements for fire protection program elements, and discussing the impact of new ES&H directives on fire safety. Other topics discussed included vulnerability of fire protection systems to seismic activity, privatization and competition in fire services, recent fire safety research, applications of fire modeling, and new fire detection and fire suppression technologies. Breakout sessions focused on the development of supplemental fire protection technical standards; a baseline needs assessment for fire departments; and revised inspection, testing, and maintenance programs for fire protection systems. A limited number of proceedings are available from Dennis Kubicki (EH-51) by calling (301) 903-4794. □

### **Advisory Commission on External Regulation of DOE Nuclear Safety** (800) 736-3282

**Argonne, IL**  
June 28-29, 1995  
**Los Alamos, NM**  
July 27-28, 1995  
**Aiken, SC**  
September 18-19, 1995  
**Oak Ridge, TN**  
October 16-17, 1995

# RESOURCES • RESOURCES

## Subscribe to the Trainer-to-Trainer Electronic Roundtable

Need effective training materials or information about other training programs? Subscribe to the DOE Training List Server and send e-mail to DOE and contractor trainers from EM, EH, LANL, Savannah River Operations Office, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, INEL, and other sites. The server posts your e-mail to every subscriber, maximizing your search ability and network of contacts. To subscribe: E-mail Internet address [majordomo@wastenot.inel.gov](mailto:majordomo@wastenot.inel.gov), leave the subject line blank, and type only "Subscribe DOetrainer" in the message box. To use: Address your e-mail to [doetrainer@wastenot.inel.gov](mailto:doetrainer@wastenot.inel.gov). Contact Manfred Stanfield or Dwight Kraai (INEL) for details at (208) 526-5632 or (208) 526-9280 respectively. □

## Safety and Health Program Needs Assessment Methodology

A model needs assessment methodology has been developed by DOE's Office of Occupational Safety and Health Policy to determine the minimum capabilities necessary to implement effectively a S&H program. The methodology attempts to answer the following questions for each program element: (1) What is required to be done?, (2) Why is it being done?, (3) How do you measure success?, (4) What minimum personnel and material resources are required?, and (5) Are there potential areas for greater efficiency? While the model was developed using an engineering office and emergency response organization as examples, it can be modified to accommodate any ES&H program. It was utilized at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site and distributed to other sites across DOE. To obtain the model, call Dennis Kubicki (EH-51) at (301) 903-4794. □

## New EH Office Meets Employee Training Needs

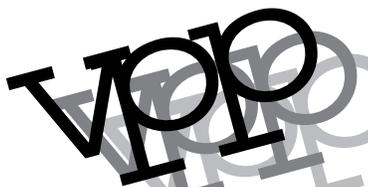
EH's Office of Technical Training and Professional Development (OTTPD) staff help DOE personnel and contractors adjust to new jobs, technologies, and hazards. Future Office plans include establishing an ES&H safeguards and security training accreditation program and implementing information management systems to streamline the ES&H training program. Following are several electronic training course lists available to DOE personnel and contractors: *EH ES&H Training Course Catalog*, *TRADE Training Resources Catalog*, and *TrainerNet Training Course Catalog*. Contact Katy Martin (EH-74) at (202) 586-2607 for catalog information, Sheri Ballard (ORISE) at (615) 576-8698 for the TRADE Catalog, and Joe Calkins (Central Training Academy) at (505) 845-5170, extension 307, for TrainerNet. For information on OTTPD services, call Daniel Smoot-Wood or Jack Craig (EH-74) at (202) 586-7276. □

# EPA's Waste Minimization National Plan Focuses on Source Reduction Over Waste Management

EPA issued a Waste Minimization National Plan in November 1994 which outlines national goals, objectives, and actions to reduce generation and release of hazardous wastes constituents, or the compounds they degrade to, that potentially threaten human health and the environment. States and generators define their own baseline years, set their own goals and target years, and track progress.

- (1) Reduce the amount and toxicity of the most persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic constituents by 25 percent by 2000 and 50 percent by 2005.
- (2) Avoid transferring constituents across environmental media.
- (3) Ensure continual improvement in reducing these constituents at their source or that they are recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

Screening results of top-ranking metals, wastestreams containing metals, and industrial sources generating wastestreams mark the starting point for setting national source reduction and recycling priorities. EPA intends to incorporate these initial results into its 1995-1996 RCRA program activities. For a copy of the plan (#EPA 530-R-94-045), call the EPA RCRA Docket at (202) 260-9327. For information on how the plan impacts DOE, contact Jane Powers (EH-41) at (202) 586-7301. □



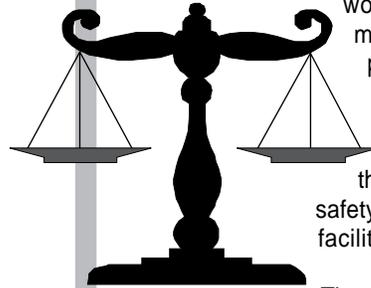
## What's Happening in DOE-VPP

**New Applicants.** Four more DOE contractors initiated the DOE Voluntary Protection Program (DOE-VPP) application process. All applicants--Bechtel Petroleum Operations, Inc., Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1; National Renewable Energy Laboratory; Mason & Hanger, Pantex Plant; and AlliedSignal, Inc., Kansas City Division--have participated in the DOE-VPP Outreach Program to prepare for onsite evaluation. DOE-VPP evaluations may begin in Summer 1995 and into early next fiscal year.

**Future DOE-VPP workshops.** DOE will discuss DOE-VPP Outreach Program benefits and Star site achievements at the 11th Annual National Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association (VPPPA) Conference on September 26-29, 1995, in Washington, DC. Contact Larry McCabe (EH-51) at (301) 903-6732 for details. If interested in becoming a future DOE-VPP site evaluator, attend the DOE-VPP Evaluator Workshop (see page 13), November 13-14, 1995, in Denver, CO. Contact Nancy Hammond (EH-51) at (301) 903-1731 for information. □

# Overview of DOE Technical Standards Program

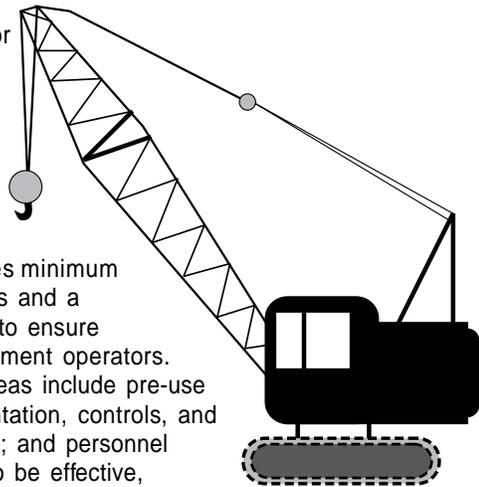
The DOE-wide Technical Standards Program uses technical standards to transfer the technologies of worldwide industries and governments and standardize work processes to produce consistent results. These standards provide a practical solution to DOE's challenge of protecting the environment, health, and safety of workers, and public during facility operations.



There are two types of standards, government and non-government. Government standards are created by Federal government agencies. Non-government standards are created by standard-writing groups, such as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and ISO. DOE and its contractors are required to first use non-government standards when choosing a technical standard for a given application. If a non-government standard does not exist, provisions allow for an alternative government standard to be developed. Copies of the DOE Technical Standards Program Procedures are available by calling Richard Serbu (EH-31) at (301) 903-2856. □

## New Guidance on Contractor Crane Operations

DOE personnel, contractors, and labor representatives developed guidance on contracting crane operations at a February 22, 1995, meeting in Albuquerque, NM. The guidance establishes minimum operator qualifications and a testing methodology to ensure competency of equipment operators. Suggested testing areas include pre-use inspection; instrumentation, controls, and operator aids; rigging; and personnel lifting procedures. To be effective, however, the program demands management commitment to its implementation. The new guidance will be incorporated into Chapter 15 of the latest revised *DOE Hoisting and Rigging Manual*. For more information, contact Edward Patigalia (EH-51) at (301) 903-3972. □



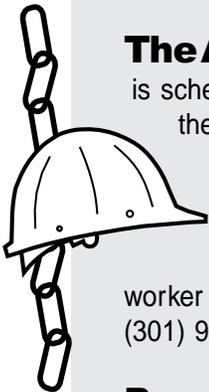


## Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings

DOE's RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-413) is conducting a series of workshops to help DOE project managers succeed with EPA, states, and the public. Unlike other risk assessment workshops, the **Workshop on Managing Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Under CERCLA and RCRA** presents lessons learned by DOE and national laboratory staff, who have planned

and executed successful CERCLA and RCRA risk assessment projects. The staff offer extensive experience navigating the maze of risk regulations and speak the language of regional EPA and state risk assessment regulators. For workshop dates and locations, contact John Bascietto (EH-413) at (202) 586-7917 or [john.bascietto@hq.doe.gov](mailto:john.bascietto@hq.doe.gov).

The **1995 DOE Technical Standards Program Workshop** is scheduled for October 3-6, 1995, in St. Louis, MO. It focuses on strategic standardization activities in DOE, other government agencies, and industry. Presentations will emphasize the challenge of technical standards activities in the following areas: standardization efforts on the information superhighway; how agency goals will impact your work; what changes voluntary standards bodies are planning, and how government is committed to cooperating with them; successful case studies of DOE technical standards activities; and management views on where the DOE Technical Standards Program is going. To register, contact Becky Harrell (MMES) at (615) 574-0396. □



### The Annual DOE Environment, Safety and Health Conference

is scheduled for November 13-17, 1995, in Denver, CO, with Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary as the keynote speaker. *Line Managers: A Vital Link in Environment, Safety and Health* is the conference theme. Plenary highlights include panels of Cognizant Secretarial Officers, industry representatives, workers, external regulation and internal oversight representatives, and field office and contractor personnel. Breakout sessions, exhibits, demonstrations, and preconference activities (see next page) will explore best practices, lessons learned, and worker involvement strategies. For a registration package, contact Rhonda Toms (EH-5) at (301) 903-6007 or Pamela Murphy (Compa Industries) at (301) 903-8807.

### Preconference Activities

Following are descriptions of several preconference activities. For more information, call the contact listed in the table. For a complete list of all preconference activities, see page 13.

**Technical Information Services (TIS) Workshop:** The following workshops are available to DOE personnel and contractors--introduction to TIS, CAIRS/ORPS development and integration, the ES&H Internet Resource Directory, accessing information, and establishing an electronic network of contacts.

**Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health (FEOSH) Meeting:** Key agenda topics include revisions to the draft DOE Order for a DOE-wide FEOSH Program and developing a draft program guidance document to help sites comply with the draft Order requirements.

**Contractor Occupational Medical Program Meeting:** Medical directors, professionals, and DOE employees are invited to hear updates on programs and current issues.

**Radiation Protection Workshop:** Third annual workshop for the DOE radiation protection community will discuss current issues, initiatives under development, and general community concerns.

## Annual DOE Environment, Safety and Health Preconference Activities

Activity	Date	Time	Contact
RESRAD-ECORISK: A Computer Code for Ecological Risk Assessment (2 Presentations)	11/13	8:00AM-Noon 1PM-5PM	Heino Beckert (EH-41) (202) 586-9643
DOE 490	11/13	8:30AM-Noon	Larry Stirling (EH-41) (202) 586-2417
Measuring Environmental Performance	11/13	1PM-5PM	Steve Woodbury (EH-41) (202) 586-4371
HAZWOPER Refresher Training	11/13-14	8AM - 5PM	Dan Marsick (EH-51) (301) 903-3954
Technical Information Services (TIS) Workshop	11/13-14	8AM - 5PM	TIS Helpline (208) 526-8955
Natural Phenomenon Symposium	11/13-14	8AM - 5PM	Jim Hill (EH-34) (301) 903-4508
DOE-VPP Evaluator Training	11/13 11/14	1PM - 5PM 8AM - Noon	Nancy Hammond (EH-51) (301) 903-1731
RCRA/CERCLA/TSCA Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives Workshop	11/14	2PM-5PM	Tom Traceski (EH-41) (202) 586-2481
NEPA Overview	11/14	11AM - 1PM	Bob Strickler (EH-42) (202) 586-2410
Negotiation of Environmental Compliance Orders and Agreements	11/14	8AM - 11AM	Jim Sanderson (EH-41) (202) 586-1402
Downsizing/Safety Issues (presented by VPPPA participants)	11/14	1PM - 5PM	Ron Eimer (EH-51) (301) 903-2927
Performance Indexing	11/14	1PM - 5PM	Brian Hermann (EM-23) (301) 903-1966
Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health (FEOSH) Meeting	11/14	8AM - 5PM	Connie Eimer (EH-51) (301) 903-9825
CAIRS Recordkeeping and Reporting Workshop	11/14	8AM - 5PM	Janet Macon (EH-51) (301) 903-6096
Contractor Occupational Medical Program Meeting	11/14	8AM - 5PM	Marvin Mielke (EH-61) (301) 903-7362
Radiation Protection Workshop	11/14	8AM - 5PM	Steve Zobel (EH-52) (301) 903-2305
Ergonomics Workshop	11/14	8AM - 5PM	David Weitzman (EH-51) (301) 903-7360



# TRAINING

Upcoming

Title	When	Where	Contact
<b>Managing Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Under CERCLA and RCRA</b>	June 27-29, 1995	Berkeley, CA	John Bascietto/Reisa Kall, DOE (202) 586-6374
<b>Hazardous Waste Operations Training</b>	July 10-14, 1995	Sykesville, MD	Brenda Beachley (DOE) (301) 903-7247
<b>Accident Investigation Workshop</b>	August 1-10, 1995	Minneapolis, MN	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357
<b>Chairperson Workshop</b>	August 22-23, 1995	Richland, WA	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357
<b>Accident Investigation Workshop</b>	December 5-14, 1995	San Diego, CA	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357
<b>Accident Investigation Refresher Workshop</b>	January 23-25, 1996	Knoxville, TN	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357
<b>Readiness Workshop</b>	January 26, 1996	Knoxville, TN	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357
<b>Chairperson Workshop</b>	February 13-14, 1996	Chicago, IL	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357
<b>Readiness Workshop</b>	February 15, 1996	Chicago, IL	Marcia Pratt (Lockheed Idaho) (208) 526-1357

## ACRONYM LIST

AL	Albuquerque Operations Office
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOE	Department of Energy
DOE-VPP	DOE Voluntary Protection Program
EH	Office of Environment, Safety and Health
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ES&H	environment, safety and health
e-mail	electronic mail
INEL	Idaho National Engineering Laboratory
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
MMES	Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Inc.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
S&H	safety and health
SNL	Sandia National Laboratory
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TIS	Technical Information Services
VPPPA	Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association

## NEPA TRAINING PLANNED

Training on NEPA regulations, process, and document preparation has been proposed during the second half of calendar year 1995 at the following locations. Call Linda Thurston (EH-42) at (202) 586-1509 for details.

July 12-13 1995	Richland Operations Office
July 15-18 1995	DOE Headquarters
August 1995	Oakland Operations Offices and Ohio Field Office
September 1995	Nevada and Chicago Operations Offices
October 1995	Western Area Power Administration and Idaho Operations Office
November 1995	Pittsburgh and Morgantown Energy Technology Centers
December 1995	Kansas City Area Office and Pantex Plant

## News FLASH

### Cost-Saving Cleanup Tools Unveiled

A June 5, 1995, Environment, Safety, Health Update #005 announced publication of the Handbook for Occupational Safety and Health During DOE Hazardous Waste Operations. Developed jointly by DOE's Offices of Environmental Management and EH, the Handbook demonstrates ways managers and workers can streamline and clarify safety and health requirements at more than 130 DOE cleanup sites. Two guides - - one focused to workers and the other focused to managers - - are also available. Over the next 6 months, Handbook tools and guidance will be field-tested at Hanford, Fernald, INEL, and Rocky Flats, and distributed for interim use and comment. Three private sector companies - - M.K. Ferguson, Bechtel, and CH2M Hill - - will field test the publication at their cleanup sites. Contacts: Rick Jones (EH-52) at (301) 903-6061 or Mary Jo Zacchero (EH-1) at (202) 586-6993.

# Schedule of Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, and Workshops

Title	When	Where	Contact
<b>DOE Records Management Conference</b>	June 26-29, 1995	Albuquerque, NM	Barb Cobb (CDSI) (301) 903-2299
<b>Laboratory Safety &amp; Environmental Management '95</b>	June 27-28, 1995	Baltimore, MD	Vicki Martin (LS&EM) (818) 842-4777
<b>International Congress of Toxicology</b>	July 2-6, 1995	Seattle, WA	The Society of Toxicology (913) 345-2228
<b>13th Annual International System Safety Conference</b>	July 12-17, 1995	San Jose, CA	Larry Fistolera (Lockheed Missiles & Space Co.) (408) 756-1657
<b>Joint Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine</b>	July 23-27, 1995	Boston, MA	Heidi Rohland (HPS) (703) 790-1745
<b>Industrial Hygiene Coordinating Committee Meeting</b>	August 1-3, 1995	Oakland, CA	Harvey Grasso (OAK) (510) 637-1610
<b>Environmental Remediation '95</b>	August 13-18, 1995	Denver, CO	ERS (303) 690-4245
<b>210th American Chemical Society National Meeting</b>	August 20-24, 1995	Chicago, IL	ACS (202) 872-6059
<b>Fire Rescue International Conference and Exposition</b>	September 9-13, 1995	Louisville, KY	International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs (703) 273-0911
<b>Emerging Technologies in Hazardous Waste Management VIII</b>	September 17-20, 1995	Atlanta, GA	Meeting Makers (404) 894-2856
<b>11th Annual National Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association Conference</b>	September 26-29, 1995	Washington, DC	VPPPA (703) 761-1146
<b>1995 DOE Technical Standards Program Workshop</b>	October 3-6, 1995	St. Louis, MO	Becky Harrell (MMES) (615) 574-0396
<b>TRADE Conference</b>	October 24-26, 1995	Chicago, IL	Denise Hawkins (ORISE) (615) 576-3316
<b>InfoTech</b>	October 25-26, 1995	Oak Ridge, TN	Sue Davis (DOE) (615) 576-2615
<b>1995 National Safety Council Congress and Exposition</b>	November 5-10, 1995	Dallas, TX	NSC (800) 621-7615
<b>Annual DOE Environment, Safety and Health Conference</b>	November 13-17, 1995	Denver, CO	Susan Samuels (COMPA Industries) (301) 903-3294
<b>11th International Conference on the Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials</b>	December 3-8, 1995	Las Vegas, NV	Laura Dechter (Social & Scientific Systems) (301) 986-4870



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