

OCTOBER 2020

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MONTHLY

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DOE issued a short contract extension to MSA, which has extended the contract transition period through January 24.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many of you saw in recent communications, DOE issued a short contract extension to MSA, which has extended the contract transition period through January 24. I prefer to look at this as a positive change. First, it gives both transition teams more time to ensure a smooth transition. Second, this extension will help us to better align with the contract transitions of other Hanford contractors, making for a smoother transition process overall for the One Hanford team.

Now that we're almost to November, I want to focus on the many things we have to be thankful for as part of the MSA and Hanford families. Using the word "family" when referring to those we work alongside is not just for show – it's something I truly mean and something I am thankful for, and I hope you are thankful for as well. Despite all that has been going on, we have made incredible progress this year, something else we can all be thankful for. Our team came together to support one another and the Hanford Site during essential mission-critical operations, our initial remobilization phases and ongoing telework. Everyone has been thinking outside the box – finding new and safer ways to complete work and to stay in contact with one another.

These innovative ways of doing business and being safe need to continue. If you have suggestions or ideas, please share those with your team, your management chain or the senior leadership team. You can also send an email to askbob@rl.gov.

Thank you for being part of this team – for being part of this family. On behalf of the senior leadership team, we are thankful for the role you play in making MSA and Hanford a success!

Bob Wilkinson
President



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PZAC Safety Honor Roll

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Congratulations to Dave Kucera from Training & Conduct of Operations for receiving a Presidents' Zero Accident Council Safety Honor Roll award. Dave spotted a hurt man on the ground while walking to his mailbox. The man had tripped while running with his dog and broken his shoulder. Dave helped get the injured neighbor safely home, along with the man's daughter and dog. The man later thanked Dave on a neighborhood social media forum, noting his kindness and care in taking care of his family while he was in the hospital. It didn't stop there – Dave has continued to help by walking the dog while the neighbor recovers from his injuries. Congrats on going above and beyond in doing the right thing, Dave!



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MSA's Safety Efforts Gain National Voice, Earn Recognition

Contributor: Melissa VerSteeg

National Board Participation

MSA employee Rocky Simmons recently earned a spot on the national Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association board of directors. The VPPPA is widely recognized as the leading organization dedicated to cooperative occupational safety, health and environmental management systems. With roughly 2,700 companies participating in the VPP today, ranging from five to 50,000 employees, having a position on the national board greatly broadens the safety conversation. As part of the board, we not only learn about best practices from our immediate area, but from companies across the globe.

As a HAMTC Safety Rep for MSA and chairperson for Region 10 VPPPA for the past two years, Rocky appreciated being selected to participate on the diverse team. "We strive for continuous improvement at Hanford," said Simmons. "This opportunity gives us first-hand dialogue with companies across the industry. I want to recognize DOE, HAMTC and MSA leadership for supporting this program and being good partners. I wouldn't be able to do what I do without their support."



▲ MSA HAMTC safety representative, Rocky Simmons, highlighting the importance of the Voluntary Protection Program and being part of the national VPPPA Board of Directors.



▲ VPP Core Team members Andrew Crawmer, Andy Foster, Lanette Adams, Delmer Graham and Briana DeLine accept VPPPA "Star" awards on behalf of the MSA family.

Star Award Recognition

The VPPPA recognized MSA with three "Star" awards during its annual meeting. MSA/HAMMER Federal Training Center and MSA/Mission Support Services both received the Star of Excellence. Award criteria includes an outstanding level of performance meeting established safety and health goals, an active role in conducting outreach, and an illness and injury rate 75 percent lower than industry average.

MSA/Safeguards and Security received the Legacy of Stars award, recognizing Star sites that have held the Star of Excellence for three consecutive years.

ESH&Q vice president Mike Wilson acknowledged the accomplishment by saying, "Thank you to our VPP Core Team, EZAC chairs, and all our managers, supervisors and employees for this achievement."

The MSA family is in good company with other Hanford contractors also receiving honors: CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company, Intermech, Inc. - Waste Treatment Plant, WAI Hanford Laboratory (WHL) Hanford, Washington River Protection Solutions, and Waste Treatment Completion Company - WTCC.

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EMS Successfully Recertified Through Virtual Audit

Contributors: Tyler Oates, Michelle Oates

MSA's Environmental Management System was once again successfully recertified to the ISO 14001 standard in September 2020! The ISO 14001 is an international standard that provides companies and their stakeholders with assurance their environmental performance is measured and continually improving. By maintaining this certification, MSA shows its dedication to performing as an environmental leader at Hanford.

Every three years, MSA's EMS undergoes the rigorous external audit to recertify to the ISO 14001 standard. This year's recertification audit provided new issues presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in MSA's first-ever virtual EMS external audit.



MSA Sustainability and Environmental Management System (EMS) coordinator, Michelle Oates, planned MSA's first-ever virtual EMS external recertification audit.

"This year's virtual audit presented new logistical challenges which required us to adapt our strategy," said MSA Sustainability and EMS coordinator Michelle Oates. "MSA employees exemplified great teamwork during the audit and their hard work and preparation made it a success."

MSA employees adapted to the virtual audit by using the Microsoft Teams platform to efficiently schedule and conduct meetings, as well as quickly share documentation with the external audit team. This year's auditors noted MSA employees were well organized, prepared for meetings, and gathered the right people and information needed to answer questions. Well done to everyone who made this year's audit a success!

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HAMMER Provides Radiological Control Technician Training

Contributors: Tyler Oates, Kerry Adamson

Radiological control technicians (RCTs) serve as a critical part of Hanford's worker protection program. RCTs work for all contractors providing critical radiation safety services aimed at protecting the worker, the environment and infrastructure from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

"HAMMER provides continuous requirements-based training to existing RCTs, as well as assisting with the selection and qualification training of new RCTs from the ground up," said Kerry Adamson, manager of HAMMER Radiation Safety Training.

Most recently, a class of 21 new Washington River Protection Solutions RCTs completed HAMMER's four-month long initial qualification training. In recognition of their accomplishment, Hanford Site manager Brian Vance and WRPS president John Eschenberg addressed the graduates with words of encouragement and congratulations. Each graduate received a certificate during the graduation ceremony.



Hanford Site manager Brian Vance addresses the newest graduating class of radiological control technicians.

After completing training, the new RCTs will work alongside senior co-workers to complete on-the-job training. To maintain their qualifications, they will integrate into the HAMMER RCT Continuing Training program with other site RCTs.

"This is the fifth initial RCT class that HAMMER has conducted since early 2017, adding 167 RCTs to Hanford's workforce," said Adamson. "This is a tremendous value to the site and helps maintain the workforce to complete critical work at a time when many RCTs are retiring or advancing in their careers."

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Teamsters Bill Spires and Brad Victry (behind equipment) add seed to machinery to plant grasses at the SX Basin in the 200 West Area as part of an effort to fight weeds.



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Grasses Fight Basin Weeds

Contributors: Robin Wojtanik, Richard Roos

Fighting weeds the natural way is the plan as the Biological Controls crew works to seed retention basins in Hanford's Central Plateau. Rather than using herbicides, adding native and non-native grasses will help tamp down the weeds instead.

"Grass will compete against weeds that may grow in the basin," said Richard Roos, biologist for Biological Controls. "It will also help prevent wind erosion."

The retention basins collect water runoff around tank farms managed by Washington River Protection Solutions and feature a

tight liner on the basin floor. The soil covering the basin liner can create a rich environment for weeds.

To combat that, the grasses planted include a Siberian wheatgrass. "It's an excellent choice because it grows really well here. Its stiff, upright growth is good at protecting the soil by breaking up wind near the ground's surface, preventing erosion," said Roos.

In the third year of putting seed down, Roos said there's improvement, though some weeds are still removed mechanically. "We're really pleased with the success we had since the first run. We're expecting that grass cover to be even better after this," said Roos.

The grasses are likely to live for a decade, with overseeding done every few years to counter those that die off naturally.

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Teamsters and heavy equipment operators make use of cubicles added to the MO-414 building in the 200 East Area in support of social distancing while on the Hanford Site.

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Cubicles Added to Increase Social Distancing

Contributors: Robin Wojtanik, Terry Kirkpatrick

MSA's largest group of teamsters and heavy equipment operators are benefiting from safe social distancing measures thanks to the addition of dozens of cubicles added as part of phased remobilization. The MO-414 building in the 200 East Area previously held round tables that could accommodate up to 34 people at once. After removing the tables, carpenters installed cubicles and hardware once deemed as excess.

Real Estate Services, HAMTC Safety, Motor Carrier and MO-414 building management helped with the effort. The project took just a day and a half to complete at very little cost, thanks to the reuse of materials. Now, the same space can hold up to 42 people at once, keeping employees safe while executing the Hanford mission.

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Enhanced EU Standards Further a Mission-Ready Utility

Contributors: Oudone Voraphaychith, Robin Wojtanik

The Electrical Utilities Engineering department has worked rigorously to refine EU drawing specifications to result in standards that will better use materials, equipment and designs. By establishing the new standardized drawings, Engineering, Planning, Crafts, and outside organizations may use the same recognized guidance when developing a project plan. This will help with estimating costs, scheduling and other measures during the planning process.

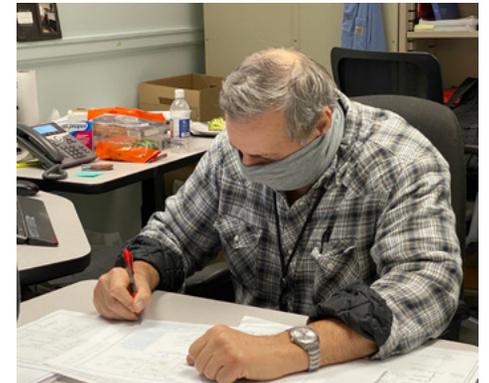
“This effort was intelligently wrought by the culmination of several EU professionals, past and present, looking to protect institutional knowledge and enhance future accomplishments and safety,” said Steve Stallings, EU Programs.

An external customer shared, “You don’t even know how excited I am about these standard drawings. I am spreading the word every chance I get. Standard drawings will be a huge help to getting good, compliant installations constructed with minimal engineering cost.”



EU engineers Spencer Towne (top left), Russ Alleman (top right) and Joseph Popp (below) are some of the engineers who have worked for months to confirm EU standards are created and readily available for project planners in the DMCS.

Prior to this project, recognizing standardized equipment, processes, or drawings was not always easy, or even available. Additionally, many drawings lacked the level of detail useful for construction or planning. To overcome this, EU engineering manager Oudone Voraphaychith was one of those who suggested making the standards available through the Document Management & Control System. As the drawings are added to the DMCS, different organizations may now easily search for what they need. “As we see the need, we’ll create standards or make changes to continue building the library,” said Voraphaychith.



Since beginning this effort, EU engineers have completed about 70 percent of the intended drawings. The drawings include many of the high-voltage electrical jobs often required to plan.

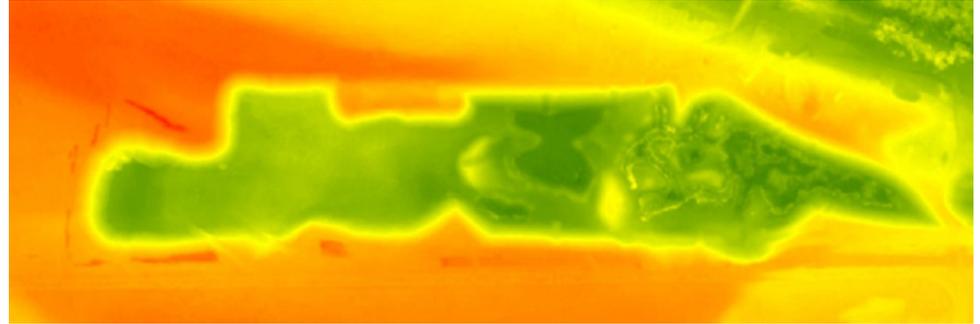
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Borrow Pit Pilot Study

*Contributors: Robin Wojtanik,
Deanna Rohlving*

A new pilot program conducted by MSA's Long-term Stewardship group will play a key role in tracking the changes in material at some of Hanford's borrow pits. Borrow pits are areas in the soil/ground where material is dug for use in another place. The program collects the elevation of the pits using high resolution, vertical photographs taken at a low altitude. To help aid in data collection, MSA placed control points on the ground using black and white squares. With the use of the aerial photos and a handheld GPS, these markers helped create 3D models used to calculate volume of the borrow pits.

After obtaining a mapping software license last year, this is the first time the team used the software to collect more accurate geographic locations and altitude readings. The software already allowed the LTS program to stitch together individual images to create a mosaic of the desired area. For this study, the team also used the software to determine surface heights (i.e., digital surface models) of the borrow pits as a way to assess the elevation and fill material within each pit. Using this technique



This digital surface model is useful in 3D modeling for the pit elevations. Green is the lowest and red is the highest elevation.

and software, results are made available in a matter of hours instead of weeks. This allows more time for analyzing and interpreting results.

"The outcome of the pilot project proved successful and will benefit management of borrow pits long into the future," said Joy Shoemake, Land Stewardship director.

By using this method, it greatly increases analysis options, efficiency and accuracy, and will support studies to help determine how much material has been used over periods of time.



An example of a ground control point used to assist with aerial imagery.

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Virtual Fundraising to Support Women and Children

Contributor: Renée Brooks

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has forced nonprofit organizations that rely on fundraising events to pivot and find new ways to raise critical funding that is needed now, more than ever before. One incredible example is the recent Women Helping Women Fund Tri-Cities virtual fundraising luncheon.

While MSA employees missed attending this luncheon in person, several people took personal time to watch the online event and make donations. Ashley Fox, a former NFL analyst, served as the guest speaker, sharing the importance of resiliency and putting relationships first. Fox reminded attendees that while “life is a contact sport,” we are all resilient.

The event raised more than \$115,000, which will be granted to several local organizations to help improve the lives of women and children!



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MSA Partners with WorkSource to Offer Courses to Community

Contributors: Dan Seitz, Ginger Benecke

MSA's Human Resources partnered with WorkSource Columbia Basin to launch the first of five job search development courses to attendees in the local community. The foundational course was delivered virtually for the first time, and feedback from participants was positive and encouraging.

Each course consists of five modules facilitated over several weeks by the MSA Human Resources team. The content focuses on building a firm foundation for your career, networking, creating a professional resume, job search strategies and preparing for interviews.

The initial series is available to local community participants and will be offered statewide thereafter. The initiative is part of MSA's commitment to community outreach and supports the expansion and development of resources needed to meet future workforce demands and objectives.



Dan Seitz with MSA Human Resources conducts the first virtual workshop with the help of WorkSource, to support those in the community in building a strong foundation when searching for a job or career.

"The company takes pride in serving our community and it's an honor to partner with our local WorkSource affiliates," said Dan Seitz, with MSA Human Resources. "The COVID-19 pandemic required us to quickly adapt and modify the methodology for delivering workshops. This new virtual platform allows us to offer our career development curriculum in a safe and interactive environment."

The first series of classes concluded at the end of September, with the next set of classes in early October.

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Have a story idea for Streamline? Send an email to MSAcos@rl.gov or contact **Reneé Brooks** with MSA Communications at (509) 373-0857.

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Right solution.
Right time.
Right value.

At MSA, we are committed to providing innovative solutions that fit the needs of our customers. We work closely with the DOE and Hanford contractors to determine timing and value, ensuring that Hanford cleanup continues to progress.