



MISSION: INTEGRATION

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

HANFORD MISSION

HMiS

INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

MISSION: PERSPECTIVE

By coming together, asking questions and sharing knowledge, we build better teams and deliver on our commitments.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



As the days get cooler and daylight hours dwindle, I'm sure you'll hear a variety of opinions from those who either love or loathe the changing season, with many falling somewhere in between. Through each response is a perspective borne out of experience. From the avid football fan ready for a new season, to the farmer who is on high alert for an early frost, it can be difficult to fully understand something until you experience it. It's through these different experiences coming together, asking questions and sharing knowledge, that allow us to build better teams and deliver on our commitments.

The next time a proposed approach or question asked doesn't align with your initial vision, I challenge you to pause and consider where it's coming from. Take a moment to consider a different perspective, which can open the door for a more constructive conversation and possibly a better outcome. With people at the core of our company's success, I want to thank you for bringing your varied perspectives to H&SS. With your contributions, we continue to drive efficiencies and encourage innovation in the One Hanford mission.

Bob

Guest Message – Rick Boarder

Perspective is a funny thing. Everyone has a perspective on something, whether it is good or bad, big or small. It is ever changing as we gain knowledge and experience.

As I look back at my career on the Hanford Site alone, my perspective has changed significantly based on the responsibilities I've had. Starting as an engineer and taking on progressive roles, including field work supervisor, operations manager, director and now deputy vice president, my perspective went from very small and in the weeds to very broad and high level. Admittedly, each level was overwhelming at times. Fortunately, over the years I've had great mentors and people I could talk with to gain their perspective. Those great people were craft personnel, peers, managers, family and friends. I am so thankful and blessed they were in my life.

Now as a deputy VP of the I&SS organization, with seven departments, my perspective on things is very broad. My focus is really on the great people we have; providing leadership to them so they are successful, supporting our organizations and finding ways to make the biggest impact to the entire Hanford Site today and into the future. I'm excited and honored to have this opportunity!



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MISSION: PERSPECTIVE

A Key Accomplishment

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

We've got the big key! A symbolic ceremony handed off responsibility for the K East Reactor from CPCo to HMIS. Following contract modifications, the building will be managed by our Mission Assurance Long-Term Stewardship team.

CPCo cocooned the reactor last year with a steel structure that will contain radioactivity in the deactivated reactor core while it decays over the next several decades. "Our LTS team, including radiation

technicians, will perform surveillance and maintenance of the facility until its final disposition," said Joy Shoemake, Environmental Field Support manager for Mission Assurance. "The team will perform regulatory required inspections of the cocooned reactor to verify structural integrity and confirm contamination remains within the sealed reactor core."

"HMIS is proud to help our One Hanford contractor partners complete an important milestone," said President Bob Wilkinson. "As this piece of Hanford history transitions to our LTS program, our team will ensure its ongoing safety and integrity while protecting workers, the environment and the community."

After the cocooning of K East, our Crane & Rigging team joined CPCo to safely demolish the nearby K West Annex. Before

demolition, C&R assisted CPCo by raising dryer tanks and the Annex roof, which provided access to the Transfer Line Service Box and Decant Pump Box for removal by One Hanford teams.

"The TLSB weighed about 5,000 pounds and the DCPB weighed about 5,900 pounds," said Ryan Foeppel, supervisor of operations for C&R. "We built a scaffold structure over the top of them to protect the boxes during the demo process, as the building was being opened for access. Then, our 80-ton crane lifted the boxes out of the Annex."

The building once supported safe packaging and transfer of radioactive sludge from the K West spent fuel basin to interim safe storage at T Plant. Crews completed the Annex demolition project in late September.

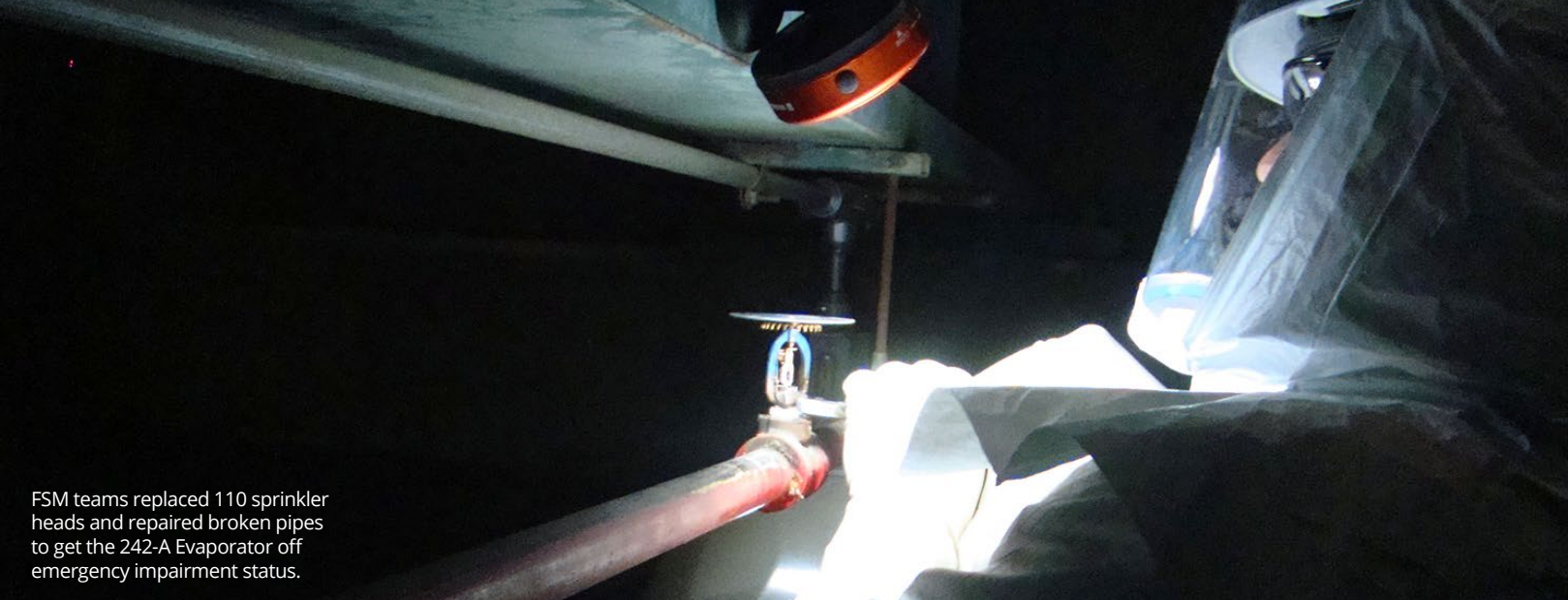
CPCo President John Eschenberg (left) and HMIS President Bob Wilkinson stand near the K East Reactor with a key representing the handover of responsibility.



Crane & Rigging crews removed the roof of the K West Annex as part of its demolition.



C&R removed dryer tanks from the Annex prior to grouting and permanent disposal.



FSM teams replaced 110 sprinkler heads and repaired broken pipes to get the 242-A Evaporator off emergency impairment status.



Crane & Rigging crews built scaffolding to allow our Fire Systems Maintenance team to access high elevation sprinklers in the 242-A Evaporator.



The final sprinkler head replaced as part of a lengthy, high-risk One Hanford project completed with assistance from WRPS.

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Fire System Repaired at Evaporator

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Calling it a “huge step toward restarting the facility,” our Fire Systems Maintenance team wrapped a massive undertaking at the 242-A Evaporator, performing high-risk work to repair broken pipes and replace 110 sprinkler heads. Before work could begin, Crane & Rigging safely installed intricate scaffolding around contaminated equipment – providing access for FSM to complete work 30-40 feet in the air.

The system passed a necessary test to take the building out of emergency impairment status, where it had been since Christmas Day when freezing temperatures burst pipes, knocking the fire system out of service and requiring ongoing surveillance.

Prior to repairs, HMIS completed a rigorous planning process to evaluate the high-risk nature of the work and ensure appropriate protections to perform work safely. FSM crews worked with WRPS Operations and Radiological Control to rehearse dressing and undressing in PPE to enter areas with high contamination and airborne radiation. The project also required significant effort transporting scaffold material into hard-to-access rooms.

FSM replaced sprinkler heads throughout the building, including in the pump room and condenser room. Old sprinkler heads were nearing the end of their design life, so switching them out now prevented the need for a future fire system outage.

The One Hanford effort to make repairs included support from WRPS nuclear chemical operators and radiological control technicians. A final check of the system included filling it with water, pumping it to a designated pressure and then holding it for two hours – and it passed!

“FSM crews and Field Work Supervisor Ernie Roske did a great job of safely executing high-risk work and maintained good communication with facility owners during the repairs,” said Melissa Torres, FSM director.

FSM will assist the Evaporator team by incorporating facility modifications to support WRPS’ goal of restarting the facility next summer.

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TEAM FOCUS: Benefits Accounting

Contributor: Shane Edinger

They may spend most of their day behind a computer screen and hip-deep in Excel spreadsheets, but the work the Benefits Accounting team does is incredibly important, especially for any Hanford employee who takes advantage of the healthcare benefits provided by the Hanford Employee Welfare Trust, or the thousands of former employees who receive retirement benefits from the Hanford Site.

This team manages the administration and accounting for the Hanford Site Savings Plans, Hanford Site Pension Plans and the HEWT, plus the accounting for three closed DOE sites. The Hanford Pension and Savings Plans hold about \$3 billion in combined assets. The team also processes about \$150 million in pension plan payments every year for Hanford retirees.

Calculating each retiree's payment plan is a big challenge because every employee has their own unique set of circumstances. "We're calculating their retirement benefit based on their entire work history," shared Kelly Custer, who manages the Benefits Accounting team. "It can get really complicated because most folks



Meet the Benefits Accounting team! From left, Kelly Custer, Chelan Sweeney, Jennifer Kukes, Stephanie Martin, Kelly McDaniels, Sharon Rathje, Paula Atilano, Mindy Stephens, Lindsay James and Mary Stuart. Not pictured: Angelica Bottineau and Erika Romero-Vargas.

have multiple calculations for each of the different benefit plans associated with each job they've held. They're like snowflakes; no two calculations are the same."

On average, about 300 employees retire from the Hanford Site each year, and a typical retirement calculation takes about two full weeks to complete. Some take longer, depending on how many different jobs the employee held.

The team likes to have a full 60 days before the employee retires to ensure the retiree understands all the options available. "Our job is to make sure each retiree gets the retirement benefits they've earned, and deserve, in a timely and accurate manner," Custer added.

The team of 12 is part of the Business Integration & CFO organization, but they also work closely with Workforce Rewards & Support to administer these benefit programs. "I like to think we're the bridge that keeps everything running smoothly," Custer said.

MISSION: PERSPECTIVE

New Course Helps Employees Develop Public Speaking Skills

Contributor: Shane Edinger

If the thought of giving a presentation to a room full of people makes you seriously think about just calling in sick, the Workforce Resources & Development team is here to help. The team recently created a new course, *Fundamentals of Public Speaking 101*, to help employees develop a comfort level with speaking in front of others.

"A lot of people who struggle with public speaking don't sign up to teach in front of a class full of students, but they may be asked to present a safety topic or share other information with their co-workers," shared Jim Whalley, a Workforce Solutions HR specialist who helped develop the course. "We wanted to create a course to help those folks develop a comfort level for public speaking, even at the most basic levels."

The course shares some basic strategies with students to help them become better speakers, including tips on planning, practicing, calming nerves, engaging the audience and body language. During the one-day class, students make three short presentations to classmates. Two of the presentations are recorded, with instructors providing immediate feedback.



Jim Whalley with Workforce Resources & Development shares some tips on engaging with your audience during the *Fundamentals of Public Speaking 101* course.

"This class is perfect for anyone who has issues with public speaking or wants to get better at speaking in front of groups," Whalley added. "We just want to help those folks who are trying to develop their public speaking skills and what that might look like within their job function."

The response has been very positive. One class scheduled for early November is already full and a second class was added at the end of the month.



The one-day course is limited to eight students to ensure instructors can provide one-on-one coaching and feedback.

MISSION: PERSPECTIVE

A Major Lift

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our Maintenance Services team completed an extensive repair on the 278WA lift station pump. It's now a properly working system since this group:

Fixed electrical connections, replaced a piping joint, added bulbs, backfilled excavation, sealed areas with grout, tested piping, removed a confined space lifting structure, installed a fall protection handrail, swapped bolts, verified there were no leaks, performed a final function test, and signed off on a fully functioning lift station.

It all took place during sweltering heat. Pump stations like this typically move wastewater away from a facility to a wastewater treatment plant. Congrats to the team on a job well done!



RECOGNITION



A Heaping Helping of Thanks

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

HMIS leadership recognized Employee Zero Accident Council chairs at an annual breakfast, thanking them for their commitment to protecting and improving the safety culture in their organization and company-wide!

EZAC is a cooperative effort by all HMIS employees aimed at influencing positive safety behaviors with the goal of zero accidents. By presenting safety information at monthly meetings, EZAC chairs help relay information from the All-Chair EZAC and the Presidents' Zero Accident Council, plus they ensure a facility or organization's safety logbook is tracked and kept current.

Chairs also help coordinate their organization's efforts to earn a quarterly safety meal through various safety-specific activities. Each organization has at least one EZAC chair.

RECOGNITION

Reaching for the Stars: Achieving Safety & Health Excellence

Guest Contributor: Chris Nielsen

The 2023 National VPPPA Safety+ Symposium gave our Safety teams the opportunity to collect several coveted awards on behalf of the three HMIS VPP Star sites. Those selected to represent HMIS are dedicated to improving the safety culture in their workgroups.

Attending the conference provides a unique opportunity to network with like-minded individuals nationwide to discuss safety improvement initiatives, attend educational workshops and stay ahead of regulatory trends.

At the Orlando, Florida symposium, HMIS received the VPP Star of Excellence awards for both HAMMER and Safeguards & Security. This is awarded to DOE contractors who achieve injury and illness rates far below the industry average,



The Safeguards & Security team received the VPP Star of Excellence.

meet DOE VPP goals and demonstrate a strong commitment to VPP mentoring and outreach.

Mission Support Services received the Legacy of Stars award, only given to sites that have achieved the Star of Excellence for a fourth consecutive year.

“Thank you to all HMIS employees for their dedication to safety and health excellence. Recognition for these awards wouldn’t be possible without the continuous effort by HMIS employees and management working together for the same goal – to work safely and go home to their families each day.”

– STEVE SNYDER, DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT OF MISSION ASSURANCE



DOE's Larry Yearsley presents the VPP Legacy of Stars to Kevin Schoonover.



The HAMMER team received the VPP Star of Excellence.

RECOGNITION



Volunteer of the Quarter



Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

Our HMIS Family volunteers are truly the best! Since the start of the new contract, 370 HMIS employees and their loved ones have donated more than 1,316 hours of time to help at 24 HMIS-organized volunteer events, supporting local organizations like Second Harvest, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity and several others.

This month, we want to recognize Macie Pichette, who's been interning with the Internal Audit team for two years. Macie volunteered at several events over the last year, including the Meals

on Wheels meal prep event, Resolution Read book labeling and delivery, Oktoberfest and more. Macie continues to intern with HMIS while finishing her degree and is grateful for the opportunity.

When asked why Macie enjoys volunteering, she explained, “As a Tri-City native, I can't think of a better way to give back to the community I grew up in, the community that helped shape who I am today.”

Not only does Macie enjoy giving back, she also enjoys meeting new people and volunteering alongside her fellow co-workers, “To me, volunteering is a great way to meet other people who work at Hanford.”



To recognize our Volunteer of the Quarter, HMIS will make a \$250 donation to the non-profit 501(c)3 organization of their choice. For this quarter, Macie asked that the contribution go to Columbia Industries.

We are so proud of our HMIS Family and their commitment to serve our community. Thank you!

ONE HANFORD

Hanford Patrol Sharpshooters Compete at an Elite Level

Contributor: Cerise Peck

Sharpshooters on Hanford Patrol frequently take part in local and national shooting competitions. Inspired by the former Security Police Officer Training Competitions once held throughout the DOE complex, members of the Hanford Patrol Multi-Gun Team still compete against other marksmen, including those from DOE protective forces, military and tactical units from around the country.

To keep improving their professional skills, those on the HPMGT often invest their own time and resources to participate in these competitions. They include two and three gun matches, where participants use pistols, rifles and shotguns. They'll also participate in events like the U.S. Practical Shooting Association competitions. Impressively, our Hanford Patrol team members consistently compete at a high level, holding their own against some of the most skilled shooters in the nation.

"What sets the HPMGT apart is their dedication to their craft and their eagerness to share their acquired expertise with colleagues in the force," said Deputy Chief Paul Hughes. "This practice significantly bolsters Hanford Patrol's capabilities, fortifying its ability to safeguard the Hanford Site against any potential threats."



The Hanford Patrol Multi-Gun Team, from left, Kurt Bearchum, Sterling Maynard, Paul Hughes, Chris England and Derik Moe.



Hanford Patrol Deputy Chief Paul Hughes competes in the pistol portion of a shooting competition.



Hanford Patrol Lt. Derik Moe participates in the rifle portion of a match.



ONE HANFORD

Sealed Up for Safety

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

One of Hanford's most traveled and vital roads is a much smoother drive thanks to our Road Maintenance crew who spent the last two summers filling cracks and improving safety.

The number of large ruts had increased and expanded over the years and needed patching with a sealant applied while hot, so it adheres to the asphalt. This method of repair provides a durable and more long-lasting solution than traditional sealants.

"Route 10 is a critical road for the Hanford Site cleanup mission, supporting employees who travel from Benton City and West Richland, and it's the alternate route to the Site during road closure

shipments," said Brian Bergum, Transportation Services director. "With the completion of the crack sealing and the newly completed roundabout on SR 240, it is a much safer commute for the Hanford community."

On average, there were about 100 cracks in the road for every mile, most about 2-4 inches wide. The Roads crew completed 3.5 miles of repairs in the last fiscal year, adding to the 2.4 miles repaired in the previous budget window, applying approximately 78,000 pounds of filler material.

"I commend the Roads team for nearly doubling our expectations of lane mile improvement this summer, in spite of heat, smoke and road closures," said Brian Von Barga, vice president of Interface & Integration Services.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

October



Hearts Are Wild

You can bet the students won! The ace up their sleeve for Junior Achievement of Southeastern Washington is the popular Hearts are Wild Gala, a casino-style event. The gala raises money for local JA programs – helping empower school-age students with financial literacy programs and training on career readiness.



Women Helping Women

A large group of HMIS staff attended a luncheon benefitting Women Helping Women Fund Tri-Cities. The annual fundraiser has provided more than \$3 million in grants to local organizations to bolster their essential work in supporting women and children in our community.

RPD Foundation Dinner

The Richland Police Department Foundation held its first-ever “Dinner with the Chief” fundraiser in support of its Community Care Program. Our sponsorship of the event helps officers provide immediate support to community members in need.



CBC Power of Connection

The price was right at this year's Power of Connection event supporting the Columbia Basin College Foundation. The evening featured several game show themed competitions and raised more than \$187,000 for student scholarships.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A Feast of Fun, Fitness and Community Spirit!

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

HMIS took great pride in serving as the title sponsor for this year's Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels Oktoberfest, a family friendly 5k fundraiser dedicated to "outrunning senior hunger."

More than 25 employees registered to race alongside family and friends. A special shout out to Mission Assurance's Rodger Iverson who was unable to attend the scheduled race, but completed his 5k independently, ensuring he remained a part of our HMIS team!

Participants could run or walk the course, and even bring pets. Their reward at the finish included bratwurst and pretzels with live music. Oktoberfest helps Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels continue serving free meals and providing companionship to local seniors.

