

Pantex NEWS

MAINTAINING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE

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Pantex Plant Earns STAR In DOE's Voluntary Protection Program

B&W Pantex learned today that the site has earned STAR status in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) – a program designed to recognize the outstanding performance of a DOE contractor's safety program.

“We are extremely pleased with this announcement,” said John Woolery, B&W Pantex President and General Manager. “We have performed at a level worthy of the STAR for a number of years, and it is rewarding to know that the DOE agrees and has recognized our efforts.”

B&W Pantex has the best safety performance record among the National Nuclear Security Administration's manufacturing sites and recently received the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award from the National Safety Council (NSC).

DOE formed the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) in an effort to improve the health and safety of its 130,000 employees and contractors. Its mission is to improve employee safety and the safe operation of DOE sites. HSS oversees the VPP.

B&W Pantex formed an employee committee in May 2008 to develop the application for the VPP program. The eight committee members represented employees from across the plant. The committee was able to document existing operational strengths and focus on improvement opportunities. The application was submitted to the DOE in early October 2009.

An eight-member DOE lead VPP onsite review team arrived at Pantex February 16 to ensure the accuracy of the application, inspect the facility and to randomly interview plant employees.

Earning the STAR is just the beginning of the VPP process. B&W Pantex must maintain its already high standard for safe performance at the plant and demonstrate management's commitment to continuous improvement. A DOE review team will conduct an annual evaluation.

General information about the DOE's VPP program can be found at:
<http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/wsha/vpp/index.html>.

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B&W Pantex manages and operates the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. B&W Pantex is also the proud recipient of the DOE's Voluntary Protection Program STAR status for safety excellence. The company was also named one of America's safest companies by Occupational Hazards magazine and has received numerous awards from the National Safety Council.