

Connections

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COMPREHENSIVE OUTLOOK ON CLEANUP

Workshop attendees offer perspectives on path forward

Leaders, influencers and stakeholders from across the DOE Environmental Management (EM) complex gathered last week at the 2023 National Cleanup Workshop to discuss priorities, challenges and progress associated with the cleanup mission.

The three-day conference in our nation's capital started with a special introductory session geared toward early career professionals (ECPs) in the nuclear cleanup industry. Deputy Project Manager Jennie Stults was on one of the featured panels, with two ECPs

from CPCCo's Regulatory Strategy & Integration organization – Alison Greene and Catherine Fewell – in attendance.

"Coming here really did expand my perspective," Fewell said. "It was so incredible to meet peers across the cleanup complex and other

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Comprehensive outlook continued

contractor representatives from other sites. Hearing their views has given me a fuller picture of how important our work is to the next generation. We can't move forward into a clean future if we don't clean up the past."

"In my day-to-day work, I'm focused on a lot of very small details, so it's exciting for me to take a step back and see the broader DOE complex and all the work that's happening," Greene said. "It's encouraging to see the commonalities that exist across the complex and recognize that we're not alone in the struggles and we're not alone in the successes."

Stults participated in a second panel later in the conference that addressed how to attract and develop next generation leaders for the cleanup mission.

"I'm really passionate about this topic," Stults said. "It's the responsibility of our current leadership to help cultivate and encourage the younger members of our team to push their capabilities and seek opportunities for personal growth. Finding a mentor who can offer honest feedback is critical to that process. And I have to say, as the workplace demographics shift and a new generation adopts the cleanup mission, I'm excited to usher in the next group of young leaders."

The annual conference touted a record number of participants in attendance this year, with key speakers that included U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary David Turk and EM



CPCCo Deputy Project Manager, Jennie Stults, participated in a panel at the conference on how to attract and develop next generation leaders for the cleanup mission. Two early career professionals in CPCCo's Regulatory Strategy & Integration organization, Alison Greene and Catherine Fewell, also represented CPCCo at the conference. (pictured below)



Senior Advisor William "Ike" White. In his address, White shared EM cleanup successes across the DOE complex, calling the workshop an opportunity to discuss the next phase of the cleanup mission.

"In recent years, I think we have reached an inflection point for our EM mission," White said. "We know what waste we have, and we know how to safely treat it. Most of our cleanup capabilities are in place

or they're nearly in place, in some cases after decades of planning and construction. We are acting on opportunities to enable continued success."

The Department also highlighted its [Cleanup to Clean Energy initiative](#) focused on generating clean energy on DOE-owned lands. Read more about the workshop in this week's [EM Update newsletter](#), which publishes Tuesday.

VPPPA symposium kicks off in Florida

CPCCo worker among scholarship winners to be recognized

Today is the opening day of the annual [VPPPA Safety+ Symposium](#) in Orlando. Nine CPCCo representatives are in attendance to network and learn from other safety professionals, industry leaders and federal agencies and use the experience to help enhance CPCCo's safety program.

As a bonus, CPCCo's own Zayne Nelson will be recognized at the conference as a recipient of the 2023 VPPPA June Brothers scholarship. The June Brothers scholarship highlights students who are leaders and role models in their schools and communities, and who are entering the safety/health/environmental field. Zayne is currently a Industrial Hygienist (IH) at 100K and is working on his master's degree in IH at Montana Tech.

The June Brothers is one of four [VPPPA scholarships offered annually](#) – each worth \$3,500 – to support students who have demonstrated leadership and

commitment to safety and health. As part of VPPPA, CPCCo workers and family can apply for these scholarships when pursuing a vocational, undergraduate, or graduate degree in a safety, health, or environmental-related field.

Zayne's undergraduate degree is in civil engineering specializing in environmental and hazardous waste cleanup. He started at Hanford in 2020 as an emergency preparedness analyst and wanted to get more involved in direct hazards. His education at Montana Tech allows him to apply classroom concepts to his work at 100K. He expects to complete his master's degree in the spring of 2025.

"I'm excited and honored to have been selected for this scholarship, which will go a long way to helping me finish my degree," said Nelson.

Congratulations, Zayne, and good luck in your academic and professional pursuits!



Zayne Nelson

PUREX 203A

Making quick work

Watch the PUREX 203A Acid Storage Area go down in the blink of an eye! Congrats to the demo team for a job safely done!

Worth the wait

Composite Analysis complete after more than 22 years

There have been titan-size accomplishments throughout the Hanford Site this summer. From skyline-changing demolition projects to an ongoing groundwater treatment expansion effort, the CPCCo workforce has made major strides in advancing the cleanup mission.

But our purpose demolition and disposal, it's also ensuring and reassuring public safety now and into the future beyond the closure of the Hanford Site. And that's exactly what a team — along with small-business partner INTERA — within the Regulatory Strategy & Integration organization accomplished this summer in finalizing the Hanford Site Composite Analysis (CA). The CA was approved by the Department of Energy on Aug. 9, completing an End State goal under

Task Order 4.

So just what is the Hanford Site Composite Analysis (commonly referred to as the CA)? The CA takes a comprehensive look at Hanford contamination to predict the amount of radiation exposure or dose that a hypothetical future member of the public might receive from all planned low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities and other sources of radioactive material left at the site after it closes. It accounts for an all-pathways total dose based on simulation of more than 10,000 years of fate and transport of 16 radionuclides from nearly 600 waste sites.

Work on this project has spanned across several contracts since 2001, initially led by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). Will

Nichols was at PNNL when work began and has been involved in the CA since inception. Twenty-two years later, he led the project to completion as the project manager and INTERA Senior Vice President of the Northwest Region.

"It's incredible," Nichols said of the achievement. "I pulled together some of the principals I began this work with in 2001. They're all retired now, but we got together and had a little celebration."

After more than two decades, a celebration is certainly warranted especially when recognizing the importance of the CA as it relates to site cleanup.

"The Defense Nuclear Waste Review Board directed the DOE to account for the total impact of all waste disposal facilities on the Hanford Site and not each one individually," Nichols said.

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Composite Analysis By The Numbers

1,014
Pages in the Composite Analysis

10,052
years simulated of fate & transport for 16 radionuclides

12,000
Pages of supporting technical documents

waste sites simulated

Work commenced
2001

588

Worth the wait continued

"In response, the DOE determined there should be a composite analysis developed as a regulatory tool for the Department to ensure that each waste facility is not only itself safe, but that the combined impact of all waste sites is safe. This maintains disposal authorization for all the Hanford Site's low-level disposal facilities."

With more than 1,000 pages supplemented by 12,000 pages of supporting technical documents, the CA is a behemoth. Completing such an extensive and thorough document is no small feat. It required the knowledge of many and the development of incredibly complex computer models, said Randal Fox, manager of Risk, Modeling and Characterization Integration.

"Fate and transport modeling is very specialized," he added. "The computational power and the brain work behind Will's team to develop the toolset to allow us to be able to convey to the public that we're protective is impressive."

The tools and models developed to complete the CA are finding utility for projects across the site beyond the report. The models are a starting point for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) decision processes and tank disposition efforts.

"For example, when WRPS [Washington River Protection Solutions] needs to do a performance assessment to close a tank system, they've had to build their model from scratch," Nichols said. "Now they're turning to us and taking our models to deploy for their performance assessments for tank closure. We've already built the models. The model is ready to plug and play, to start refining and generate more detail as we get data."

The work was not without scrutiny. DOE's review was a deservedly critical process. The team provided 40 hours of technical presentations to the review team to introduce the scope, approach and organization of the modeling and documentation. The review team identified eight key issues, 15 secondary issues and 18 observations that needed to be addressed before the analysis could be approved. After two revisions, the document was finally approved.

The decades of work invested into the CA will support the Hanford Site cleanup to closure and beyond – a major career accomplishment. So, what's next for Nichols?

"Retirement," Nichols laughed. "My boss already told me 'This is the high point of your career.' There's not enough time to start anything big again."



Social Salute



Early Professionals Program for CPCCo wants to get together to commemorate CPCCo's accomplishments and the end of the fiscal year. If you're looking for a fun evening of networking come join us. Drinks and food will be on your own tab.

Sep 21 | 5 p.m.
Salud Bar & Kitchen
50 Comstock St
Richland

RSVP to ECPP@rl.gov



BREAKING NEWS

Rattlesnake barricade updated hours

Barricade hours are changing this week as we head into fall. Below are the updated operational hours.

Days	Morning Hours	Evening Hours
Monday through Friday:	4:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Weekends/Holidays:	Closed	Closed

2023 Hanford flu clinic

HPM Corporation (HPMC) is providing free flu shots to Hanford workers at various locations starting Tuesday, Oct. 3. The standard and high-dose shots are designed to protect against the four main groups of flu Type A and B viruses. The high-dose shots are for those over age 65, so be sure to inform your nurse if you would like that vaccination. Review the CDC [Vaccine Information Statement](#) prior to arrival.

Important Information:

- Do not come get your flu shot if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms or symptoms of COVID-19
- Bring your DOE picture badge and wear short sleeves
- Teleworking employees can receive their flu shots at any flu clinic location
- Pregnant employees must bring written approval from their primary care physician
- See your primary care physician if you had an allergic reaction to the flu shot in the past

Questions?

Flu Clinic Hotline: (509) 376-1000

Email: OMCFluHotline@rl.gov

Webpage: [HPMC Influenza Immunization Program](#)

Date	Day	Time	Location
October 3	Tuesday	7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	100K, MO500 Conf. Rm. East
October 3	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	200 Area, 2750E, Rm. B103
October 4	Wednesday	7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	2435 Stevens Ctr., Conf. Rm. 1005
October 5	Thursday	7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	200 East, 2704HV, G206
October 10	Tuesday	7:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	200 West, 278WA
October 11	Wednesday	7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Federal Bldg., 825 Jadwin Ave., Conf. Rm. 142
October 12	Thursday	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	300 Area, MO644 Conf. Rm.
October 12	Thursday	12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	1979 Snyder St., Suite 150, Conf. Rm. 136
October 17	Tuesday	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	200 West, 2713-S, Rm. 131, (222-S Lab)
October 18	Wednesday	7:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.	200 East, 2101M, Cosmos/Bijou Room
October 19	Thursday	7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	HAMMER Bldg. 6091, Rm. 31
Walk-In Flu Shots			
Starting October 3	Monday - Friday	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	1979 Snyder St., Suite 150
	Monday - Thursday	1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	200W Clinic, 2719WB
	Fridays	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	200W Clinic, 2719WB
	Saturdays	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	200W Clinic, 2719WB

Don't forget!!

PZAC 2.0

This Wednesday 6:30a.m. at 2268E