



# Indian Health Service Press Release

IHS-12-2003  
May 20, 2003

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Indian Health Service Receives HHS Energy and Water Management Awards

Employees of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), have received HHS Energy and Water Management Awards. These employees have met or exceeded all the evaluation criteria in the individual, small group, and organization categories.

"Each individual's approach to energy conservation and improving the indoor environment is a model that other hospitals and clinics can adapt to their energy saving efforts," said HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson.

Each year HHS honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the efficient use of energy and water resources in the Federal Government. They have participated in areas of implementation, management, and maintenance.

"These health facilities energy programs are a success story of how effective facility improvements and maintenance practices do make a difference," said Dr. Charles W. Grim, IHS Interim Director. "The involvement and support of all the employees is essential to successful energy conservation. These awards reflect staff dedication and performance."

Individuals were honored and received their awards at a ceremony held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, D.C., in April 2003.

For the individual category the award was presented to John Beck, the business manager for the Youth Residential Treatment Center in Spokane Washington. Small group awards were presented to the Blackfeet Hospital in Browning, Montana; the Albuquerque Indian Hospital Energy Improvement Project in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and the Neah Bay Plant Technology and Safety Committee Energy Program in Neah Bay, Washington. An organization award was presented to the IHS Portland Area Facilities Board in Portland, Oregon. And the IHS David C. Wynecoop Memorial Clinic was recognized as the HHS 2002 Federal Energy Saver Showcase Facility.

Additional information about the award recipients and a description of the work accomplished is contained on the second page of this press release.



NOTICE TO EDITORS: For additional information on this subject, please contact the IHS Public Affairs Office at 301-443-3593. Additional information about the IHS is available on the IHS website <http://www.ihs.gov> and <http://info.ihs.gov>



**Indian Health Service Receives  
HHS Energy and Water Management Awards**  
(supplemental page to IHS Press Release-12-2003, May 20, 2003)

**List of individual, small groups, and organizations who received HHS Energy and Water Management Awards:**

**Individual: John Beck, Business Manager, Healing Lodge, Youth Residential Treatment Center, Spokane, Washington**

Mr. Beck initiated the idea of energy saving direct digital control (DDC) system installation. He was responsible for securing funding, managing, and successfully completing this effort. Annual energy and cost savings have been clearly documented due to this project. The success of this project is a testament to Mr. Beck's excellent managerial skills, as well as his commitment to energy conservation.

**Small Groups:**

**Blackfeet Hospital Energy Star Label – Browning, Montana** - Terry Bremner, Thomas Connell, Kevin Connelly, Stephen Conway, Timothy Davis, John DeRoche, Richard Hoyt, and Robert Smith.

The facility management at the Blackfeet Hospital diligently pursued and implemented highly successful energy management practices. The Blackfeet Hospital is the first hospital in the IHS to be awarded the Energy Star and the first hospital in the nation to receive the award in 2002.

The Energy Star is awarded to high performance commercial buildings that adopt energy efficient products and practices. The Blackfeet Hospital, a 34-licensed bed facility, was built in 1937 with additions in 1960, 1986 and 2001. Most of the newer additions were designed with state-of-the-art variable air volume and DDC systems. The Blackfeet Hospital facility staff developed a comprehensive preventive maintenance schedule and has taken full advantage of the DDC systems to run the facility efficiently. The hospital maintenance staff is a team of professionals whose performance has earned this well deserved award.

**Albuquerque Indian Hospital Energy Improvement Project – Albuquerque, New Mexico** - Alex Martinez, Richard Gaisthia, Walter Yepa, Al Garcia, Calvin Pedro, Claude Schleyer, Deanne Waconda, and Erma Velasquez

This group of employees consists of managers, assistants, and Health Facilities staff. They were diligent in upgrading their skills and practices as each phase of the project was implemented. Their ability to administer, coordinate and manage the contract requirements throughout construction has been outstanding. This was evident in the time and effort that was required to manage each phase while planning for upcoming phases. They continue to comply and maintain energy consumption data and costs for use by facility management in order for management to determine efficiency and areas needing further improvements.

**Neah Bay Plant Technology and Safety Committee Energy Program – Neah Bay Service Unit, Neah Bay, Washington** - Shirley Johnson, Gary Ray, Jim Elison, Paul Schwabe, and Elizabeth Smith

This committee diligently pursued and implemented highly successful energy management practices with limited resources. Over the past ten years, total energy consumption per square foot has decreased more than 38%. During FY 2002 the Neah Bay Service Unit consumed less total energy and electricity than any prior year. The Neah Bay Service Unit has met the criteria to be officially designated as an Energy Star Building. These criteria recognize that the Neah Bay facility energy consumption levels are in the top 25% as compared to other building of similar use. This committee is often where ideas for energy conservation projects and practices are generated and implemented.

**Organization: IHS Portland Area Facilities Board - Portland, Oregon**

National and regional energy shortages caused dramatic rate increases in the Portland Area. Since May 2000 the Portland Area facilities were classified as "energy intensive." In order to meet Executive Order 13123, energy intensive facilities are required to reduce energy consumption 20% by 2005 and 25% by 2010 from the 1990 baseline. The FY 2002 consumption levels were 34% less than the baseline of 1990, therefore already meeting the FY 2010 requirement. The supporting data are a testament to the Portland Area Office's and the Health Facilities Board's commitment and support for energy conservation projects and programs.

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