



MISSION: INTEGRATION

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

HANFORD MISSION
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MISSION: RISE

Our ability to rise together is what makes us a trusted partner at Hanford.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



When I think about this month's theme of rise, I'm reminded of the perseverance you show as we embrace new challenges, seize new opportunities and pursue excellence in support of the One Hanford mission. At HMIS, rising above isn't just a phrase – it's a shared commitment we make every day to our teams, our mission and the community.

Rise is the perfect theme as we enter spring. Growth and renewal are all around us and it's a great time to embrace change and focus on continuous improvement. Whether we're elevating safety standards, advancing new projects, finding new training opportunities or collaborating with our One Hanford partners, your commitment helps us rise above every challenge.

Our ability to rise together is what makes us a trusted partner at Hanford. I am confident we will continue to achieve milestones, advance our mission and make a lasting impact. Let's continue to challenge ourselves and one another.

Thank you for your hard work, your steadfast commitment and your willingness to rise above challenges.

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5 MINUTES WITH WENDY ROBBINS



Wendy Robbins doesn't sing along to the radio (she says that's not even music to her own ears), but she'll dance to anything and everything! Our Employee Concerns Program manager started working at Hanford as a summer intern in 1983 and came back after college, still owns her first car (a 1972 Chevy El Camino) and Greece tops her travel bucket list. Let's find out a little more about her!

1. What made you want to be a leader?

I look at leadership roles as being more of a role model. I try to lead by example and model behaviors and conversations in a way I can be proud of myself and the organization I represent.

2. Who is a mentor that has impacted you?

I've had so many, I can't pull out just one. I've had some great mentors who emphasized the value of listening and seeking first to understand and then be understood.

3. What does *rise* mean to you?

We're living in some interesting times – for example, we just went through a layoff, which creates a lot of emotions. And we're seeing the political environment becoming more contentious. It's important to rise to be respectful of everyone and treat everyone as a human being; as well as to rise to the occasion of continuing to do excellent work, even in times of change.

4. What do you do in your free time?

Free time, what's that? I own a dance studio and teach dance to students age two through senior citizen. We take groups such as our cloggers and performance teams to perform at community events and facilities like Windsong Memory Care. The social and community aspect is wonderful. It's so rewarding to see their faces light up when they see the kids and the energy they bring.

5. When you're having a tough day, what do you do to turn things around?

Besides go to dance? I smile! Smiling really helps; it takes fewer muscles than frowning and just relaxes your face. I also enjoy going for a walk and getting fresh air.

6. What team do you root for?

There are a few – the Seahawks, the Tri-City Americans, the Seattle Dragons XFL team back in the day. I enjoy hockey, so the Olympics was a lot of fun to watch. I like to see people perform their best and have it be a good competition.

RAPID FIRE

EARLY BIRD	NIGHT OWL
SUMMER	WINTER

RECOGNITION



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Mike Winkel

Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke

If there's one thing you can count on from Mike Winkel, it's that he shows up for the kids in our community. For more than 10 years, Mike has volunteered with the Boys & Girls Clubs and Junior Achievement—teaching financial basics and explaining how government works to fourth graders and mentoring local teens as they compete for Youth of the Year and leadership opportunities. He particularly enjoys getting into classrooms and tailoring each lesson, so students walk away feeling confident and capable. “It prepares them to be successful members of society and make an impact in our community. They're our future, so I love having an opportunity to give back and pass on some skills.”

Mike says he's driven by a simple belief: kids deserve every chance to succeed. As a parent of four, he knows not every child has the same stability or support, so he knows how important these programs are in providing resources; and he likes having a role in making a difference. “It's a way to make a meaningful impact. Spending time is as important as spending money (although donations are important too!).”

He's also been known to pitch in on other activities, like helping to sort donations for 2nd Harvest. “I try to set an example and



Building gingerbread houses with local kids at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties.



Working with Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) on a holiday food drive for local families.

hopefully that encourages others to do the same. Because it's inspiring and motivating to be surrounded by people like that.” Thank you, Mike, for all the great work you do in our community!

MISSION: RISE

New Sun Shades Aim to Protect Sewer Equipment

Contributor: Shane Edinger

If you've lived in the Tri-Cities for a while, you know how hot things can get in the dog days of summer. That heat can often have a negative impact on any equipment stored outside.

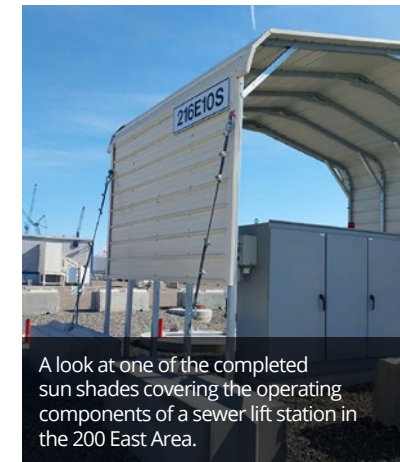
Water & Sewer Utilities is also well aware of the sun's impact on electrical equipment. They found the excessive summer heat has been damaging the components inside the panels that operate several sewer lift stations, shortening their useful life.

So, they partnered with Engineering & Projects to come up with a potential solution. They designed new sun shade structures to protect these panels from direct sunlight.

“We assembled a pre-fabricated metal frame structure over the lift stations,” shared Eric



Additional metal bracing was added to the interior of the sun shade structure to help it withstand strong winds.



A look at one of the completed sun shades covering the operating components of a sewer lift station in the 200 East Area.

Pennala, the construction manager who oversaw this project. “Then we strapped them down to large concrete barriers to keep them from moving.”

However, a November windstorm revealed the original design wasn't quite strong enough to withstand the strong winds we often see on the Hanford Site, so additional metal bracing was added to the frames and additional concrete barriers were brought in and connected to each structure.

W&SU will be monitoring these lift stations to see if the sun shades help extend the lifespan of the components. If they're successful, more shades will be built over additional lift stations in the future.



TEAM FOCUS: Geospatial Information Systems Team

Contributor: *Melissa Ver Steeg*

Need directions to a conference room or someone's office? Want to know common locations for deer and elk strikes on the Hanford Site, along with seasonal trends? This type of information is made available by our award-winning Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) team. Through the Hanford Indoors and Hanford Maps applications, employees have access to real-time data about occupancy pool billing, facility layouts, water distribution systems, traffic safety and the list goes on.

The GIS team, led by Manager Elizabeth Schutte, works with all contractors and DOE to bring their data needs to life. "We are harnessing the power of everything we can, to bring location intelligence to the Site and make it as seamless as possible to use," shared Schutte, as she explained how her team has gone beyond just making maps. Her team of GIS analysts brings imagery, engineering drawings and data together to create multi-layer interactive maps that help streamline processes and improve safety. Additionally, they're deploying mobile GIS solutions for real-time data capture of locations, photos and



The GIS team and their leadership from left: Chief AI Officer/Chief Data Officer Jason Walli, GIS Analysts Jamie Fragola, Doug Fenske, Christopher Picken (joining remotely), Justin Mays (joining remotely), David Snader (joining remotely) and Byron Gessel, GIS Manager Elizabeth Schutte, Information Management Services Vice President Todd Eckman, and Director of IM Applications, Product Management and Records Alison Hull.

information on radiological contamination, water leak reporting and environmental observations in the field.

One of the newest features of the Hanford Indoors application is 3D modeling. The team is in the process of expanding 3D models sitewide, including asset level details down to which way office doors swing, to support emergency operations. This information can be essential when responding to something like an active shooter scenario. Members from the GIS team also respond to the Emergency Operations Center during events to do real-time mapping, using a special dashboard specific to EOC needs.

The GIS team handles system development and administration, license management, account management and data stewardship of the nearly 1,000 data services currently in production, ensuring the workforce has the tools they need to effectively and efficiently serve the Hanford cleanup mission.

FSM Wraps Up Major Safety Project Ahead of Schedule

Contributor: *Patrick Conrad*

Congratulations to our Fire Systems Maintenance (FSM) team for completing a major milestone, supporting reliable fire protection across the Site. This accomplishment was part of a project to conduct top-to-bottom inspections of the Site's internal water piping systems. When the project kicked off more than three years ago, the team had to start from scratch by developing and implementing procedures and creating inspection plans and inspection reports.

Fast forward to 2026 and the team recently completed the last of their 175 inspections, well ahead of the five-year schedule. The comprehensive inspections are part of ongoing efforts to maintain and improve fire suppression systems at Hanford.

"This accomplishment underscores the team's dedication, resourcefulness and commitment to the safety and reliability

of Hanford's infrastructure," said Gerrad Swanson, fire systems specialist and project lead. "Completing the project early not only enhances operational assurance but also sets a benchmark for future performance at the Hanford Site."

The inspections confirm the integrity of the piping systems and ensure they will perform as expected during a fire.

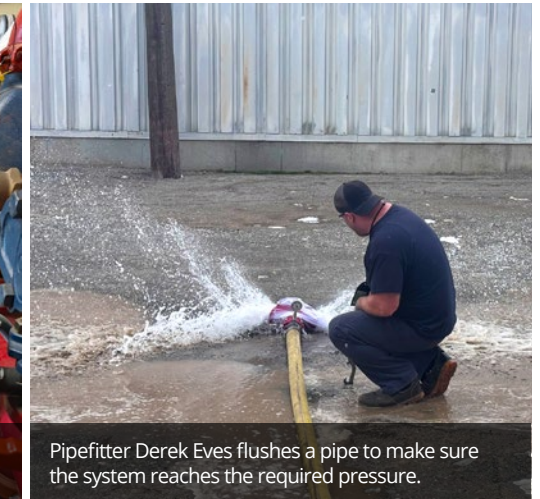
"Previous inspections didn't provide a thorough look inside the pipes," said Daniel Tucker, manager for FSM.



From left, pipefitters Isaias Torres and Russell Barnes work on a dry pipe valve.

"These recent inspections included a comprehensive look, opening up the systems at multiple inspection points to determine if there were any obstructions, corrosion or pinhole leaks. This helps to provide assurance of a reliable system."

Inspections often took several days to complete, depending on the size of the system. Overall, the results demonstrated Hanford's internal piping systems are in good condition.



Pipefitter Derek Eves flushes a pipe to make sure the system reaches the required pressure.



Carpenters Jim Hodgson and Russell Ramirez install one of four bat boxes on the outside of the 105-D Reactor.

A pallid bat is one of the many forms of wildlife to call the Hanford Site home.

ONE HANFORD

Finding a New Home for Hanford's Bats

Contributor: Patrick Conrad

Some members of Hanford's bat population have a new home thanks to a collaborative effort between our environmental teams. Hanford is an important area for multiple bat species with protected colonies across the Site.

During the 10-year internal inspections of the D and DR Reactors last year, the Long-Term Stewardship and Ecological Monitoring and Compliance teams discovered evidence of juvenile pallid bats, indicating a maternity colony where female bats congregate to raise their young. To help protect against future bat intrusions while maintaining access to suitable maternity colony roost sites, biologists installed bat boxes on the outside of the structures.

"These bat boxes successfully house maternity colonies of pallid bats in other areas across Hanford within our program," said Deanna Breckon with the Long-Term Stewardship program. "We installed eight boxes, four on each reactor."

Each box is roughly 2.5 feet by 3.5 feet and can hold up to 200 bats.

"We chose to install one on each cardinal direction of the reactor, mainly to give the bats options because they will choose roost sites based on temperature conditions," said biologist Matt Paulsen. "We will continue to monitor bat colonies across the Site, including assessing how these bat boxes are being used."

The teams also removed bat guano accumulation so that it can be monitored for any future bat occupancy. This marked the first cleanup effort since the facilities were placed into interim safe storage. This will provide a baseline for the next 10-year interior inspections so they can see if bats are still getting inside.

ONE HANFORD

First One Hanford Leadership Academy Wraps Up

Contributors: Shyanne Palmus/Patrick Conrad

In partnership with Washington State University's Carson College of Business, several Hanford employees, including our very own Joy McCrea and Casey De Groof, completed the One Hanford Leadership Academy. Launched in January 2025, the academy aims to develop and empower the next generation of executive leaders at Hanford.

Each month, participants committed two days to the program either through learning seminars or in project workshops, designed to give participants the opportunity to work on Hanford-related efficiency projects.

"The seminars were great – the way we alternated between real-life coaching and workshops helped everyone have practical hands-on experience while understanding the philosophy behind it," said Joy McCrea,



Participants in the One Hanford Leadership Academy included three representatives from the DOE Hanford Field Office, two from HMIS, two from WTP, two from IHA and three from CPCCo.

vice president of Land & Regulatory Stewardship. "The intangibles from the academy are also very important. I had the chance to get to know people I wouldn't normally have an opportunity to meet and that has already paid dividends."

As part of the class, the team embarked on three efficiency projects throughout the course of the year.

"Each session brought new perspectives from our instructors and our fellow

Hanford teammates, for a shared understanding of similarities and challenges across the Site," said Casey DeGroof, deputy vice president of Safeguards, Security & Emergency Response. "The project work highlighted just a few of the many opportunities we have at Hanford to collaborate for better operations and value."

Congrats to Joy and Casey and the rest of the Academy graduates!

ONE HANFORD

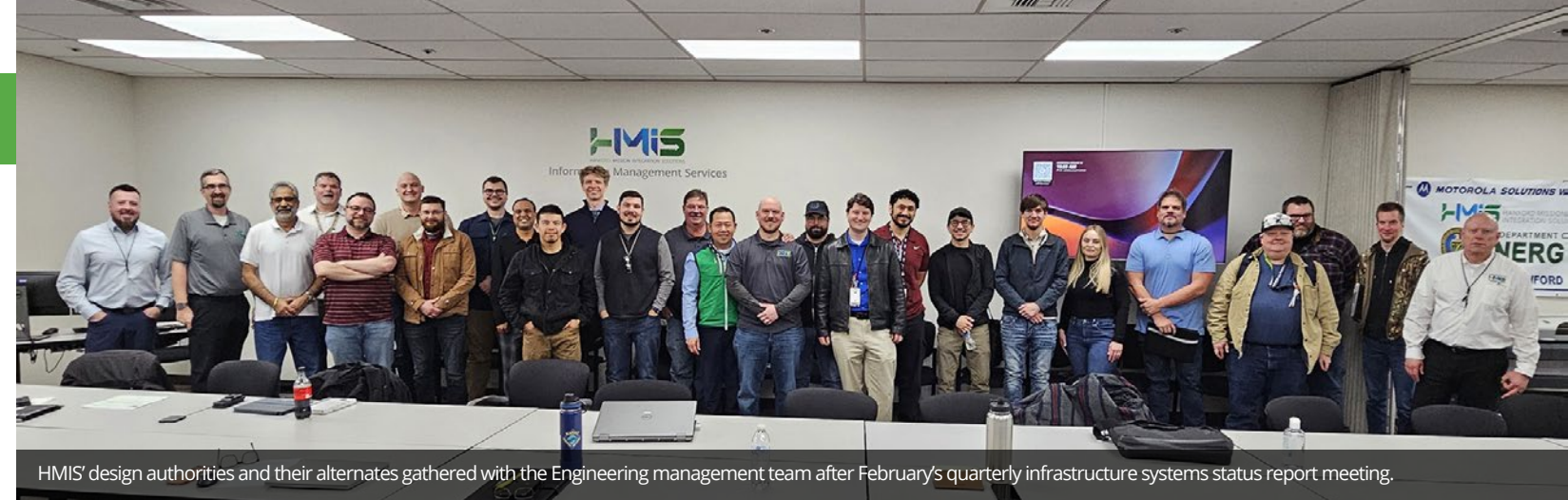
Hanford Takes Center Stage During Waste Management Symposia

Contributor: Patrick Conrad

The One Hanford team was front and center during the 2026 Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, Arizona. As the featured site, Hanford was well represented with several contractor presentations and panel discussions as well as staffing of the One Hanford booth. Several HMIS employees wrote white papers and participated in presentations over the weeklong event. This included presentations on the innovative process involved with inspecting cocooned reactors and using unmanned aircraft systems to track and document vitrified waste storage containers.



The HMIS team had a big presence at the Waste Management Symposium, participating in several breakout sessions and panel discussions and staffing the One Hanford booth.



HMIS' design authorities and their alternates gathered with the Engineering management team after February's quarterly infrastructure systems status report meeting.

ONE HANFORD

Design Authorities Provide Updates on Infrastructure Systems

Contributor: Shane Edinger

They say you don't know what you don't know - which is why the design authorities and engineering managers responsible for the 22 configured infrastructure systems maintained by HMIS Engineering have been meeting quarterly to provide status updates since the contract began in 2021.

These meetings help ensure HMIS senior leadership and DOE representatives are "in the know" when it comes to the health of each infrastructure system, and give the managers and design authorities an opportunity to showcase the work underway to improve the systems, as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

"Our engineering managers and design authorities take a lot of pride and ownership in the systems they manage," shared Chief Engineer Drew Thomas. "They really become experts in the systems they are working on, and this is a chance for them to share some of that knowledge."

The pandemic forced them to host these meetings on Teams initially. They continued to use that format until February, when they held their first in-person/hybrid meeting.

"Meeting in person really helps facilitate better interaction between the team, leadership and the stakeholders," Thomas added. "We can provide them with a more holistic picture, elaborating on the areas where more support is needed and how those efforts will benefit the One Hanford mission."

ONE HANFORD

Water and Sewer Utilities Completes Important Piece of Sitewide Project

Contributor: Patrick Conrad

Our Water & Sewer Utilities team recently finished a major upgrade to Hanford's raw water system, clearing the way for continued progress on a critical sitewide project.

During ongoing work as part of the L-895 project, which ensures reliability of the Site's raw water system, workers discovered the pump system in the 200 West Area was not operating properly after falling below a minimum demand level. This system primarily provides cooling water for the 200 East Evaporator, as well as fire suppression water for facilities on the Central Plateau.

"The pump system in the 200 West Area is the backup system for 200 East," said Brent Stenson, director of W&SU. "Before we can begin dismantling, modifying and upgrading the system in the 200 East Area, we need to confirm the pumping and control system in the west area is operational and reliable."

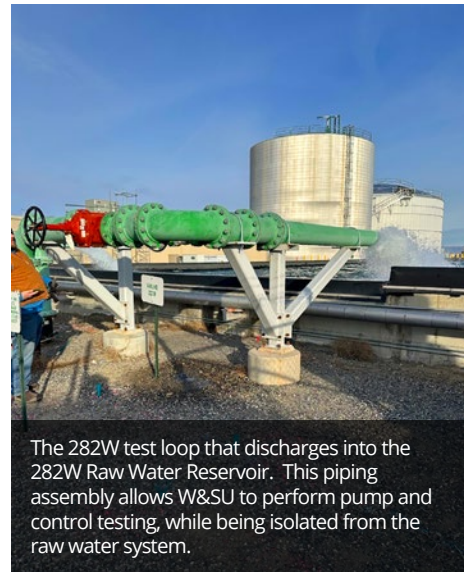
The team made improvements to the pump system to make sure it can reliably supply water in all conditions. By increasing the minimum flow line, they removed the need for a jockey pump, which had been a single point of failure. This change not only makes the system more dependable, it also reduces the amount of equipment maintenance.

Throughout the upgrade, the team ran into several issues, including the lack of available products, especially during the holiday season, which led to several modifications to the project.

The team also completed electrical upgrades and installed new software, helping improve the system's overall performance. This software upgrade required extensive testing in three main phases, including acceptance and operational testing, and running the system through a variety of scenarios. These important steps verify the pump system works as expected.



Melissa Woods with subcontractor Verus Technology and Gerardo Rico, a water design authority with W&SU Engineering, monitor the Water Local Area Network system inside 282WF Electrical Building for 282W pumps and controls building.



The 282W test loop that discharges into the 282W Raw Water Reservoir. This piping assembly allows W&SU to perform pump and control testing, while being isolated from the raw water system.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Heart for the Arts

A wicked good time was had by all at this year's Heart for the Arts fundraiser, benefiting the Academy of Children's Theatre! The event, with a Wicked theme, raised \$124,000 to support educational opportunities in the theatre arts for young people of all abilities and interest levels in our community.

Unite for Recovery Breakfast

We are proud to sponsor and attend the Unite for Recovery Breakfast held by the Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition. The event raises money to help combat substance abuse disorders in our community by connecting those in need with treatment, counseling, medications and sober housing. By providing education and talking about addiction, they aim to remove stigma, shame and secrecy.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HMIS Volunteers Head Back to School

ENGINEERS WEEK 2026

HMIS engineers celebrated Engineers Week 2026 by engaging with students through hands-on activities and competitions. The week included visits to local elementary schools, where volunteers introduced students to the world of engineering through interactive activities. Engineers answered questions, shared personal experiences and encouraged students to think outside the box.

High school students took center stage at the High School Friendly Competition. Teams worked together to solve real-world challenges, putting their critical thinking and teamwork skills to the test. HMIS volunteers (from left) Mario Garcia Heredia, Matt Parkhill and Grant Ryan mentored students at the event, offering guidance and insights into what it takes to be an engineer.



STEM NIGHT AT MARIE CURIE ELEMENTARY

HMIS enjoyed supporting students and their families during Marie Curie Elementary School's STEM night. Students participated in a variety of hands-on experiments ranging from electrical safety to building catapults out of rubber bands and popsicle sticks. Thank you to our HMIS teams for supporting this great event and for sharing your knowledge with future generations!