

F A C I L I T Y

SAFETY

& NEWS

Volume 6

TA-55 Nuclear Materials Technology Bulletin

Nov/Dec 1993

MANAGEMENT UPDATE

**Matthews Named Director
of NMT Division**

"With our talented employees, outstanding facilities, and clear mission to help solve the world's plutonium problem and reduce nuclear danger, NMT division has a bright future. Whether it be for stockpile surveillance, nuclear materials stewardship, radioactive residue cleanup, or space nuclear power, our nuclear materials capabilities at TA-55 will play a key role in the emerging vision at Los Alamos."



Bruce Matthews

Bruce Matthews has been selected as the new capability director of the Nuclear Materials Technology Division. He is one of the 23 new capability directors selected as part of the Laboratory restructuring. He officially began his duties on November 8, but he spent several weeks before this trying to talk to as many TA-55 employees as possible, either in groups or individually. He already knows many people at TA-55 from his years of work at the Facility. For those who do not know Bruce, his varied background may provide an insight into the perspective he will be bringing to us.

Bruce recently returned to Los Alamos after a two-year assignment in Washington D.C. where he provided technical support to the Office of Space at the Department of Energy. When he returned, he became program manager for plutonium technologies in the Nuclear Materials Program Office. He has been leading the NMT Division strategic planning team, coordinating the Technical Task Plans for the DOE Stockpile Support Program, and writing a book chapter on space fuels.

Before he went to Washington, Bruce served for four years as the Group Leader of NMT-1, the Nuclear Fuels Technology Group at TA-55, where he led the SP-100 Space Nuclear Power Program. Bruce came to work at the Laboratory in 1980 from Pacific Northwest Laboratories. He has also worked at Atomic Energy of Canada.

Bruce received a BS in metallurgy from Pennsylvania State University, an M.S. in materials science from the University of Denver, and a Ph.D. in materials science from the University of Wales. He is the author or co-author of over fifty technical articles and reports on various aspects of reactor fuels and materials.

Bruce and his wife Joan have six children, one girl and five boys, ranging in age from 24 to 7. Bruce says, "I'm sort of an early starter and late finisher." Bruce skis in the winter, runs rivers in the spring and summer, and patches his house in the fall. ♦

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The Facility Safety & News Bulletin provides safety information and facility news to TA-55 employees. It also seeks to recognize workers who contribute to the safe operation of the facility.

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

**Bruce expects
employees to**

1. be a part of the change while being patient during the change.
2. be honest and open (say what is on your mind).
3. have a commitment to do real work.
4. be willing to take risks, and
5. recognize the contributions of each other.

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY



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SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

Keith Axler, NMT-3, won the first place safety award for September. Keith has recognized a potential design error in the Eberline FM-G hand and foot monitor that is used at stations 403 and 404. He has discovered that there is no detection capability for the large part of the hand that is used to depress the switch. Thus, a contaminated user of this machine could get a false reading (sizable contamination could exist on the blade of the hands which would not be detected), and other personnel who use the machine could be cross-contaminated. Keith's concern is recognized by the FSC, and the problem will be discussed with HS-1 personnel for corrective actions.

September-Keith Axler



Second place was awarded to **Tom Ricketts, NMT-2**. Tom has suggested that the faucets and toilets in some areas of the facility, such as the change rooms of PF-4, be converted to the relatively new infrared-activated fixtures. He believes this change would help the facility stay abreast of state-of-the-art technologies with continuous quality improvements and would (1) increase contamination control, (2) decrease "grey water waste, and (3) decrease maintenance costs. No third place was awarded in September.

One award was given in October, and it was a special award. **Edward "Rusty" Guillen of HS-1** received a letter of commendation from the room supervisors in Room 429 commending him for his professionalism and technical competence in performing his duties. The TA-55 Safety Office and the Facility Safety Committee decided Rusty should receive a special safety award for October.

October - Edward "Rusty" Guillan



The room supervisors commended Rusty for the healthy respect he has for radiation and the care he exercises in this respect. The safety of personnel and operational safety are foremost in Rusty's thoughts and actions, and he does not hesitate to prevent or temporarily halt any job if he has concerns. The room supervisors respect his judgment, his knowledge of room operations, his leadership ability, and his planning skills.

Rusty's outstanding work is an example of the valuable contributions made by HS-1 to the operation of TA-55. ♦

How can you or a coworker be considered for a safety award?

- Place your entry in a Safety Suggestion/Action box;
- Give your entry to an FSC member; or
- Mail your entry to the Safety Office (E500) or drop it off (PF-1, Room 142).

Prizes:

Prizes are first place \$50.00, second place \$25.00, and third place \$10.00. Prize money goes toward the purchase of safety-related equipment for the personal use of the winner.

Awards are given for safety posters also, if they are chosen for display. For poster awards, either an idea in words or a sketch is acceptable.

Call the Safety Office (7-2556) for more information. ♦

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Forty NMT Employees Retire
 in November**

TA-55 is missing some familiar faces. Forty NMT employees took advantage of the VERIP-3 early retirement incentive. Managers and fellow workers acknowledged the contributions of these employees at retirement parties on October 25 and 26 in the TA-55 Auditorium. Refreshments were served to the retirees-to-be and those who came to wish them well. The names of those retiring are listed below.

- H. Gene Moore, NMT-1
- S. Fred Marsh, NMT-2
- Clifford W. Mills, NMT-2
- Allan G. Nicol, NMT-2
- Joseph A. Roybal, NMT-2
- Peter D. Shalek, NMT-2
- Jimmie D. Torres, NMT-2
- Richard A. Dye, NMT-3
- Myrna P. Marsteller, NMT-3
- Gerald A. Schreiber, NMT-3
- Cecil W. Thorn, NMT-3
- Katherine L. Camp, NMT-4
- Elipio Garcia, NMT-4
- Gregory M. Kelley, NMT-4
- Paul L. Montoya, NMT-4
- William A. Sedlacek, NMT-4
- Raymond P. Wagner, NMT-4
- Joyce A. Zogg, NMT-4
- Edward J. Andolsek, NMT-5
- Harold C. Archuleta, NMT-5

- Betty L. Rivera, NMT-5
- Bobby A. Dye, NMT-6
- Ronald C. Kennedy, NMT-6
- Barbara Connellee, NMT-8
- G. Don Crocker, NMT-8
- Benjimen Herrera, NMT-8
- James L. Lehmann, NMT-8
- A. Harry Lochabay, NMT-8
- Jose W. Mascarenas, NMT-8
- Charles Mikkelson, NMT-8
- Rafael G. Ortiz, NMT-8
- Charles H. Smith, NMT-8
- Ronald G. Stafford, NMT-8
- Richard Stallings, NMT-8
- Floyd L. Vinton, NMT-8
- Donald L. Zickert, NMT-8
- Eli O. Fraser, NMT-9
- Bertha T. Sandoval, NMT-9
- Roy W. Zocher, NMT-9
- C. Jan DeField, NMT-10 ♦



TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

Ergonomic Software Now Available for Your Workstation

The Laboratory has obtained a site-license for the use of the ergonomics software called "Lifeguard." This software is for those who sit for prolonged periods at computer workstations. It has proven itself to be very effective in preventing Cumulative Trauma Disorders and has been successfully implemented at Sandia National Laboratory. It is available for use on DOS, Mac, or Windows.

The "Lifeguard" software program includes the following features:

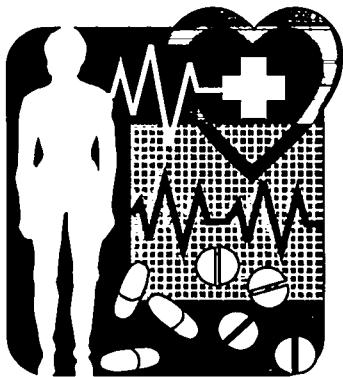
- It will prompt you at intervals to take a break from your computer tasks and do other things for a while.

- It provides you with exercise diagrams specifically chosen to help prevent injuries/illnesses associated with computer workstations, such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Tendonitis, Tenosynovitis, and Lateral Epicondylitis (Tennis Elbow).



- It has workstation diagrams to help you set up your workstation correctly.

This software is available at no cost to your group. Susan Carlson in NMT-DO has a copy on her computer and would be happy to show you what it looks like. If you want a copy, contact the TA-55 Safety Office or Greg Rowell, HS-5's ergonomics specialist, at 5-4427. Greg says, "This software takes less than five minutes to install, so let's distribute and use it!" ♦



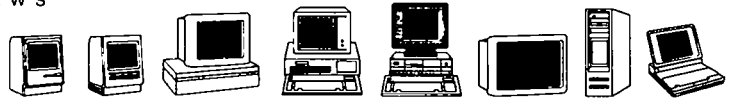
Health Services Change at TA-55

Jan Croasdell, nurse at TA-55 since 1984, has retired. According to Dr. Williams, group leader of HS-2, nursing services will continue at TA-55 but will not be exactly as they were in the past. Like the rest of the Laboratory, HS-2 is making some major changes in the way it does business. They were hard-hit by the early retirements, and it will take three to six months to rebuild personnel resources. They would also like to give nurses the opportunity to do more job rotation. Job rotation provides the cross training required to deliver quality service even when the nursing staff changes. Site visitation will still be a part of the program, and Dr. Williams assures us that TA-55 will not be left "high and dry." ♦

GYNOT



FACILITY SECURITY PROCEDURES



Unclassified Computer Media Will Be Target of DOE Return Audit in December

When DOE audited the Laboratory last June, they were not satisfied with the way unclassified computer media was being handled. As a matter of fact, NMT division had a finding because some of our *sensitive* computer media was not labeled correctly. If you work with *sensitive* information on the computer, you must follow the same rules for marking and storing it as you would for hard copies.

DOE is coming back for a follow-up audit during the week of December 13 - 17. You can prepare by answering the following questions.

What are the rules about marking and storing unclassified information?

The Laboratory has rules for marking, handling, protecting, and destroying unclassified (both sensitive and nonsensitive) information. You can find these rules in the Laboratory Office Procedures Manual (OPM) Section 1-1. Your group office has a copy of this manual.

Do I work with sensitive unclassified information on the computer?

Chances are you do! Sensitive information is unclassified information, but it includes such things as UCNI, SNM tracking information, legal, budget, and financial information, official use only documents, like incident reports, information covered under the privacy act, proprietary information, limited access information, and payroll information.

In other words, if it's nobody's business except for those working directly with the information, it's probably sensitive.

How do I apply the rules to my computer files?

Once you know what kind of information you have and what the rules are, you can apply the rules to your computer files. Mark your disks and safeguard your computer files just as you would hard copies. If you have questions or run into problems, call Dave McNeese, the TA-55 Organizational Computer Security Representative (OCSR), at 7-5226 or Kathy Padgett from OS-4, the computer security group, at 5-1808. ♦

Roy Hopwood Leads JCI Efforts at TA-55

Roy Hopwood, the acting JCI facility manager for TA-55, came to Los Alamos after high school graduation. He lived with his sister and brother-in-law and worked for Reynolds Electric as an apprentice electrician. He gradually moved up through the ranks to his current position of superintendent with JCI.

He has been authorized by JCI as the *single management contact for all JCI activities performed at TA-55*. He is also accountable for the work performance of all JCI personnel working here. JCI crews at TA-55 are now assigned solely to the Facility, rather than rotating to other locations. These crews include close to 50 craft people and 21 custodians.

A "Plan of the Day" meeting each morning determines what JCI will be working in that day. The meeting includes representatives from

- NMT division management,
- those who have pending work requests,
- NMT-8 facility management,
- ENG work order control, and
- Roy, along with planners from JCI.

They look at the work and decide what should have the priority for the day. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure fairness and still provide a way of prioritizing work by facility need.

Roy said most JCI people enjoy working at TA-55 because of the feeling of being a part of a family. The current move to assign JCI crews to specific sites promotes this feeling.

At Ta-55, JCI employees are a valuable part of the operation of the facility. Roy can be reached at 5-1951 or 104-1198. ♦

NEWS SPECIAL

A Message from Del

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the support that you have given me in our efforts to make TA-55 the preeminent Plutonium Facility in the nation. As you and I are well aware, this has not been an easy task given the ever-changing expectations and missions that we have experienced over the last decade. I would like nothing more than to be able to assure you that all of your dedication and hard work have finally paid off and that we will never have any more changes ahead. I cannot do that, but I do believe that many of the changes that in the past simply brought more and more frustrations on all of us can now be more under our control.



Del Harbur

As we transition to the new Laboratory management system, our leader will be part of the Laboratory management team, and will be in a position to assure that new Laboratory polices have strong input during the formulation stage from each of us.

It will be ever more important that we all openly communicate not only our problems and frustrations, but to actively work with one another to develop the solutions.

It is a fact of life that there will always be barriers that must be overcome to reach our goals and develop solutions. We are experts at dealing with these barriers in our scientific work. We routinely overcome the barriers by saying, "This is what I did to overcome and achieve success!" The same thing will work as we work together to develop solutions to the administrative barriers that have unduly frustrated us in the past "This is what I did to overcome the barrier and achieve success." This is true empowerment. But it will only work if we help develop the solutions and communicate them to our leaders.

Many of you have asked me what I will be doing in the future. I appreciate the concerns that you have expressed and want to assure you that I will continue to do all that I can to do my part in making TA-55 the kind of place that we can all be proud of and enjoy working at. I am confident that under the leadership of Bruce Matthews, and with the help of all of us, we will continue on our path toward excellence. ♦

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NMT Division
P.O. Box 1663, MS E500
Los Alamos,
New Mexico 87545
(505) 667-2556

Director of NMT
Bruce Matthews
Acting Deputy Director
Dana Christensen

Bulletin Staff:
Pete Wallace Safety Officer
Joan Farnum, IS-1 Editor
Susan Carlson, IS-1 .. Designer
Joe Riedel Photographer

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NATIONAL LABORATORY

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