

PanTEX NEIGHBORHOOD

A Consolidated Nuclear Security/National Nuclear Security Administration publication

Pantex Plant News • October 2016

We sincerely hope 2015 was a great year for you. We are more than halfway through 2016, and as usual, there is a lot of activity going on here at Pantex.

By now, you've probably heard about the new Administrative Support Complex to be constructed south of the Plant, near the Highway 60 and FM 2373 junction. It is going to be a stunning addition to the area, and you can read more about it on page four of this newsletter.



Pantex Administrative Support Complex.



On June 22nd, a head-on freight train crash occurred near the town of Panhandle.

keep you informed as to what's going on. It's the same practice to let you know when we're conducting non-nuclear, high-explosives testing.

Most importantly, we encourage you to contact us at 806-477-6032 if you have any questions, or if there are subjects you would like to see us address in future newsletters. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) operates the Pantex Plant, located in Amarillo, Texas, and the Y-12 National Security Complex, located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, under a single contract for the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration. Pantex and Y-12 are key facilities in the U.S. Nuclear Security Enterprise, and CNS performs its work with a focus on the absolute priorities of safety, security, quality, mission delivery and cost efficiency.

For more information on each site, visit <http://www.pantex.com/Pages/default.aspx> or <http://www.y12.doe.gov/>. Follow Pantex on Facebook, and Twitter.

Some of our emergency services were recently put to the test following the train wreck in Panhandle, Texas. Just moments after the accident, Pantex Fire Department and Emergency Management personnel responded to help our neighbors.

We have a memorandum of understanding with area emergency responders, so whether it's a major accident or a grass fire that's getting out of hand, our responders stand by at the ready, eager to help our surrounding neighbors and communities.

We train throughout the year with emergency drills; we always will contact you to

Pantex Cleanup Action Progress

Since the approved Cleanup Action started in 2009, Pantex has made significant progress toward cleaning up the perched groundwater. We continue to protect the Ogallala Aquifer by removing affected groundwater that could migrate to the Ogallala, and by treating or removing contaminants from the water.

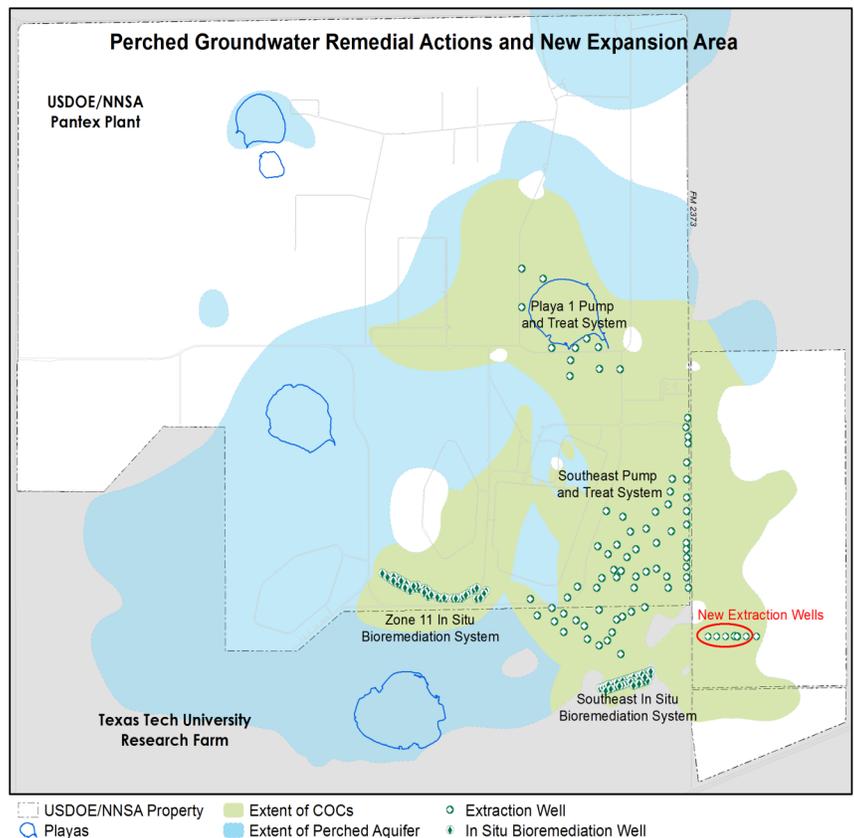
To continually evaluate the protectiveness of the cleanup, we sample 31 Ogallala Aquifer wells and analyze more than 1,600 constituents each year. The evaluation of groundwater samples indicate all constituents of concern are below safe drinking water levels. The quarterly and annual progress reports provide detailed information of the cleanup progress and monitoring results. More information about the monitoring and evaluation of cleanup progress is available in the annual Pantex Site Environmental reports online. (<http://www.pantex.com/mission/Pages/Environmental-Cleanup-Documents.aspx>, <http://www.pantex.com/mission/Pages/environmental-projects-operations.aspx>). Pantex also holds annual public meetings in Panhandle, the first Monday in November.

Highlights of Cleanup Actions

- 1.5 billion gallons of perched groundwater treated and beneficially used
- 13,100 pounds of contaminants removed from perched groundwater
- Perched water levels are continuing to steadily decline
- Bioremediation systems are reducing high explosives, perchlorate, and TCE to safe drinking water levels
- 18,200 pounds of solvents removed from soils by the Soil Vapor Extraction System

Continuous improvement of Cleanup Actions

Through continual review and reporting of the cleanup actions, Pantex identifies improvements that would better address the contamination in perched groundwater in specific areas. Another way Pantex continues to protect people and the environment is by expanding the current pump and treat operations east of FM2373 in 2017. Based on studies done in 2014 and 2015, Pantex will expand a line of extraction wells (see figure) to an area where there is sufficient water to pump and where high-explosive (primarily RDX) contaminated groundwater continues on a southeast trek, which will reduce contamination, moving water, and prevent downward migration to the Ogallala Aquifer. Pantex will also begin a natural attenuation study in 2016 to determine where and how RDX is breaking down in the perched groundwater. This information can be used to determine if natural processes will reduce RDX to safe drinking water levels and to determine if there may be ways to enhance those natural processes.



Why not attend our Environmental Stewardship Annual Meeting?

Did you know you can attend annual meetings about Pantex's long-term environmental stewardship efforts? Join us November 7, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Square House Museum in Panhandle.

Pantex neighbors are invited to discuss everything from cleanup actions and groundwater remedial action, to activities planned for the upcoming fiscal year. Hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, the NNSA Production Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Environmental



Pantex's Tony Biggs addresses stewardship efforts.

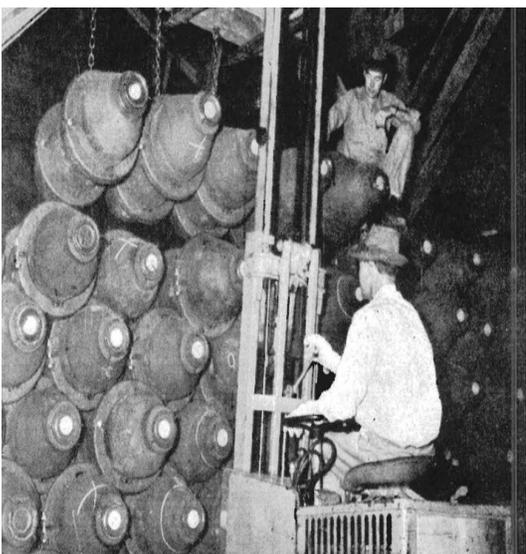


Tony Biggs leads the Q&A session of the meeting.

Protection Agency, the meeting allows neighbors and other interested parties the chance to learn about environmental actions at the Plant and to ask questions.

If you would like more information on the annual meeting, which takes place on the first Monday each November, and how you can become an active part in the discussions, please contact our Public Affairs office at (806) 477-6032.

Your input is important to us, and we want to share with you the environmental impact and efforts being made at Pantex.



Pantex workers demonstrate how casings are handled quicker and easier with a hoist. Circa June, 1943.

Contacting You for High Explosives Tests & Emergency Warnings

The high explosives (HE) history at Pantex stretches back to World War II, when the Plant manufactured munitions for the war effort. Today, our HE experts work confidently with explosives, following strict safety procedures, taking precautions to protect themselves, their co-workers, and the public.

You may have noticed that we now use an automated system to notify our neighbors about HE testing. In addition to HE tests and security tactical training, we also contact the public when testing our emergency sirens.

For more information or to be added to the automated notification list, contact Pantex Public Affairs at (806) 477-6032.

Pantex named as a finalist for National Conservation Award



A Swainson's hawk is fitted with a GPS transmitter.

The Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds recently named Pantex Plant a finalist for their 2016 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award to acknowledge the Plant's conservancy efforts with migratory birds.

The Council was established in 2009 and serves to enhance coordination and communication among Federal agencies and builds upon the progress that has been made in recent years on conservation of migratory birds.

Pantex initiated a comprehensive research program of multiyear projects based on collaborative partnerships of regional, hemispheric, and global scopes. Partnerships include Texas Tech and West Texas A&M Universities, the Universities of Manitoba and York in Canada, the Purple Martin Conservation Association, Disney Worldwide Fund, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and many property owners and volunteers.

Pantex biologist Jim Ray has further promoted migratory birds through 30 additional publications, presentations, various media outlets, and an innovative outreach program responsible for the banding of approximately 10,000 purple martins in two states. In addition, protective devices were installed on more than 500 utility poles to protect raptors from electrocution; this practice was promoted to other agency sites.

Pantex and members of the Texas Tech University Research Farm capped dozens of open-topped pipe-fence posts across 18,000 acres to protect small birds. Pantex routinely recommends opportunities to U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration, which has resulted in agency sponsorship of a Raptor Research Foundation conference.

Administrative Support Complex to be Constructed

Representatives from Congress, the U.S. Department of Energy, and other distinguished national, state, and local leaders recently joined leaders from Consolidated Nuclear Security for a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction for the new Administrative Support Complex.

The complex is designed to provide a modern administrative and support facility for the weapons mission at Pantex and relocate employees from aging facilities that have proved functionally and technologically challenging.

The nearly 343,000-square-foot facility will provide office space for up to 1,100 employees in an environmentally friendly and energy-efficient workplace for general office space, a conference center, cafeteria, visitor's center, and medical facilities.



Pantex Administrative Support Complex.