

At PPPL
THIS WEEK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

Oct. 29 to Nov. 2

**54th Annual American
Physical Society Division of
Plasma Physics Meeting**
Providence, Rhode Island

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 7 - 8

**PPPL Advisory Committee
Meeting**
All Day ♦ PPPL

November 12 - 16

**Emergency Management
System Annual Surveillance
Audit**
All Day ♦ PPPL

November 12 - 13

**Synergize 2012
Princeton Energy
and Environment Corporate
Affiliates Program**
All Day ♦ Princeton University

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**Committee report & personal story
highlight all-hands safety meeting**

By Jeanne Jackson DeVoe

Director Stewart Prager told staff members that PPPL has made great strides in improving safety since last spring, while a staff member discussed his own evolving safety practices at an all-hands safety meeting on Oct. 23.

Prager updated the staff on how the Lab has addressed safety concerns raised by an incident in March in which an employee was injured while operating a skid-steer loader, a piece of equipment fitted with metal arms used to lift heavy objects.

"We have a very strong safety culture at PPPL and have for years," Prager told the packed audience in the MBG Auditorium (with an overflow crowd viewing the meeting from the cafeteria). "At the same time, we can improve and there are some circumstances where our safety culture needs improvement."

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T.J. Levis, a technician in the general mechanics facilities group, discusses his safety experiences at PPPL during the all-hands safety meeting on Oct. 23.

**Redesigned external website ready for
staff review**

By John Greenwald

After nearly a year in the making, PPPL's colorful, comprehensive and easy to navigate new website is set for a Laboratory-wide review. Staffers are invited to view the fully redesigned site at <http://www-preview.pppl.gov>, and submit any comments, concerns or recommendations via online chits at [this link](#). Department heads are also forwarding these links to their personnel.

Plans call for the Communications Department to collect and compile the chits through Monday, Nov. 12. A Peer Review Committee will consider each chit and make recommendations to Communications. The site will then go live on Monday, Nov., 19.

"This is a chance for everyone to be heard about the Laboratory's new digital face to the world," said PPPL Webmaster Chris Cane, who worked with the Office of Information Technology at Princeton University to design and develop the site.

The redesign began in November, 2011, following a recommendation from the PPPL Advisory Committee, which meets twice a year to help support and guide the Laboratory. The panel called for a site that provides intuitive access for the public,

New PPPL website

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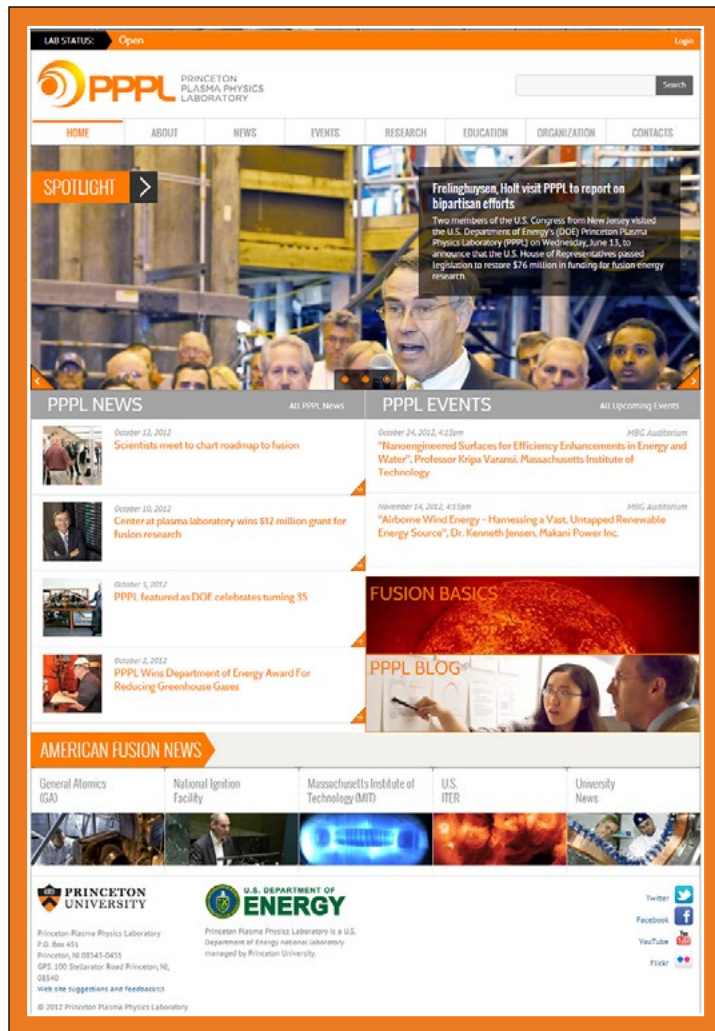
the media, scientists and environmentalists, and creates a common digital look for departments that showcase their work on the venue.

A bright, open and consistent graphic identity

Key advantages of the new site include a bright, open and consistent graphic identity throughout, and the ability to tell the fusion and plasma science story in a clear and compelling way. "This site captures the world-class physics and engineering that we do here, and puts us on a par with the sites of larger Department of Energy laboratories," Cane said.

Creating the new site required detailed re-engineering. Senior software engineer Ken Silber rerouted the home page from the PPPL data center to the University computer center, which will host the site, and created extensive cross-connections to department pages that will remain at PPPL.

The new website utilizes a new software system called Drupal that gives PPPL departments and divisions greater flexibility to manage sites linked to the home page. The new software replaces an Adobe program called ColdFusion that the website had run on for the past seven years. ☺



PPPL'ers have until Nov. 12 to offer comments on the new website, which features a clear graphic identity and more flexibility (see photo at right).

Below, Webmaster Chris Cane shows off the website on a large screen.



Safety meeting

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Overcoming bad habits

T.J. Levis, a technician in the general mechanics facilities group, shared his own safety wake-up call with the staff. When he first came to PPPL, he said, he considered himself to be a safe employee. But he admitted he had some “bad habits,” including never reading the owner’s manuals on safety equipment.

After the incident last spring, Levis said, he and other employees now thoroughly read the manuals. They also demonstrate how to use the equipment to the rest of the staff and put the manuals online for everyone’s use.

Levis recalled that in one recent incident, he forgot to fill out the proper paperwork for working in a confined space and had a crew ready to go to work on a Saturday. He called someone from the Safety Division, who came out on a day off just to get the permit filled out. “I think the Lab does everything in its power to keep employees safe,” Levis said. His remarks received a warm round of applause from PPPL staff.

Levis also said he was involved in selecting a new skid-steer loader, which he described as driving “like a Cadillac.”

76 improvements

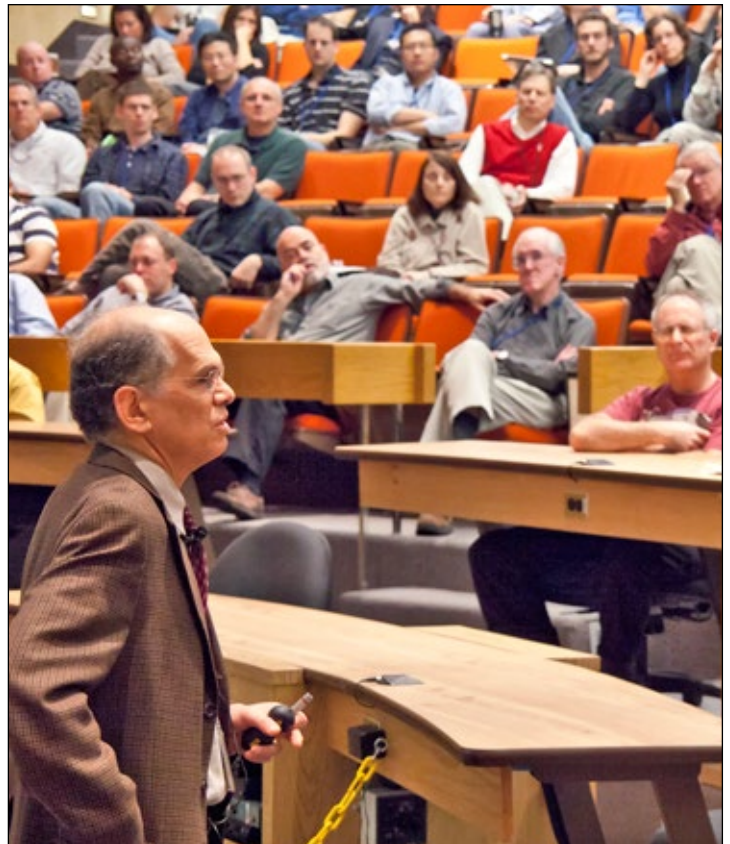
Since the March incident, the Lab has instituted 76 of a total of 116 planned corrective actions at PPPL. Prager also noted that the OSHA-recordable work-related injury cases at PPPL decreased from 10 in fiscal year 2011 to 4 in fiscal year 2012, which ended in October.

In June, A. J. Stewart Smith, Princeton University’s Dean of Research, appointed a committee to review safety at PPPL. The committee, which was made up of Karen Downer, the former head of safety at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Idaho National Laboratory; Jack Anderson, the chief operating officer at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; Roger Demareski, assistant vice-president of facilities at Princeton University; and Gregory Player, the manager of corporate health and safety at PSE&G, issued its report at the end of September. It concluded that, “the observed overall safety culture at PPPL is very strong with a few exceptions.”

Prager said PPPL fully supports the report’s conclusions. “We embrace all of their recommendations and are already enacting many of them,” he said.

Communications about safety concerns is essential

The committee found failures in communication in certain parts of the Lab were a factor in the skid steer incident and emphasized the importance of communications throughout the Lab. Prager said he agrees with the committee that communications about safety concerns at every level of the Lab is essential. He urged employees to report any safety concerns and reminded them that this can be done through the online safety or suggestion (SOS) box or the Director’s suggestion box, where concerns can be reported anonymously. He said PPPL also relies on the STOP program, which trains



Director Stewart Prager updates staff members on improving safety at PPPL during the all-hands safety meeting.

employees to observe work activities anywhere in the Lab, and the Stop Work Policy, which empowers all workers at the Laboratory to immediately halt any work they consider unsafe.

The committee found PPPL’s leadership did a good job opening up a dialogue about safety through the Safety Forum in May. It recommended that senior management keep up this effort by having regular face-to-face meetings with individual departments at the Lab, which Prager said he plans to do.

Prager emphasized that although PPPL is replacing the old skid steer with a new model due to its age, the skid steer incident was due to human error and a failure to follow safety procedures, as well as inadequate maintenance and a lack of formalized training. “They weren’t working with safety awareness, they weren’t taking responsibility for their own behavior,” he said.

The committee praised PPPL’s corrective action plan following the incident for being “thorough and comprehensive.” PPPL leadership is now reviewing its corrective plan and will give an update on the progress of the action plan to the PPPL Advisory Committee in November.

In terms of outreach, the committee recommended that PPPL share the lessons from the incident with other DOE national laboratories – something that Adam Cohen, deputy director for operations, has already been doing.

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Safety meeting

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A very good safety culture but improvements still needed

Prager said the overall view that PPPL has a very good safety culture but still needs improvement in some areas was also reflected in the May 2012 PPPL safety culture survey, in which 75 percent of employees participated. The survey found that 90 percent of Lab employees said overall safety practices and culture at the Lab are very good and 94 percent said they always follow core safety requirements. But about one-quarter also said safety is sometimes compromised in the face of schedules or other pressures.

Employees at the meeting had several comments regarding safety. "There is a safety culture at PPPL but there is also a culture of making do, especially in light of flat budgets," one staff member said. Smith responded that financial considerations should never take precedence over safety.

Report predicts positive culture changes

The report predicted the response to the incident will "result in positive culture changes" at PPPL but warned that, "sustaining this defining moment is a challenge."

That sentiment was echoed by William V. Slavin, head of PPPL's Safety Division, who warned that there tend to be "peaks and valleys" in safety initiatives, and challenged the Laboratory to avoid "sliding back into one of those valleys."

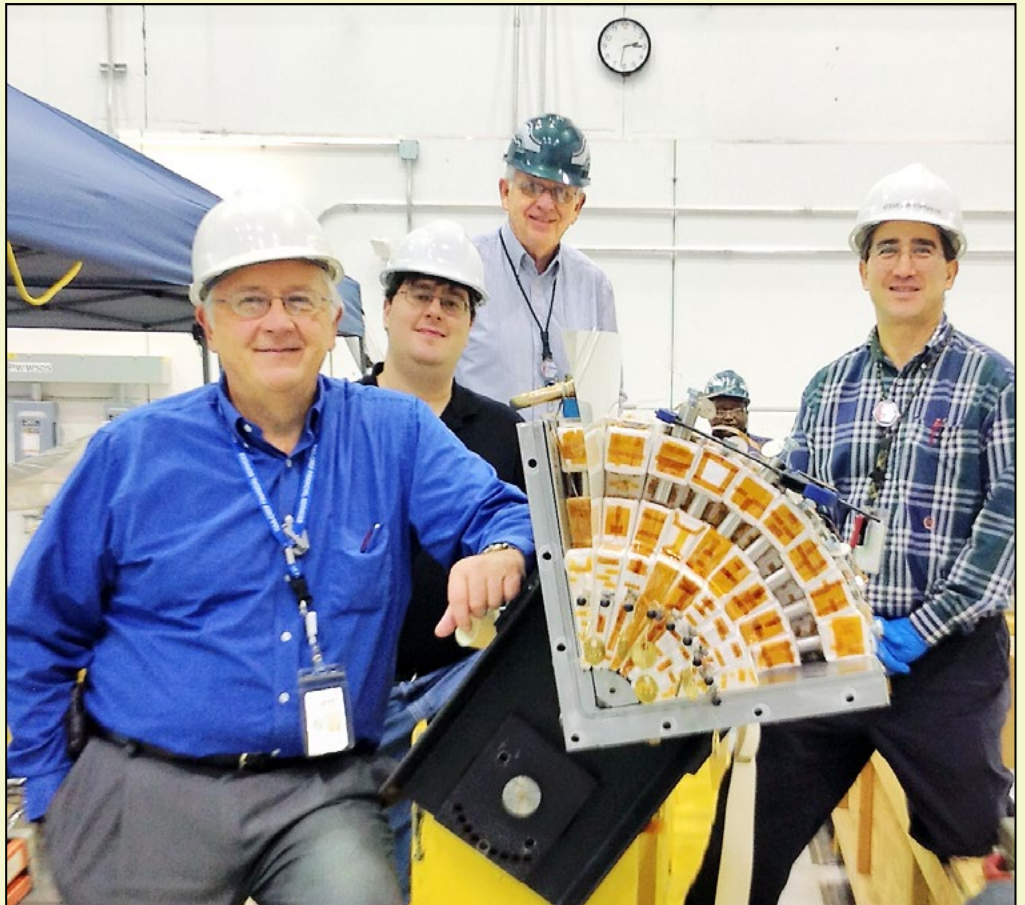
The important thing going forward is for everyone at PPPL to continue to work together to make safety a priority, Prager said. "We are our brother's keeper with regard to safety," he concluded. "There's a pride not only in individual safety practices but the organization as a whole. We all take care of each other in regard to safety." 📷

Heart of the upgrade

PPPL last week assembled the first quadrant of the toroidal field conductor bundle for the new center stack of the NSTX upgrade. The nine-conductor quadrant marks the initial installment of the 36-conductor bundle that will double the strength of the fusion facility's magnetic field. Pictured at right is the engineering team that oversaw the job.



Work in progress. From left: Robert Tucker, James Chrzanowski and Westley Reese with partially assembled quadrant.



From left: team leader James Chrzanowski, Michael Mardenfeld, Thomas Meighan, and Steve Raftopoulos. Not shown are the technicians who assembled the quadrant: Michael Anderson, Eugene Kearns, Colin McFarlane, Robert Tucker and Westley Reese.

Photo by Michael Anderson

CERT training



The Site Protection Division's Emergency Services Unit trained 11 members of Plainsboro's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) on the proper use of fire extinguishers on Saturday, Oct. 20. PPPL Firefighter Sean Galie (second from right) watches as one of the team members tries out the fire extinguisher.

(Photo by Emergency Services Officer Aaron Green)

Benefits fair



Terry Greenberg gets information on health benefits at PPPL's annual Benefits Fair on Oct. 24. Open enrollment continues through Friday, Nov. 16.



PPPL Café Menu

BREAKFAST 7 a.m. • 10 a.m.
 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 10 a.m. • 11:30 a.m.
 LUNCH 11:30 a.m. • 1:30 p.m.
 SNACK SERVICE until 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY OCT. 29

TUESDAY OCT. 30

WEDNESDAY OCT. 31

THURSDAY NOV. 1

FRIDAY NOV. 2

COMMAND PERFORMANCE
CHEF'S FEATURE



CHICKEN PARMESAN SERVED WITH PASTA



LINGUINE WITH WHITE CLAM SAUCE



FRESH CARVED CAJUN TURKEY BREAST



SHEPHERD'S PIE



ROAST PORK LO MEIN

EARLY RISER

Cinnamon Oatmeal Pancakes with Sausage

XL Pork Roll, Onion and Cheddar Omelet, with Potatoes

Turkey, Egg and Cheese on an Oversized Biscuit

Homemade Corn Bread Bundt Cakes

The Meatlover's Breakfast Pizza

COUNTRY KETTLE

Split Pea with Ham

Cream of Potato

Hearty Beef Chili

Cream of Chicken and Corn Chowder

Seven Bean

GRILLE SPECIAL

Crispy Chicken Grilled Wrap with French Fries

Grilled Bacon, Tomato, 3 Cheeses on Rye with French Fries

Pepperoni Pizza Burger on a Garlic Roll with French Fries

Double Turkey Cheeseburger with French Fries

Fat Cat with Steak, Fries, Chicken Tenders, Cheese

DELI SPECIAL

Classic Chef's Salad Wrap

Open-faced Toasted Italian Hoagie

Jamaican Curry Chicken Salad on a Multigrain Roll

Ranchero Roast Beef Wrap

Crispy Chicken, Pepper Jack, Bacon, Lettuce

PANINI

Montana Smokehouse

Santa Fe Turkey with Tomato, Chipotle Mayo

Ham, Grilled Chicken, Swiss, Tomato, Mustard

Tangy BBQ Pulled Chicken with Provolone and Tomato

Fried Eggplant Parmesan

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

[CLICK HERE FOR A PRINTABLE WEEKLY MENU](#)

WEEKLY

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The **PPPL WEEKLY** is published by the **PPPL Office of Communications** on Mondays throughout the year except for holidays. Deadline for calendar item submissions is noon on Thursday. Other stories should be submitted no later than noon on Wednesday.

Comments: commteam@pppl.gov ♦ **PPPL WEEKLY** is archived on the web at: <http://www.pppl.gov/ppplweekly.cfm>