

# What are the Benefits of Participating in the Voluntary Protection Program?

**P**NNL is continuing to improve its occupational health and safety programs with VPP. VPP is not just another safety program. VPP is a recognition process initiated by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration 15 years ago which has subsequently been adopted by DOE. The primary focus of VPP is to enhance existing successful health and safety programs by promoting worker involvement.

At PNNL, the vast majority of supporting activities are already in place, with benefits including:

- ★ Employee empowerment
- ★ An employee voice in safety
- ★ Revitalize our health and safety program
- ★ Maximize worker morale
- ★ Reduce cost index (worker compensation costs)
- ★ Gain pride and recognition as a leader in worker health and safety protection
- ★ Recognition in the community/DOE complex.

## PNNL VPP *Bill of Rights*

### My Rights include:

- **willingly participate in health and safety issues.**
- **report or stop unsafe acts and conditions without fear of reprisal (stop work authority).**
- **participate in health and safety investigations.**
- **review safety investigation results.**
- **personal protective equipment.**
- **access to personal health and safety records.**



## PNNL **Voluntary Protection Program**

<http://www.pnl.gov/vpp>

*Prepared by your PNNL VPP Steering Committee*

## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the  
U.S. Department of Energy



## **Voluntary Protection Program**

**Commitment to Excellence  
in Health & Safety**

# Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)

## What is VPP?

The Voluntary Protection Program is a program established by the Department of Energy to recognize superior performance in the field of health and safety.

VPP is a partnership between labor, management and the government which promotes workers' safety through employee involvement.

VPP works in conjunction with integrated safety management systems. VPP adds the element of employee involvement to the process. This involvement from the benchtop level is the critical piece in a superior health and safety program.

Each company wishing to participate in VPP completes an application based on its safety program and submits it to DOE. DOE then evaluates the company's program to determine whether it deserves DOE's highest health and safety rating, which is signified by VPP Star Status.

### Voluntary Protection Program consists of five key elements:

1. Management commitment
2. Employee involvement
3. Worksite analysis
4. Hazard prevention and control
5. Health and safety training



## PNNL is doing it because it's the right thing to do!



### Elements of VPP

#### Management Commitment

Management is committed both to an effective occupational health and safety program in general and to the specific requirements of VPP. Management commitment includes: comprehensive planning that addresses health and safety, allocation of necessary resources, and support of employee involvement at all levels.

#### Employee Involvement

First line workers are the persons most likely to recognize and be affected by potential workplace hazards. VPP provides the opportunity for workers to be involved in the design and implementation of their health and safety program.

#### Worksite Analysis

Development of health and safety programs must begin with a thorough understanding of all potentially hazardous situations and the ability to recognize and correct hazards as they arise.

#### Hazard Prevention and Control

Once workplace hazards and potential hazards have been identified, a program of prevention and control is designed. The objective is to mitigate all known and potential hazards.

#### Health and Safety Training

Health and safety training programs are designed to ensure that senior management, line management and employees know and understand the policies, rules and procedures established to prevent exposure to hazards.

### From Dr. Lura Powell...

*"The idea behind VPP is simple; improving health and safety practices through cooperative efforts among labor, management, and the government.*

*The key to its success, however, is YOUR involvement. Whether you are administrative support staff, a scientist, engineer, craft personnel, or a technician, VPP can benefit you.*

*By getting involved in VPP, you can help prevent accidents, reduce the risk of injury, promote teamwork, and enhance staff morale."*