

Safety success for PF&S team

A fantastic safety success has been recorded in Plutonium Finishing and Stores (PF&S) at Sellafield with teams achieving six years without a single Lost Time Accident (LTA).

This equates to over 4½ million working hours without an LTA - a significant milestone for the 87 employees based at the plant.

The facility, part of Magnox Operations Unit, incorporates plutonium finishing line operations, stores operations and areas of plant, now redundant, being placed into care and maintenance.

Operations involved in working with plutonium bring about their own unique requirements, not least the provision of primary containment in the form of glove boxes, supporting ventilation and environmental systems, requiring operators and maintainers to develop specialised skills.

Over recent years a number of major refurbishment projects have successfully taken place including replacement of a calcine furnace screw drive and evaporator hold up vessel. These involved workers from a wide range of disciplines—design, safety, contractors, maintenance and operations- pulling together to overcome the radiological and safety hazards presented.



Ian Fisher, Safety Representative, said: “Considering the amount of decommissioning and plant maintenance carried out over the past two years within the PF&S complex it is a marvellous achievement by all to reach six years without an LTA, and I think it shows that people are more tuned into safety for themselves and to others. We should all give ourselves a big pat on the back for this achievement.”

Dave Capner, Manufacturing Manager, added: “This achievement is down to dedication and hard work of a safety conscious team. Given the extent of work and challenging environment this is a tremendous achievement. This success is about applying good standards, reinforcing safety messages and shows the dedication of the teams at PF&S.”

REF begins active commissioning

The Residue Export Facility (REF) at Sellafield has moved into the active phase of commissioning.

This follows the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) issuing a licence instrument acknowledging the REF safety case.

REF will be used to load solid highly active waste canisters into a flask for export to overseas customers. The containers are retrieved from the Vitrified Product Store and placed in REF where a number of witnessed checks are carried out in conjunction with customers and their regulators. REF has been modified to carry out a number of additional requirements from overseas customers prior to export from the Sellafield site.

Moving into the active commissioning phase is a major milestone, not only for the REF project but also the programme of returning high level waste to customers in line with Government policy and contractual obligations.

The facility has state of the art safety systems with practical, fit for purpose plant and equipment that is designed to deliver the requirements as defined by NDA's customers.

Sellafield supports Deaf Awareness week

Sellafield Ltd has pledged £500 to help support Deaf Awareness Week 2008.

Held every year, national Deaf Awareness Week is promoted by the UK Council on Deafness. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the existence of deaf people and their unique needs and aspirations.

Three events have been set up including one at Age Concern, Whitehaven on Friday 9 May involving organisations such as the West Cumbria Society for the Blind, West Cumbria Carers Association and the Fire Service.

The £500 Sellafield Ltd has pledged will go towards covering the costs of hiring a marquee, spaces and rooms, equipment, leaflets, the production of banners and volunteer expenses.

Stalls providing information and advice on managing and coping with hearing loss and the availability of services will be on display at the event. Similarly leaflets detailing specific services including social work with deaf people, technical equipment services, befriending services, deaf children's projects and deaf awareness training programmes will be given out.

Speaking about the event, Sellafield's External Affairs Officer, Cheryl Ireland said: "I hope that the money Sellafield has pledged will help promote the positive aspects of deafness and help raise awareness of the range support that is available for deaf people and their family and friends."

Apprentices return from exchange trip

Two second year control systems apprentices from Sellafield, who recently took part in an exchange visit to the Bromangymnasiet education and training facility in Sweden, have returned home.

Amy Ireland and Matthew Messenger travelled to Sweden on 30 March where they stayed for nearly five weeks, returning to the UK on 1 May.

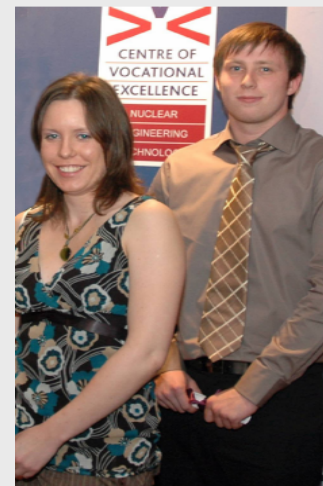
Part of an apprentice exchange programme involving Sellafield Ltd, Iggesund and GEN II, the pair visited Sweden to undergo a control systems training programme.

The programme included training on Siemens Programmable Logic Controllers, as well as CISCO networking, which will build on existing control system technologies training the pair are currently receiving on the Control Systems Training Scheme at Sellafield.

Speaking about the visit Amy said: "We both really enjoyed the trip to Sweden and are honoured to have been selected to go.

"Everyone was really nice and we've taken away a lot of learning regarding control systems skills which we will be able to share with the rest of the team.

"We both stayed with families while we were there and they were really nice and hospitable. I want to say a big thank you to GEN II for organising the exchange trip."



This visit forms part of reciprocal exchange which earlier saw two students from Bromangymnasiet come to the UK.

While here, they underwent a similar period of training with GEN II at Westlakes and at Sellafield's Training and Development Centre, thanks to the sponsorship of Iggesund.

Scouting about!

Sellafield Ltd recently made a £5,000 donation to the Harrington Scout Group to put towards a new 17 seater van.

A number of representatives from the Scout Group attended an official presentation ceremony on Tuesday 6 May at Banna Court, Westlakes.

Group scout leader - Andrew Brown (Safety Advisor in Nuclear Decommissioning & Major Projects Group), scout leaders Simon Martin (Business Development Manager) and Andrew Hardy (Maintenance Delivery in Decommissioning Engineering), and Explorer leader Andy Dawson (Safety Advisor in End States) represented the Scout Group as Sellafield Ltd's Director of Communications, Chris Philipsborn presented the new van.



Above: (from left) Andy Dawson, Andrew Brown, peter Liptrott (Tannahill Reay), Andrew Hardy, Simon Martin and Chris Philipsborn.

Simon Martin said: "I'd like to thank Sellafield Ltd for this kind donation which has gone towards helping us get the new van."

"I would also like to say a thank you to Tannahill Reay Visual Communications Limited, one of Sellafield Ltds sub-contractors who have also provided additional support in preparing the vehicle for use."

The group has about 80 children, from Beavers through to Explorers and is supported by about 10 leaders and adult helpers.

The new van replaces an old 12 seater vehicle, which will allow the scouts much more flexibility by being able to carry more passengers.

Correction

In last week's Sellafield News, the article *Sellafield Workers Take up the Challenge in memory of 'Macca'* contained the wrong website address for which individuals should visit if they want to donate money to the British Heart Foundation. The correct website address is: www.justgiving.com/maccascragrats

Emergency training exercise

There will be a Sellafield Site Emergency Training Exercise on Thursday 8 May 2008.

The exercise **may** involve sounding the site siren, which may be heard outside the site perimeter fence.

No action need be taken by anyone off site on hearing the siren. We apologise to local residents for any inconvenience that may be caused.

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VIP visits to Sellafield 30 April – 7 May 2008 included:

30/04/08 – DEFRA

01/05//08 – Allerdale borough Council

02/05/08 – Newcastle University

06/05/08 - NDA Insurance Pool

07/05/08 - National Audit Office