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# DOE WINS ACHP CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

On May 13, 2008, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman John L. Nau, III, presented the Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation to the Department of Energy "for its exemplary efforts to preserve, interpret, and share sites and history related to the Manhattan Project," and particularly for DOE's effort to make accessible the "Signature Facilities" of the Manhattan Project to the extent compatible with the Department's ongoing missions and security requirements at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington.



DOE FPO Skip Gosling and DOE Senior Policy Official Ingrid Kolb receive the ACHP Chairman's Award from Chairman John L. Nau.

"There is no doubt," Chairman Nau said, "that World War II was one of the key events not only of the 20th century, but of human history. The story of the Manhattan Project is absolutely essential to understanding that event."

Accepting the award on behalf of DOE were Ingrid Kolb, director of the Office of Management and Administration, and Skip Gosling, DOE's chief historian and federal preservation officer. In her remarks, Kolb thanked the Council and encouraged audience members to cross the National Mall and visit the museum-class Manhattan Project exhibit installed in the lobby of the Department's headquarters building during a renovation completed under her direction to coincide with the Department's 30th anniversary. In his remarks, Gosling said that the Department deserved credit for its efforts to preserve sites under its stewardship associated with the Manhattan Project but emphasized that the award would not have been possible without the contributions of its numerous preservation partners. He thanked the ACHP for its longstanding partnership with DOE to develop strategies for Manhattan Project preservation, and he singled out his principal ACHP "partner in crime" Tom McCulloch for providing him with 15 years of on-the-job training. He also thanked the state historic preservation officers of Tennessee, New Mexico, and Washington, all of whom received partnership certificates for their roles in the preservation and interpretation of these sites. Also receiving a partnership

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certificate was the National Park Service for its support of "Signature Facilities" initiatives and for its work on the potential creation of a Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

Gosling also singled out those in the "trenches," the cultural resource staff members—both federal and contractor—at the sites, who have received no awards but whose hard work and persistence made the Chairman's Award possible.

## OAK RIDGE HOSTS ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE FOR MEETING AND SECRET CITY FESTIVAL

On June 19-20, 2008, the Energy Communities Alliance ([www.energyca.org](http://www.energyca.org)) convened a meeting hosted by the City of Oak Ridge to discuss issues associated with historic preservation and heritage tourism, with the primary focus on DOE's Manhattan Project sites. There were presentations by representatives of Oak Ridge, Hanford, and Los Alamos, as well as community members from Savannah River, Dayton, and Idaho. Oak Ridge Office Manager Gerald Boyd and the National Nuclear Security Administration Y-12 Manager Ted Sherry also made remarks. Among others in attendance were Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan and Oak Ridge City Manager Jim O'Connor.



Oak Ridge Office Manager Gerald Boyd and Oak Ridge City Council Member Jane Miller listen as City of Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan makes a point.

Topics included the National Park Service special resource study that is evaluating "a range of reasonable alternatives for NPS involvement" in some type of national park or other management approach for public interpretation of DOE's Manhattan Project sites. Attendees expressed concern that the study was behind schedule, and some stated that they had heard unofficially that the Park Service was likely to eliminate from consideration an option for full NPS management. The FPO, directed by the Deputy Secretary to participate on the Park Service study team, made a presentation stating that DOE had expressed reservations about the potential range of alternatives but stressed that no final decisions had yet been made.

The City of Oak Ridge discussed its \$150,000 award under the Preserve America initiative to support historic preservation activities as related to the City's involvement with having been host to a Manhattan Project site. The sister



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cities of Hanford and Los Alamos expressed interest in exploring similar awards. The meeting broke up at midday on the 20th so that participants could attend Oak Ridge's 6th edition of the prize-winning "Secret City Festival," (<http://secretcityfestival.com/>) celebrated each June and offering reenactments, plays, rides, and tours of selected historic facilities on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

# HANFORD'S B REACTOR NAMED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

On August 19, 2008, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne signed a proclamation designating the B Reactor at DOE's Hanford Site in southeast Washington State as a National Historic Landmark. On August 25, Acting Deputy Secretary of Energy Jeff Kupfer and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett participated in an event at the B Reactor announcing the designation and unveiling plans for DOE to increase public access to the site during the 2009 tourist season.

The B Reactor, built during 1943-44 as part of the Manhattan Project, was the world's first industrial-scale nuclear reactor and produced plutonium for the Trinity Test near Alamogordo, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945, that marks the beginning of the nuclear age. B Reactor also produced plutonium for the atomic bomb used in the attack on Nagasaki that helped end World War II. B Reactor operated as part of the Hanford production reactor complex along the Columbia River until 1968.

The effort to save B Reactor from being dismantled and to preserve it as a historic landmark with public access dates back many years and involves too many participants to name. Five of Hanford's nine plutonium production reactors have been dismantled and "cocooned" as part of a closure contract covering cleanup of Hanford's 210-square-mile Columbia River Corridor, and B Reactor could have undergone this process as early as 2009. However, in March 2008, Deputy Secretary Clay Sell signed a policy directive to support preservation of the B Reactor that required the reactor to be maintained in a state that preserves its historical significance. In a press release issued on August 25, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman John L. Nau, III, praised the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior for seeking and celebrating the designation of B Reactor as a National Historic Landmark: "The story of the Manhattan Project is absolutely essential to understanding [World War II], and Hanford is one of the key experiences remaining to us."



Acting Deputy Secretary of Energy Jeff Kupfer and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett listen to retired Hanford engineer Paul Vinther during a tour of B Reactor. Behind and to the right is Keith Dunbar, Chief of Planning, Pacific Region (Seattle), National Park Service.



**Thanks to:**

Savannah River Site,  
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# NATIONAL TRUST AWARDS NATIONAL PRESERVATION AWARD FOR V-SITE RESTORATION

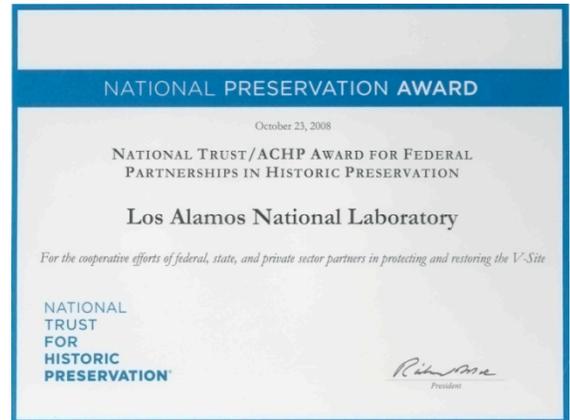
On October 23, 2008, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded DOE, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Atomic Heritage Foundation the National Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation "for the cooperative efforts of federal, state and private sector partners in protecting and restoring the V-Site." The restoration of V-Site, one of the Department of Energy's Manhattan Project "Signature Facilities," successfully

concluded an effort that began in the late 1990s to protect V-Site from demolition and to preserve the site associated with the assembly and testing of the "gadget" detonated at the Trinity Test that gave birth to the atomic age and with the Fat Man plutonium weapon dropped on Nagasaki that helped end



Left to Right: Richard Moe, President of the National Trust; Vicki Loucks, DOE Los Alamos Site Office; Cindy Kelly, Atomic Heritage Foundation; Ellen McGehee and John Isaacson, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Errin Herridge of Crocker Ltd. (the architectural conservation firm that consulted on the project); Susan S. Barnes, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Katherine Slick, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer; and J. Clifford Hudson, Chairman, Board of Trustees of the National Trust.

World War II. Located away from the main laboratory for safety and security reasons, the V-Site consisted of a cluster of wooden buildings built in January 1944 as a high explosives handling and assembly facility. V-Site was one of the most secret areas of the Manhattan Project. Few records exist to document activities at the site. Photographs were prohibited, and the area was hidden behind a "no-peek" fence.



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## Cultural Resources Links

[Office of History and Heritage Resources Homepage](#)  
*Histories, chronologies, photographs, museums, and more.*

[Office of History and Heritage Resources Historic Preservation Information central for DOE historic preservation activities.](#)

[Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Historic preservation news and information at the national level.](#)

# PUBLIC TOURS AT SAVANNAH RIVER

During March 2009, the Savannah River Site opened its gates to the general public for three-hour tours departing from the Aiken County Center for Hydrogen Research campus near the site. Like numerous DOE sites, Savannah River has long had mission-related tours for visiting DOE officials, members of Congress and local state and government members, and others having official business on the site. The initiation of "inside the fence" tours provides an opportunity for the interested public to see facilities associated with SRS's Cold War mission and current programs. With the completion of the initial round of tours, an evaluation now will take place to consider the feasibility of future tours, perhaps on a permanent basis.



Savannah River Site tour attendees board the bus for their three-hour tour.

The drive-by tours include the major areas that were part of SRS's mission to produce tritium and plutonium for nuclear weapons production that began with a major expansion of the Atomic Energy Commission's nuclear weapons complex in the early 1950s: M Area, which produced fuel rods and target rods for the production reactors; R reactor, the first production reactor to go critical (1953); and F Area, one of the two chemical separations areas. Also included is S Area, location of the Defense Waste Processing Facility, the largest glassification plant in the world, which converts high-level nuclear waste liquids that were produced during the chemical separations process into a solid glass form for long-term storage. For more details on the SRS tours:

<http://www5.hanford.gov/srstours/>

Of particular interest is the inclusion on the tours of drive-bys of Ellenton and Dumbarton, two of the six towns and small communities that the Atomic Energy Commission relocated to make room for Savannah River.

For more on the history of the Savannah River site:

<http://www.srs.gov/general/about/history1.htm>

## REMEMBER THE ACHP

Remember to visit the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation web site (<http://www.achp.gov/>) regularly for valuable information on training courses,



## Upcoming Meetings and Conferences:

Society for American Archaeology 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, April 14-18, 2010

regulatory guidance, and the latest legislative developments. Recent news includes President Obama's signing of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, which permanently authorizes both the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures programs. You can download the ACHP's "Consultation with Indian Tribes in the Section 106 Process: A Handbook" and the 2009 Section 3 (Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*) Report to the President on the federal government's stewardship of its historic properties. "In a Spirit of Stewardship" includes a case study on the Department of Energy's "Manhattan Project Preservation Efforts" on page 57 with a photo of the restored V-Site at Los Alamos. And, in the appendix on pages 102-03, you can see a performance spreadsheet showing that DOE is among the minority of federal agencies in full compliance with the *Preserve America* Executive Order. Requests for published copies of "In a Spirit of Stewardship" can be made directly to the Council.

There is also considerable information on the ACHP web site concerning ARRA (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009). While the goal of ARRA is to inject considerable funding into the economy as rapidly as possible, **the regular legal requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act apply to ARRA-funded projects.** On February 18, 2009, the Office of Management and Budget issued guidance on ARRA for Executive Branch agencies and clarified in Section 1.6 that funds be distributed in accordance with "The National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA], the National Historic Preservation Act, and related statutes, including requirements for plans and projects to be reviewed and documented in accordance with those processes."

## STATUS OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MANHATTAN PROJECT STUDY

In September 2008, the NPS study team submitted a draft Environmental Assessment to NPS headquarters in Washington, DC, as part of implementation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act, PL 108-340. At the direction of the Deputy Secretary, the FPO has participated on the study team to fulfill the requirement that the Secretary of the Interior consult with the Secretary of Energy on implementation of the Act.



Once the NPS Washington office completes a policy review of the draft EA, they will issue a permission to print memorandum, at which point the document will be published for public comment. Another round of public meetings will then be held. Following this final round of public meetings, public comment will be incorporated and the FONSI (finding of no significant impact) prepared. The director of the National Park Service will transmit the document to the Secretary of the Interior, who will subsequently submit it to Congress with a recommendation of the most effective and efficient management option.



## Contact Us

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# TOURING THE B REACTOR AT HANFORD

On March 28, 2009, a new and expanded public access program at B Reactor began with two pilot tours. The initiation of this program fulfilled commitments DOE's Office of Environmental Management made following a briefing with Under Secretary Bud Albright on July 1, 2008, at which Albright directed EM to increase access to B Reactor beginning with the 2009 tour season. The FPO and Deputy FPO participated in this briefing (during which there also was discussion of the National Park Service Manhattan Project study).



Visitors listen to Hanford historian Michele Gerber as she describes how B Reactor was fueled and operated.

DOE worked with an area radio station to give away 75 tour tickets, and the phone lines were jammed. Some learned of the giveaway from friends and relatives and were calling from the other side of Washington State and other parts of the Northwest. At the inaugural tours, a handful of original Manhattan Project workers were in attendance and shared their personal stories. Among them was Dee McCullough, who worked with famed physicist Enrico Fermi and was at B Reactor when it went critical for the first time in September 1944.

DOE will continue intermittent Saturday public tours of B Reactor from April until October. The two-hour tours are free and open to everyone, including foreign nationals, 18 and older. DOE and contractor Fluor Hanford are working to make available additional areas inside the reactor, new displays, and other features in time for the 2010 tour program. In addition, safety issues associated with the current 18 year old requirement are being studied in hopes of lowering the age limit by the 2010 season.

## FEDERAL ARCHEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

The Archeological Resources Protection Act requires the Department of Interior (DOI) to prepare an annual Report to Congress on the impact of federal agency programs and activities on the nation's archeological heritage. This *Secretary's Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program* provides important summary information about activities that the Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal agencies carry out as part of their stewardship responsibilities for archeological resources.



Since 1985, DOI has solicited information regarding federal archeological activities through the "Federal Archeological Activities Questionnaire." The data obtained from the questionnaire is used by DOI as the basis for its reports to Congress and also by other federal agencies and organizations. DOE has provided a response to the Questionnaire since 1988. (See related article in May 2007 edition of *Partners in Preservation*.)

DOI asks the headquarters office of each agency to compile an agency-wide response to the questionnaire, summarizing numerical information collected from its regions, districts, or other divisions. Because DOE does not maintain centralized cultural resource management records at its headquarters, the only way that an agency-wide response can be prepared is with input from as many program and site offices as possible. Thus, the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security, collects individual responses from DOE offices and sites and prepares a composite DOE report that it submits to the DOI.

The Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance distributed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 DOI questionnaire to the designated cultural resource personnel on November 10, 2008. Andrew Lawrence, Director, Office of Nuclear Safety, Quality Assurance and Environment, sent a formal request for participation on December 1, 2008, to specific DOE program offices and sites. Twenty-three DOE sites or offices responded to the request for information, most of them providing both quantitative and narrative responses.

The Department's response to the FY 2008 questionnaire showcases the significance that DOE land has to the nation's archeological heritage. Highlights of the quantitative responses include DOE's having:

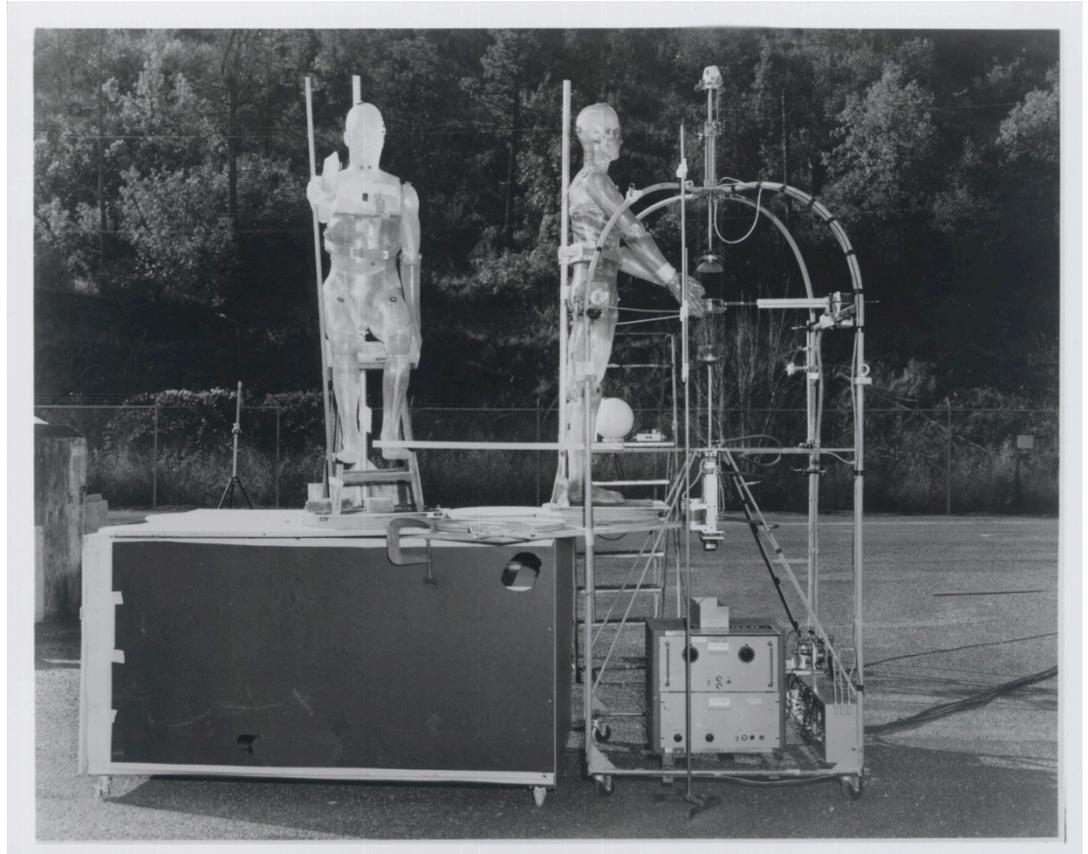
- conducted archeological database and file searches, literature reviews, or map checks for 1,162 undertakings or projects;
- inventoried 20,360 acres to identify and evaluate archeological sites;
- identified 470 new archeological sites;
- finished 90 National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 actions involving archeological sites;
- stabilized, rehabilitated, monitored, or protected (e.g., with anti-vandalism signs, fences, road closures) 337 archeological sites; and
- completed 184 grey literature reports (e.g., Section 106 compliance reports) about archeological resources either on private or public lands.

DOE's collective agency response to the FY 2008 questionnaire is posted on the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance website at: <http://homer.ornl.gov/nuclearsafety/env/cultural/documents/>. The website also contains DOE's response to the FY 2007 questionnaire.

Please contact Beverly Whitehead of the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, ([beverly.whitehead@hq.doe.gov](mailto:beverly.whitehead@hq.doe.gov), (202) 586- 6073) for additional information on the Federal Archeological Activities Questionnaire or for general cultural resources assistance needs.



## FEATURED PHOTO: DOSE GAUGED FROM BLOOD-SODIUM ACTIVITY



In this 1970 experiment at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, plastic mannequins filled with saline solution are irradiated with a critical assembly (source of neutrons) in a study of blood-sodium activation. The effect on the blood-sodium activation of an exposure occurring close to the assembly and of an exposure of a person partially shielded by another person are being studied as shown in this photograph. The critical assembly is positioned as if held by the standing mannequin. The two "cups" above and below the hands are part of the assembly and are remotely moved into contact with the center section to form a sphere when the neutrons are to be produced. The white ball near the knee of the mannequin is the 10-inch sphere neutron detector used in the dosimetry study.

The Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory was established in 1943 as part of the World War II Manhattan Project, and, in 1981, was renamed the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). LANL is managed by DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration.

