



Issue 4

February 2013

## WORKERS' SPOTLIGHT

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Note	1
What's Going On	1
JHBSPPH	2
Trivia	2
Staff	3
Calendar	4

### WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE COMPLEX

#### National Security Campus move in Kansas City is under way...

It's being called the biggest industrial move in America today.

The Kansas City Plant (KCP) officially began the move on January 23, 2013 to the new National Security Campus. The new facility in Kansas City showcases innovation and cost savings, highlighted by environmentally friendly features and innovative space management.

Over the next 18 months, approximately 3,300 truckloads will transport about 2,800 pieces of equipment ranging from desk size to tractor trailer size. Estimates are that the entire move will use 30,000 crates – which if stacked would be more than 5 times the height of Mount Everest.

#### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Greg Lewis

Because that's the way we've always done it...

...is not the way we do it for the Former Worker Program (FWP) and EEOICPA.

In my office I have a poster that is an irreverent version



National Security Campus, Kansas City

Dual operations will be under way at both facilities to ensure uninterrupted delivery of KCP's mission critical components.

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) team at KCP will continue to process claims during the relocation process.

"The biggest challenges are the sheer size and complexity of what is to be moved," noted Kansas City Field Office

Manager Mark Holecek. "This is why we've made such an upfront investment in planning this event." Planning for the move got under way in earnest in 2010.

As part of that planning, KCP's EEOICPA team members and Information Systems experts worked to upgrade the KCP records response process to a paperless system. The electronic EEOICPA process

*continued on page 2*

of the motivational posters you see in so many workplaces. The typical motivational poster would have a word like "success" or "teamwork," along with an appropriate picture, and slogan below that generally explains how the picture embodies the concept of

"success" or "teamwork." The poster in my office pokes fun at those traditional messages and has a picture of the "running of the bulls" that is not going particularly well for one runner. I won't quote the entire

*continued on page 3*

## JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY FORMER WORKER PROGRAM

The Medical Exam Program for Former Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) workers is managed by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHBSPH). Co-investigators from the University of New Mexico (UNM) work with JHBSPH to accomplish the objectives of this program. The Medical Exam Program offers a free medical exam and testing to all former workers from both Department of Energy (DOE) sites in New Mexico who had possible exposures to asbestos, beryllium, lead, noise, radiation, solvents and silica (SNL only) during their employment at these sites. The JHBSPH Former Worker Program (FWP) also offers re-examinations to those former workers who had past exposure to asbestos and/or beryllium and/or radiation and/or silica.

The JHBSPH Medical Exam Program is one of several unique programs within the DOE FWP. Examinations are performed in New Mexico in Española, NM, and Albuquerque, NM, by occupational health professionals from JHBSPH and UNM. Each participant has a detailed exposure and medical history interview prior to their examination. These interviews are conducted by former workers from LANL and SNL. Repeat examinations require a shorter medical history in order to determine changes in health since the initial interview and examination. During examination sessions, former workers have the opportunity to meet with the program's occupational medicine physician to discuss their examination results and to ask questions.



JHU FWP Program Office, Española, NM



Carlos Vigil Middle School, Española, NM



UNM Family Medicine Center, Albuquerque, NM

The New Mexico Program Office, located in Española, NM, is staffed by a former LANL worker and an administrative assistant who both are local community members. Examination sessions are conducted two to three times per year.

*continued on page 4*

### KCP *cont.*

saves time and resources. It also ensures that during the big move EEOICPA team members will not have to search through boxes of paper documents for a claimant's private records or evidence of exposure.

Throughout the move, the EEOICPA team members will communicate by e-mail, track claims using a database, and perform research using electronic libraries and

databases. At the end of the process, when a claimant's records are collected in pdf format, an electronic signature and date is applied to the response form. With the use of the DOE's new Secure Electronic Records Transfer system, no paper copies are sent through the mail.

Energy efficiency is a key feature of the new facility, which is certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold-rated green campus. It's expected to save an estimated \$100 million in operating costs from a combination of overhead reduction and sustainable strategies that cut energy

consumption by more than 50 percent.

By the time move-in is complete next year, 2,500 employees will relocate into 5 new buildings comprising 1.5-million-square-feet on the campus. ■

### TRIVIA QUESTION

The original Kansas City Plant was built in 1949 for what purpose?



KCP Relocation Information

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE *cont.*

slogan but it makes the point that doing something because you've always done it that way, does not mean it's the smartest thing to do.

Of course this poster should be taken with a grain of salt. Both the FWP and the EEOICPA operate nationwide at different sites and locations and handle a large number of screenings and records requests per year, so having established procedures and consistent methods is very important. However, to me the poster is a constant reminder that just because you have always done something a certain way, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be considering new and different approaches.

There are aspects of both programs that embody this constant effort to adapt as needed, and to change with technology, medical advancements and new requirements. The former



worker program has been on the cutting edge of medical developments with the Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) program, and as we expand the ELCD to additional sites, we adapt to determine the best screening tests to offer to the workers. Similarly, my office has conducted more EEOICPA site reviews this year to make sure sites haven't overlooked the

opportunity for efficiencies, and are always looking for new ways to improve the quality of our records and/or to streamline the assembling for transmittal, cutting time and cost while maintaining service. In addition, the story in this month's newsletter about the Kansas City Plant's move highlights some unintended benefits of modernizing work processes and going digital.

Even with all of the changes and modernizations both programs have experienced, each staff member should make a conscious effort daily to improve program operations. If the primary reason for a process is "well, that's the way we've always done it," now is a great time to give it a more in-depth look. In the end, you will either be able to confidently say that the process is the best way to do things, or that our quality and process will be improved and made more efficient. ■

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF



This month we are featuring Dennis Vernon who has been the HS-14 security liaison since October, 2011. His primary function is to oversee the EEOICPA classified document library and to ensure that EEOICPA related documents submitted

for classification are completed in a timely manner. Dennis also effectively interfaces with a number of other security program elements to facilitate classified interviews, discussions and document reviews.

Dennis is a retired Federal employee who supports the EEOICPA on a part-time basis. He has a wealth of knowledge in a variety of security programs and is revising the EEOICPA Security Plan to include the reinstatement of DOE security clearances for NIOSH classified interviews. He is a security professional who started his Federal career in 1971 as a Federal law enforcement officer with the U.S. Treasury Department. He later worked in the naval nuclear security program as a contractor; at the Savannah River

Operations Office as a branch chief; and at DOE Headquarters as a security inspector before transferring to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a security inspection team leader. After retiring from Federal service in 2006, he worked in Russia as a security consultant under a Defense Threat Reduction Agency contract and then later for the National Nuclear Security Administration before rejoining the Department's Office of Health, Safety and Security.

As a footnote, Dennis has a personal affinity to the EEOICPA program having been exposed to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam (1967-69) and subsequently treated for service-connected disabilities by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As an active member of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), he occasionally can be found on week-ends at malls and at entrances to large retail stores as part of the VVA outreach program handing out literature and informing other veterans about the VA claims process. Dennis enjoys vacationing in different locations with his wife, Gale.

# Calendar of Events



## March

5	8:00 am	FWP Event Mound Retiree Breakfast Bob Evans Restaurant, 220 Byers Road, Miamisburg, OH
6	7:15 am	Local Event X-10 Retiree Meeting Shoney's, 8529 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN
	9:00 am	Local Event Y-12 Inspector Group Meeting Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Oak Ridge, TN
	11:00 am	Local Event Y-12 Guards Meeting Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Oak Ridge, TN
	4:30 pm	FWP Event ATLC Council Meeting ATLC Union Hall, 109 Viking Road, Oak Ridge, TN
7	9:00 am	Local Event X-10/Y-12 Asbestos Retirees Meeting Shoney's, 3739 West US Highway 9, Lake City, TN
	6:00 pm	FWP Event K-25 AGRE Meeting USW Union Hall, Oak Ridge, TN
12	9:00 am	Local Event X-10 Plant and Equipment Meeting Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
	9:45 am	EEOICPA Event Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health Augusta Marriott, 2 Tenth Street, Augusta, GA
14	11:00 am	Local Event X-10 Guards Meeting Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Oak Ridge, TN
19	12:00 pm	Local Event X-10/Y-12 Machinist Local 480 Meeting Local 480 Hall, Oak Ridge, TN
21	11:30 am	FWP Event Mound Retiree Luncheon Golden Coral, 8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH

For a complete list of calendar events, visit:

[http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events\\_calendars.html](http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html)

## JHBSPH *cont.*

A team of doctors, nurses, occupational health professionals, and support staff gather together in Española or Albuquerque, NM, in order to conduct new and re-examinations of former LANL or SNL workers. During each screening session, every former worker who agrees to participate in the program receives an exam that includes testing components based on his/her reported occupational exposures. Since January 2009, the Medical Exam Program developed associations in the local community in order to utilize community space for the examinations. In Española, NM, we rent space in a school-based health clinic located at the local middle school.

In Albuquerque, we rent space from the Family Medicine Center at UNM for examinations.

As of January 2013, a total of 3,589 former workers have had medical screening examinations. Of those, 472 former workers have had re-exams for past asbestos, beryllium, radiation, and silica (SNL) exposure. ■

### CONTACT US:

US Department of Energy  
Office of Health, Safety and Security  
Office of Health and Safety  
**Office of Worker Screening and  
Compensation Support**  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Phone:  
(301) 903-0881 or (202) 586-4399  
Fax:  
(202) 586-8548

**Trivia Answer:** The Navy built the plant during World War II to assemble engines for Navy fighter planes.