

Successes / Lessons Learned

Enhanced work planning (EWP) was initiated by the Office of Environment, Safety and Health in partnership with field operating programs with the goal of effecting a lasting, fundamental change in the Department's work planning process — one that focuses on prevention of worker accidents through the early identification and mitigation of hazards. Since its inception, the EWP initiative has met its goal, proving that SAFETY SAVES by achieving significant gains in productivity while improving worker protection through the early integration of safety, health, and medical considerations. The initiative is based on three fundamental concepts: 1) The use of multidisciplinary teams; 2) Integrated programs using a risk-based approach; and 3) Worker involvement as team members and through feedback.

The EWP process has been cited several times, in the field, at Headquarters, and on the Hill as one of the most positive initiatives underway to improve DOE operations. EWP has demonstrated that the current management team at DOE and its contractors are innovative and are getting more work done and doing it safer, in a climate of reduced budgets.

The following successes summarize the results of several ongoing demonstration projects. For more information on site specific successes contact the EWP project team leader or visit the EWP home page* at:

<http://www.eh.doe.gov/wpphm/ewp/ewp2.htm>

*(remember to set a bookmark at this address for future reference)

Safety and Health

- An almost 40 percent decrease in recordable injuries because of earlier identification and control of hazards. *Tank Farms (1991-1995)*
- A 50 percent reduction in the lost/restricted workday case rate (per 200,000 hours worked). *Tank Farms (1991-1995)*
- An approximate 50 percent reduction (to 0.45) in skin contaminations (per 10,000 radiation zone entries). *Tank Farms (1994-1995)*

Cost Savings

- \$2.1 million projected cost avoidance for new integrated scheduling system. *ICPP, Idaho (1996-1997)*
- \$200,000 annual projected cost avoidance in proper scheduling of radiological control technicians. *Mound (1996)*
- \$35,000 annual projected cost avoidance for increased efficiency of work package review process. *Mound (1996)*
- \$100,000 annual projected cost avoidance for improved planning process. *Oak Ridge (1995-1996)*

- An almost \$2 million cost avoidance as a result of identification, through team dynamics, of unnecessary work. *Fernald (1995)*
- \$500,000 and \$1.8 million savings at two sites due to streamlining of the document preparation, review, and approval process. *PUREX and Tank Farms, respectively (1995)*
- A 27-fold return on costs to implement EWP, resulting in total savings to date of \$7.37 million. *Fernald (1995)*

Productivity

- A 43 percent reduction in maintenance backlogs combined with a similar increase in the number of jobs completed. *K Basins (1995-1st Qtr. 1996)*
- A three-fold increase in fieldwork time compared with document preparation, approval, and closeout. *Tank Farms (1995-1996)*

Streamlined Process

- 30 percent reduction in time to complete requested maintenance service. *Mound (1995-1996)*
- 20 percent savings by reducing delays in the field. *Oak Ridge (1995-1996)*
- 50 percent reduction in work planning time. *Oak Ridge (1995-1996)*
- A five-fold reduction in the number of jobs requiring detailed plans due to simplified work planning and a newly developed job hazard analysis computer program. *PUREX (1995-1996)*
- A ten-fold reduction in the number of packages requiring multiple (as many as 14) approvals. *PUREX (1995-1996)*

Improved Package Quality

- A six-fold reduction in the number of work suspensions due to the elimination of documentation errors. *PUREX (1995-1996)*
- A 50 percent reduction in the average cost (using planning to identify least costly alternatives) per job. *PUREX (1995-1996)*