

Pantex NEWS

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

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Pantex Nominated for Presidential Award

Work with migratory birds nets U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service award nomination

This month, the Pantex Plant was nominated by the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration for an award in recognition of its efforts to protect migratory birds.

Pantex will represent the DOE/NNSA in the competition for the 2012 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award, which has been administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 2011. Each federal agency is eligible to nominate one project or action conducted by or in partnership with a Federal agency that meets the intent and spirit of Executive Order 13186 by focusing on migratory bird conservation.

“It is an honor just to be nominated for this award,” said Johnnie Guelker, Pantex Site Office (PXSO) Assistant Manager for Environmental & Site Engineering Programs. “We are proud to represent the DOE and NNSA in this competition and proud that our migratory bird conservation efforts have been recognized through this nomination.”

The site’s work with migratory birds began to evolve in 2002, and over the years has included efforts to protect Western Burrowing Owls, Purple Martins and migratory birds that may be affected by wind energy development. Work is proposed and coordinated by James D. Ray, Pantex Plant wildlife biologist, with support from PXSO.

Since 2002, more than 8,500 nestling martins have been banded throughout northwest Texas and western Oklahoma under the program. In 2010, Pantex wrote and secured a grant from the Purple Martin Conservation Association for West Texas A&M University to develop “An Automated Method for Using Archived NEXRAD Radar Images to Locate Pre-Migratory Roosts of Eastern Purple Martins on the Western Terminus of Their Range.”

In 2008, protective devices were installed on 500 new utility poles at Pantex to help protect raptors from electrocution.

Currently, a multifaceted project is evaluating the effects of wind energy development on migratory birds. This program includes a contract with WT and has resulted in the development of a comprehensive literature review on the impacts of wind energy on wildlife, and the initiation of pre- and post-turbine monitoring of migratory birds. This project also involves surveys of plots for

The logo for Pantex NEWS. The word "Pantex" is written in a large, bold, red, italicized sans-serif font. A white orbital ring with a small grey sphere at its center orbits the letter "P". The word "NEWS" is written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font to the right of "Pantex".

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wintering and migrating raptors, surveys of plots in different habitat types during the breeding season for birds and nests, and radio tracking of Swainson's hawks.

Taken together, the different actions involved in the Migratory Bird Program present a picture of a site that is dedicated to going beyond the minimum federal mandates of migratory birds.

"The environment and all the animals that live in it are critical considerations for us every day at Pantex," said Bill Mairson, division manager for the Environment, Safety and Health Division at B&W Pantex. "We feel honored to be able to work in such a beautiful environment, and we feel protecting that environment and all its inhabitants has to be a top priority for us."

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 Superior 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.

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