

WVDP achieves 1 million hour safety milestone



Photo Submitted

A multidisciplinary group of employees at West Valley Development Project receives in-house confined space rescue training at an onsite excavation work zone. The team recently achieved more than one million work hours without a lost-time injury or illness.

The CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) Team recently achieved more than one million work hours without a lost-time injury or illness.

From April 17, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2018, CHBWV and subcontractors have worked 1,006,929 work hours without a lost-time injury or illness.

“This and other work at the West Valley Demonstration Project only happens because of the skills and commitment of our employees to complete work in a safe and compliant manner,” DOE WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “This work, safely performed, brings many benefits to the ongoing cleanup and future closure of our EM site.”

Scott Anderson, president of CHBWV, the cleanup contractor, commended the team for its achievement.

“I am truly proud of this team accomplishment and sincerely thank everyone for their diligence in completing high-risk and challenging work in a safe and compliant manner,” said Anderson. “This is not the result of one person or one group, but a collective sense of teamwork, shared values and watching out for one another.”

Consider for a moment what this means. One million safe work hours while working among heavy construction equipment, in areas with radiological, industrial and hazardous materials, in changing conditions and in all sorts of weather for 616 days.

“All personnel working onsite should be extremely proud of this accomplishment,” said Jennifer Dundas, DOE-WVDP safety and site programs team leader. “Safety must be at the forefront every day,

Dundas said employee involvement and a proactive approach to safety promotes a safety culture that is continuously improving the work environment and reducing risk.

“Our WVDP Team has demonstrated that commitment by attaining more than one million work hours without a lost-time accident or injury,” she added.

Ken Whitham, vice president of Safety, Quality, Health and Security, reiterated the same sentiment.

“Every employee demonstrates their commitment on making safety a personal value in everything they do – each and every day,” he said. “It was through this continued dedication, commitment, and practice that helped the CHBWV Team achieve this important milestone.”

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration defines a lost-time accident as an OSHA-recordable incident in which an employee is not able to return to work or is