

WORKERS' SPOTLIGHT

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Greg Lewis

As you may have read or recently heard, Secretary Moniz has made the decision to reorganize as part of a broader reorganization, the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), in order to provide more efficient focus on the mission of the Department. Currently, the Office of Worker Screening and Compensation Support,

within the Office of Health and Safety, reports to the Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer, Glenn Podonsky. As part of the pending reorganization, our office will fall under the chain of command of the newly formed Under Secretary for Management and Performance. This shift is being made to consolidate the more mission-support functions of the

Department.

What does this mean for the Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA)? We were recently informed that FWP and EEOICPA will remain under Dr. Patricia Worthington. All functions, budgets, staff and office

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THE JOINT OUTREACH TASK GROUP "TOWN HALL" MEETING VIDEO IS RELEASED

By Moriah Ferullo

In 2009 the Department of Energy (DOE) teamed with: the Department of Labor (DOL), the Office of the Ombudsman for DOL, the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), the Ombudsman for NIOSH and the DOE-funded Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) Projects to create the Joint Outreach Task Group (JOTG). The JOTG was established under the



Glenn Podonsky, Gary Steinberg and John Howard

premise that agencies/ programs with common goals can work together by combining resources and coordinating outreach efforts to better serve their stakeholders. Since its inception, the task group has focused on holding joint public "Town Hall" meetings; and to date, 43 meetings

have been held in and near the communities of 24 DOE sites.

The JOTG remains committed to serving the current and former DOE workforce and their families by supporting the EEOICPA program and FWP. As part of their

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GETTING TO KNOW SITE EEOICPA POCS



Meet Amy Rothrock from the Oak Ridge Operations Office (ORO). Amy grew up in the Seattle area and attended Washington State University in the 1970s where she met her husband of 43 years. Her primary focus was homemaker and mother, preferring to follow her husband in his Defense Department career from Red River Army Depot in Texas; to Redstone Arsenal in Alabama; to Cameron Station in the DC area; to Goodyear's Aerospace site at Wingfoot Lake in Ohio; and eventually, to Oak Ridge for the Department of Energy in 1984.

Amy decided to further her interests in journalism and creative writing while working for the University of Tennessee and attending evening classes beginning in 1985. She accepted a position at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1986 and then moved on to a Management Analyst position at OSTI in 1987.

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BRADBURY SCIENCE MUSEUM

By Cecelia Kenney

As we continue our journey of the museums supported by the Department of Energy (DOE), our next stop is the Bradbury Science Museum, located in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Looks modest from the outside, however, it's packed with information.

The museum is broken into six specific sections; Lobby, Auditorium, Theater, Defense, Research, and History.



History, The Nuclear Age Begins

This museum does a great job with displaying not only our historical accomplishments, but also the ongoing science and research missions of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). As always, I migrated to the History section of the museum and much like the American Museum of Science and Energy highlighted in our last edition, there are many artifacts from the establishment of the laboratory in 1943.



Bradbury Science Museum

Having just come from the laboratory where we had a chance to review LANL's record collections, which included the original index cards for each person's comings and goings (created and maintained by Robert Oppenheimer's personal assistant, Dorothy McKibbin),



I was attracted to the collection of badges that included Dorothy's.

In the same exhibit area is a wall titled, "They Changed the World – The People of Project Y at Los

Alamos, 1943-1945." You would think at first glance the pictures and stories would be of the more prominent figures of the Manhattan project, but instead, they represent the laborers, contributing scientists, and even family members of the workers that bring the wall and even that period of time alive. Some so comical, you have to laugh while reading.



Before leaving the museum, we visited the other sections that included a Tech Lab highlighting the LANL technology on Mars, the Research section with the latest on nanotechnology, environmental research, an exhibit on living with wildfire, neutron science, explosives, plutonium and the list goes on.

This museum is worth the cost of admission....FREE! A great history lesson awaits you, along with a look at the ongoing research projects of LANL. ■

SPIROMETRY

By Dr. Laura Welch, Former Worker Program Medical Director for the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program

Spirometry, which is also known as pulmonary function testing, is a tool for measuring lung function. Specifically, the test measures the volume (amount) and/or flow (speed) of air that can be inhaled or exhaled. Spirometry testing is a vital component for diagnosing occupational lung diseases and for assessing and monitoring such conditions as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The lung diseases detected by spirometry are mostly caused by smoking, respiratory infections, and breathing in hazardous dusts, fumes, or vapors. For DOE workers, the spirometry test is used to measure lung function in individuals who have symptoms, such as chronic cough, shortness of breath, and/or wheezing to help determine whether they have lung diseases that may have resulted from occupational exposures during work at DOE facilities. Workers with abnormal spirometry results are referred to their primary care physicians for further evaluation.

The test is performed by deeply inhaling and then forcefully exhaling into a spirometer (the machine that records the measurements). There are two measurements that are crucial in the interpretation of spirometry results.

The first measurement is the forced vital capacity (FVC). FVC is the total amount of air that can forcibly be blown out after a deep breath. The second measurement is the forced expiratory volume-one second (FEV1). FEV1 is the amount of air that an individual can forcibly blow out in one second. Another common value reported in a spirometry test is the ratio of FEV1 to FVC. In healthy middle-aged adults, the ratio should be above 70%; the normal value decreases with age. The table below shows normal and abnormal spirometry readings.

A reduction in FVC can be caused by restrictive lung disease (such as asbestosis). Abnormalities in the FEV1 and the FEV1/FVC result from a decrease in the airflow out of the lung. This decrease may be caused by obstructive lung diseases, such as silicosis, emphysema, and asthma. The figure below provides an interpretation of spirometry results.

Spirometry Test	Normal	Abnormal
FVC and FEV1	Equal to or greater than 80%, or above the lower limit of normal using statistical testing	Mild 70-79% Moderate 60-69% Severe less than 50%
FEV1/FVC	Equal to or greater than 70%, or above the lower limit of normal using statistical testing	Mild 60-69% Moderate 50-59% Severe less than 50%

JOTG Video *cont.*

commitment, the task group created a JOTG "Town Hall" meeting video that includes the information presented at a typical JOTG public outreach meeting. The video is not intended to replace future JOTG Town Hall meetings in the communities, in and around the DOE sites, or the DOE closure sites, but will provide the JOTG with an outreach tool. The video can be sent to: workers too sick to attend a task group meeting, people in the communities where a meeting is not scheduled in the immediate future, Unions, retiree groups and other organizations that are interested in holding a "virtual" Town Hall meeting for its members, DOE sites that would like to show the video during an on-site health and safety meeting or other similar group activity. The video is also available, streamed via the internet and with closed captioning for the hearing impaired. This video will be particularly helpful to those seeking an overview of the EEOICPA program and FWP, as well as those who are not sure which agency they should contact to address their specific question.

The video is a collaborative effort between the members of the JOTG. Below is a brief summary of the video content:

1. Video Introduction, done jointly, by Glenn Podonsky, Chief Health Safety and Security Officer for DOE; Gary Steinberg, Acting Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs at DOL; and John Howard, Director of NIOSH.
2. Overview of the DOE-funded FWP
3. Overview of DOE's Responsibilities under EEOICPA
4. Overview of DOL's Role in EEOICPA – Part B and Part E
5. Overview of DOL's Office of the Ombudsman for EEOICPA
6. Overview of NIOSH's Role in EEOICPA - Part B
7. Overview of NIOSH's Ombudsman to NIOSH for EEOICPA - Part B

The JOTG video can be viewed in its entirety at: <http://energy.gov/hss/joint-outreach-task-group-video-series>. In addition, we have a limited supply of JOTG videos on DVD, which are ideal for group viewings, such as union meetings, health & safety events, and similar group activities that other organizations may host. Please contact Moriah Ferullo at Moriah.Ferullo@hq.doe.gov regarding copies of the DVD. ■

SITE EEOICPA POCs *cont.*

In 1994, Amy became the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Officer for the Department's Oak Ridge Office. As a Government Information Specialist, Amy now manages the ORO FOIA and Privacy Act program, provides litigation support to the Office of Chief Counsel and coordinates the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act for the Oak Ridge sites.

Amy is an active amateur radio operator and was a volunteer FCC examiner. She taught Morse code classes for FCC testing to obtain a ham license and has conducted workshops on the subject for the Knox County Schools. This hobby took her on an expedition trip to Grenada for three weeks in 2009 to set up amateur radio wire antennas 600 yards from the Grand Anse beach. She talked to over 800 contacts in countries around the world. She also enjoys driving and road trips, and still writes poems and literary journalism pieces for various writers' guilds and publications on occasion. ■

TRIVIA QUESTION

In Italy, France and Belgium, this recognized and celebrated day in America is observed by tacking paper fishes on each other's backs...what day is it?

Calendar of Events



March

- 4 8:00 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Breakfast
Bob Evans Restaurant, 220 Byers Road, Miamisburg, OH
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 204 S Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN
- 6 9:00 am Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Asbestos Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 3739 West US Highway 9, Lake City, TN
- 6:00 pm FWP Event
K-25 AGRE Meeting
USW Union Hall, 133 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 13 11:00 am Local Event
X-10 Guards Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 18 12:00 pm Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Machinists Local 480 Retiree Meeting
Local 480 Hall, Oak Ridge, TN
- 20 11:30 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Luncheon
Golden Coral, 8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH

April

- 1 8:00 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Breakfast
Bob Evans Restaurant, 220 Byers Road, Miamisburg, OH
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 204 S Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN
- 2 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, Lenoir City, TN
- 11:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Guards Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 4:30 pm FWP Event
X-10/Y-12 ATLC Council Meeting
ATLC Union Hall, 109 Viking Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 3 9:00 am Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Asbestos Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 3739 West US Highway 9, Lake City, TN
- 6:00 pm FWP Event
K-25 AGRE Meeting
USW Union Hall, 133 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 10 11:00 am Local Event
X-10 Guards Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 15 12:00 pm Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Machinists Local 480 Retiree Meeting
Local 480 Hall, Oak Ridge, TN

April cont.

- 15 5:00 pm Local Event
Y-12 Gage Lab
Gondolier, 729 Briarcliff Ave, Oak Ridge, TN
- 17 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

Director's Note cont.

locations will remain intact. The same staff members that many of you have gotten to know either personally or through this newsletter will continue working on the FWP and the EEOICPA. We have all been putting our heart and soul into these programs for years, and we will continue to do so.

Working for Mr. Podonsky has been a pleasure for me both personally and professionally. He is incredibly passionate about the FWP and EEOICPA, and I feel that under his leadership we have accomplished a tremendous amount over the past 7 years. The messages we have received from the Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance clearly indicate a commitment to strong worker safety and health programs. I look forward to continuing to live up to our stakeholders' high expectations.

Further information on the reorganization will be provided as it develops. ■

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
www.hss.doe.gov

Trivia Answer: April Fools' Day.
 April 1st is not a national holiday, but is widely recognized and celebrated in various countries as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other called *April fools*.

In Italy, France and Belgium, children and adults traditionally tack paper fishes on each other's back as a trick and shout "April fish!" Such fish feature prominently on many late 19th- to early 20th-century French April Fools' Day postcards.

The earliest recorded association between April 1st and foolishness is an ambiguous reference in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1392). Many writers suggest that the restoration of January 1st by Pope Gregory XIII as New Year's Day of the Gregorian calendar in the 16th century was responsible for the creation of the holiday.