

Safety Pause January 17, 2006

Purpose for this pause:

- To congratulate ourselves for the progress we have made
- To make everyone aware of the recent events
- To refocus on the challenges of each work task
- To ask for everyone's commitment to working and staying injury free.

Working safely and injury free has been, and remains, our number one focus since the beginning of this accelerated cleanup project. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of everyone on our team, the project has made good safety progress in past year. Some of the areas we focused on in this past year that have helped all of us include:

- Work Controls and STARRT cards
- Training, including spotter, fall protection, safety leadership, rigging
- Positive recognition through zero accidents, P.B.S. teams
- Waste Management and Transportation
- Radcon and RWP development

This has made a positive difference – the project recordable injury rate has been reduced by about 20 % and the lost workday case rate by about 30%. More importantly, we have had fewer incidents and not as many people have been hurt in the performance of their work.

Even so, we have had a very bad start to the new year. In 8 working days, we have had 8 recordable injuries, including 5 fractures, a laceration, and 2 soft tissue injuries. One of these incidents was so severe that the injured employee was air lifted out and spent 7 days in the hospital. If this trend is not reversed immediately, it will result in even more incidents, injuries, and will undermine our overall commitment to working safely.

Injuries are preventable by using the procedures and processes we have developed together and also by personal attention and action. We all need to lower our tolerance level for risk so we are not putting ourselves or others in harm's way.

Based on the incident investigations, we find that some of our injuries are caused by unsafe conditions. However, most are the result of unsafe behavior, including:

- Not following AHA/Work Package
- Taking short cuts
- Placing body parts in line of fire
- Improper use of tools or wrong tool
- Overexertion and poor body position
- Not stopping work when we recognize changing conditions
- Being less than 100% aware of our surroundings and keeping "eyes on path"

This is a problem for all of us - therefore all of us need to be a part of the solution. One way we can get started is by thinking about and discussing the following:

- What am I doing to help prevent injuries?
- Are we alert to recognizing unsafe conditions?
- Are we ready and willing to stop work and correct these conditions?
- Are we remembering that each person could cause injury to self or others if we are not 100% focused on the job?
- How would I rate myself on safety? How would others rate me?
- Are we working together and watching out for each other?
- Am I thinking about my safety and that of my co-workers as I perform my work?
- If the processes and procedures are not right, are we quickly bringing it to the attention of our supervisor and stopping work until it is corrected?

We have completed a detailed investigation of the serious fall at K-25 and DOE is currently doing a separate investigation. We have also completed reviews of the other incidents and injuries. Over the next few days we will be analyzing these to see if there are common causes or issues that cut across them.

However, while we complete this review, all of us can start immediately to make a difference when it comes to our own safety and that of our co-workers. This can be done by:

- Making a personal commitment to staying injury free
- Focusing on what we just discussed
- Staying 100% alert, both as individuals and as a team
- Being engaged in the Integrated Safety Management and Work Planning processes
- Looking out for one another
- Ensuring that we have the proper personal protective equipment for the job
- Stopping work when things change or are not right
- Asking for help early when needed
- Follow-up on expectations and following through with our commitments

Through our personal actions and commitment, each of us can make a difference. As you leave this meeting, please recommit yourself to staying injury free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The benefits and returns are invaluable! You and your family are the real winners!