



Southern Great Plains Newsletter

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SGP SITE REACHES SAFETY MILESTONE

On April 11, 2005, our dedicated SGP site employees celebrated the safety milestone of five years without a reportable accident. Their celebration dinner was catered by Dougan's Bar B Q of Ponca City. A "Hoe Down" theme added to the festivities, and folks were encouraged to dress in their western duds. As a token of appreciation for a job well done, Monte Brandner, the SGP Environment, Safety, and Health Officer, presented each staff member with an ink pen inscribed with a safety slogan. In view of their many varied tasks, including 220,000 driving miles logged each year, the SGP technicians are very proud of their safety record.



Figure 1. Monte Brandner, SGP Environment, Safety, and Health Officer (left), congratulates John Schatz, SGP Site Operations Safety Officer, at the "Hoe Down" celebrating the SGP site's milestone of five years without a reportable accident (ARM photo).

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ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INSPECTIONS TAKE PLACE

The Continuous Quality Improvement Program (CQIP) implemented by the ARM Program in 1998 requires annual audits and inspection visits to each of the SGP's 27 field sites in Oklahoma and Kansas. The CQIP team that implements the program includes Don Bond, the SGP Associate Site Scientist; Monte Brandner, the SGP Environment, Safety, and Health Officer; John Schatz, the SGP Site Operations Safety Officer; and Dan Rusk, the SGP Instrumentation and Facilities Manager. The annual inspections evaluate the field sites from several different perspectives, including science, engineering, operations, and safety.



Figure 2. A Continuous Quality Improvement Program team member is supervised by a local jackrabbit at the Ringwood Extended Facility during the most recent SGP site audit (ARM photo).

Climate Capsule

"Climate Capsule" is a monthly feature introducing climate and weather definitions.

ozone

A molecule made up of three atoms of oxygen. In the stratosphere (the atmosphere between 8 and 30 miles above Earth's surface), naturally occurring ozone provides a protective layer that shields Earth from ultraviolet radiation and its harmful effects on human health and the environment. In the troposphere (the atmosphere from Earth's surface up to about 8 miles), ozone is a chemical oxidant and a major component of photochemical smog.

Every year the CQIP team visits all of the installations at the SGP site in two inspection trips, each involving half of the locations. The most recent CQIP inspection trip took place April 11-14, 2005.

Site audits ensure that instruments and facilities are in compliance with established procedures and the ARM Program's scientific expectations. The inspections encompass each installation's grounds, instruments, and equipment, plus maintenance procedures, technician proficiency, and other work quality measures. Analysis of each measure provides feedback for planning and implementing improvements in instrument performance and maintenance, site maintenance, and future site development.