



Southern Great Plains Newsletter

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New Shipping and Receiving Building Dedicated

The SGP central facility is operating more efficiently with a newly completed Shipping and Receiving building. The SGP Shipping and Receiving Department, operated by Manager George Sawyer and Clerk Jody Booze, had struggled for years to maintain the original 23-ft by 52-ft building and its expanding contents. Recently, the Shipping and Receiving Department became the central storage location for all spare instruments and parts for the entire ARM Program. Storing that much equipment and trying to maintain the department in such limited space stressed both the staff and the building. Keeping the cramped warehouse organized and the work area safe was a constant effort.

A new Shipping and Receiving building was proposed in 2003. After time for planning and assignment of funding, construction began in October 2005. Built by Slattery Construction Corporation of Woodward, Oklahoma, the new structure is 55 ft by 80 ft and has a 16-ft by 20-ft covered dock that makes work much easier.

Dedication of the new building on February 24, 2006, was attended by all site employees. The group enjoyed a celebratory pot luck featuring Chef Craig Webb's famous jambalaya, as well as delicious dishes prepared by all. After the feast, Facilities Manager and Instrument Calibration Manager Dan Nelson was joined by SGP Site Manager Brad Orr for the ceremonious "safety tape" cutting, signifying a long-awaited improvement to the SGP site.



The new Shipping and Receiving building at the SGP central facility. The building was dedicated on February 24, 2006 (ARM photo).

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Technical Contact: Brad W. Orr
Phone: 630-252-8665
Email: brad.orr@anl.gov
Editor: Donna J. Holdridge
Website: <http://www.arm.gov>



The covered dock of the new Shipping and Receiving building at the SGP central facility (ARM photo).



The interior of the new Shipping and Receiving building at the SGP central facility (ARM photo).



Facilities Maintenance and Instrument Calibration Manager Dan Nelson (left) and Site Manager Brad Orr dedicate the new Shipping and Receiving building with a ceremonial "safety tape" cutting (ARM photo).



The keys for the new Shipping and Receiving building are turned over after the dedication. Pictured (from left) are Site Operations Manager Dan Rusk, Shipping and Receiving Manager George Sawyer, Facilities Maintenance and Instrument Calibration Manager Dan Nelson, and Site Manager Brad Orr (ARM photo).

SGP Staff Spotlight

Dan Nelson

Facilities Maintenance Manager
Instrument Calibration Manager



Dan Nelson serves as Facilities Maintenance Manager and Instrument Calibration Manager for the SGP site. He oversees all of the SGP facilities (31 locations in all) and manages the operation of the Broadband Radiometer Calibration Facility (RCF) at the Central Facility, including coordination with the RCF mentor on all radiometer calibration issues. Dan also prepares installation designs, coordinates with vendors and mentors, and manages requirements for installations of all new instruments, facilities, and equipment at the SGP site. His responsibilities include both permanent and temporary campaign instruments.

Dan has been crucial in every phase of bringing the Shipping and Receiving expansion to reality. During construction, Dan worked until dark many times, providing oversight for the builders so they could stay on schedule and ahead of inclement weather.

Dan is well respected by his peers and coworkers, as noted especially by SGP Deputy Operations Manager and Site Safety Officer John Schatz: "I think Dan is the finest engineer that I know; he has the 'MacGyver' gift. 'Dan' is the synonym for 'resourceful' and 'creative.' Over the years, many scientists and instrument mentors have relied on Dan's creativity to develop specialized solutions that make their campaigns and instrument deployments at the site successful. The program is truly blessed by Dan's resourcefulness."

Dan is originally from the state of Oregon. He worked a number of years at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, and has worked for the ARM Program since 1992. Dan and his wife, Helene, live in Ponca City, Oklahoma, where Helene is the director of the Ponca City United Way. Both Dan and Helene are very active in volunteering for various community activities, from setting up computers for charitable organizations to judging chili at the Annual Cherokee Strip BBQ & Chili Cook-off. In his spare time, Dan's hobby/business is restoring and repairing clocks of all types.