

## **Role of Management System Verification Process in ISMS Enhancement**

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The Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Hanford site is currently stabilizing plutonium-bearing materials for safe and stable interim storage. PFP has implemented the DOE's Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and the formal DOE verification of ISMS implementation at the facility was conducted in January 2000. As part of its own assessment prior to the formal ISMS verification, the DOE Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) line management decided to enhance the ISMS verification process by conducting a pilot project that incorporated certain key attributes of the Management Systems Verification (MSV) process. The MSV process is fostered by the Chemical Manufacturers' Association through its Responsible Care initiative.

DOE-RL's enhancement of the ISMS verification at PFP consisted of a panel-to-panel dialogue process involving a panel of "verifiers" and various panels representing different levels of PFP management and workers. A public representative and a Hanford worker served as active members of the verifier panel. The process focused on gauging management commitment and accountability, as well as on evaluating the benefits of direct worker and public involvement in verification. The results of this project show that the MSV process offers a potential tool to assist the DOE and its contractors in the continuous improvement or maintenance of their ISMS. The workshop presentation will describe the process and discuss observations from its application.